

OUTGOING STUDENT FEEDBACK FORM 10-11

Programme: IMABS

University Attended: UNC Chapel Hill

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

One day orientation programme for all international students. Starts with filling out forms regarding your visa, then a general slideshow about North Carolina, then we were taken to the business school. Was fairly helpful, and a good way to meet other international students.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Very different from Manchester! Homework is set for every lesson. There are also mid-terms, presentations, lots of team work and assignments, plus participation is actively encouraged, making the lectures much more interactive (and making it obvious if you haven't done the homework). The difficulty of the work itself however isn't much harder and some of the modules/assignments are more interesting, plus you get Fridays off at the business school which is a bonus!

MBS INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

No complaints about the international office- correspondence is quick and the level of good.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

I would definitely emphasise the fact that although a year abroad is a really fun experience, at times it might be harder than you originally thought. You will have to push yourself outside of your comfort zone and get used to walking into rooms in which you don't know anyone, so it takes quite a confident person who is willing to make the effort. UNC Chapel Hill is quite a big institution- similar size to Manchester I think, so can feel a bit overwhelming at times. Also remember you will most likely be living with freshman and going to classes with seniors (who are more focused on finishing their classes and finding a job) so it can be hard to meet people your own age. Don't overlook the other internationals! You might think you just want to make American friends but the international students I have met have all been really friendly and cool, plus much more up for going out and travelling around. Obviously you don't want ALL your friends to be internationals though, so make friends with transfer students who will be both American and the same age as you, and living in your halls. Just basically go out of your way to be nice and friendly to everyone you meet (don't just hide in your room!) and you'll have a great mix of friends and have a wicked time.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

I didn't really come into contact with them too much, but remember during the application stage that UNC uses an F1 visa not a J1 so your forms might take longer to come. Also correspondence isn't quite as speedy as it is with the Manchester office so plan ahead!

INSURANCE, HEALTH COVER

I had to buy health insurance separately. Also make sure you get all your immunization forms in on time otherwise they'll send you a very threatening e-mail saying they'll kick you out!

ACCOMMODATION

I live in Granville Towers and would 100% recommend it. The location is excellent (just off of Franklin Street which is where all the shops/restaurants/bars are in Chapel Hill) and the facilities are good- free pool and gym. Quite a few other international and transfer students live here too. You do have to get a bus to the business school, but it doesn't take long, plus they are always on time and free! The food here is the best on campus- the Agora (dining hall) has a huge variety and its all pretty good (free Krispey Kremes!) I got an unlimited meal plan which just makes things easier (you can swipe in and out of the Agora as many times as you want) but you can get different plans i.e. 14 meals a week. In terms of room mates, I opted to have my own room, which is a slightly less social option but it can be nice to have your own space so you can come and go as you please. All my friends who have room mates say its not a problem though, and they tend to live on more social floors, whereas mine is a bit quieter.

Lastly, if you're sick of living in halls I would recommend living in The Warehouse apartments. They are really close to Granville (just off Franklin) and are really nice, but a bit more expensive.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Chapel Hill is an extremely picturesque place and quality of life here is very good. The weather is great (you can sunbathe until October) and although it gets colder in the winter the sky is always blue. Everything is within easy reach and the campus and facilities are excellent. You definitely don't need to have a car here and there are plenty of opportunities to travel (up and down the East coast i.e. New York, Boston ad DC, plus the South).

I would say if you have any sort of interests join a club related to it because it's a great way to make friends. Greek life is quite big here but not everyone joins a frat/sorority- I didn't because it seemed quite stressful and I found the concept a bit strange, plus you have to pay fees of over \$1000 (!) If you're a girl though it doesn't matter because they let you in to all the frat parties anyway! The nightlife here is good- its all about the bars and house parties as opposed to the clubs but it can be equally fun and I've had some amazing nights here. I'm not 21 yet and it hasn't posed too much of a problem either, because some bars will let you in if you're 18 and the frat party scene is so big anyway.

Sports are huge here (mainly basketball but football too) and the games are so much fun. There's A LOT of school spirit too, so don't find it strange to see everyone walking around in UNC clothing the whole time and taking the outcome of the games very seriously!

Overall I've had an amazing time in Chapel Hill so far and would definitely recommend coming here if you want a typical All-American campus experience. Don't overlook it just because you aren't that familiar with North Carolina- it's a highly ranked school and the Business school is very prestigious, plus its a lot of fun.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

A life-changing experience (I sound like a cheesy American already)
