

2012/13

University Attended: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

FEEDBACK 1

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

This was a meeting with all the other exchange students which lasted all day. There was an induction in the morning for the business school exchanges which included breakfast then a 4 to 5 hour induction where administration, university rules and expectations and upcoming activities were mentioned. It was great to see what nationalities were represented and the wide variety of links this university has.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Classes were much smaller with much more participation. A large part of one's overall grade is through attendance and contributing in class which can be a bit overwhelming at first. I was able to get any class I wanted and found the professors to make a bigger effort in learning about every individual. After the second week of class they knew everyone's names and were sending out personal emails.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Everything I needed to make my choices were there and Sue was easily accessible via email.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Potentially more surrounding the costs of a year abroad.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Easy access to exchange partner's offices.

INSURANCE, HEALTH COVER

University of Manchester insurance covered me, therefore I was allowed to save around \$1400 over the whole year, otherwise they charge \$700 each semester for UNC health insurance. It was simple and easy to apply for health insurance to be waived.

INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS

The business school charged a \$100 administration fee for the year.

ACCOMMODATION

I lived in Horton on South campus which was convenient due to its location near the business school and dean dome (basketball stadium, which is a big deal here!). The majority of people that live in dorms are often first years, and they can be a little bit immature in comparison to back home. Every floor has an RA who is a final year and regular meetings occur which discuss upcoming events and any problems. It feels more like school, where you are being looked after as opposed to living by yourself. The roommate situation can either go well or badly, but after 2 weeks people have the option to change. I had 4 people sharing one toilet and shower and the rooms were a good size. I enjoyed this aspect as it is traditionally American and due to only paying for half the room, it allows more funds to be spent on activities such as travelling.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

There are 2 options to the social scene in Chapel Hill which consist of greek life (frats & sororities) and bars. Generally those who are over 21 go to bars and those under join either a frat or sorority. Franklin Street is one long strip of bars, restaurants and shops which is convenient when it comes to doing lots of things at once. The bus is free so you can get around campus easily and everything is within walking distance. One major problem is the need of a car to get out of campus, either for food or to just go shopping. Meal plans are on offer, but very over-priced, however you will find every American has a car and is more than willing to drive you places. UNC is conveniently located only 25 minutes away from an airport which is perfect for weekend trips and travelling outside North Carolina. Sports are another massive aspect of UNC culture,

especially basketball considering Michael Jordan came here. Gyms are free alongside going to all the sporting events. You will not get a more traditional American University than UNC!

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

Not only have I met the most incredible people and learned a variety of new attributes but I have grown as an individual and realised that there is more to life than just academia.

FEEDBACK 2

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

The induction/orientation programme happened twice, once for all exchange students, once for only business-exchange students. This was probably the least fun part of the year, as they do seem to treat you quite a lot like children, and I cannot count the amount of times they stated "do not drink if you are underage" "this is America, the land of rules and regulations" "this isn't Europe" etc. But, I imagine they are only doing this because they do not want trouble. The business one was better, but the main campus one lasted far too long and was full of redundant information.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

The teaching was fantastic. Unlike Manchester, a lot of these professors have real-world experience in the private sector, and are not pure academics, and this is demonstrated in the teaching. There is a lot more constant work throughout the year the rates of student attendance are much higher. The ability to take classes on the main campus that were non business was quite refreshing. All classes/lectures are similar to what would be termed a seminar in the UK. People do the work, readings, etc.

MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Sue was very helpful. Was not having the best time first semester and she convinced me to stay, and I was glad I did.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Covered most everything that I needed to know.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

The careers centre put up lots of red tape for me applying to internships due to my exchange status. For the whole first semester they did not allow me to do any resume-drops and interview on campus. I appealed it all the way to the top of the University Careers Service (Ray Angle), and then he made an exception whereby if I talked to the employer beforehand, and explained that I was an exchange student, they would let me do the resume drop. I managed to get an internship this way.

INSURANCE, HEALTH COVER

My situation is unique as I am an American resident with US healthcare.

INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS

I got some parking tickets, but that was my own fault. Everything else was reasonable or expected.

ACCOMMODATION

I would state this **very strongly**: even if the UNC staff state that exchange students are unable to live in Granville Towers, this is **completely false and plenty of them do and Granville has no issue with this at all**. I would highly recommend living in Granville towers. Though it is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile away from the business school, buses run constantly, and it is really much better in terms of social life, the type of people that will live there, and so forth. If it wasn't for having a very good roommate, I would have had an awful time in my hall this year, as my suitemates were completely asocial and did not seem to like human interaction.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Transport: Great with the P2P system that runs until 3. I believe you can call a line and get them to give you taxi service after this time. Don't expect much outside of Chapel Hill.

Travel: I was lucky in that I had a car. Other students rented cars (zipcar is one way of doing this) but it can be expensive. There are Greyhounds and flights, but you really need a car in order to truly explore the state and surrounding states. That being said, you can make friends that have cars that will achieve the same outcome.

Social life: Decent. I would highly recommend that social people save money so that they can join the Greek System. Rush as soon as you get there, get in contact with the Greek council at the school, and have a great time. Socializing in the dorms is much, much, different. Due to the drinking age, people are nowhere near as social/party friendly. But this might be nice for quieter students.

Integration with local students: Everyone was very welcoming and kind, made plenty of North Carolinian friends.

Student activity groups: Joined the finance club, consulting club, and the advertising club. All run very well, work with local companies, get impressive people in.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

From every possible angle, my year abroad has allowed me to develop socially in terms of cultural understanding, professionally by means of the fantastic opportunities that were available, and I am extremely glad that I saw it through.