

## **OUTGOING STUDENT FEEDBACK FORM – 2007/2008**

**Programme:** IMABS

**University Attended:** USC- University of Southern California, Los Angeles

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### **INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME**

What did this involve, how long did it last, was it useful?

A day after arrival we had a full day orientation where Sean O'Connell explained pretty much everything we needed to know about USC, Los Angeles, registering for courses, housing etc to us. We also got to meet our hosts at a free BBQ lunch in the business school grounds and they then took us anywhere we needed to go on campus to register etc. This day was quite long but very useful as we were able to ask a lot of questions and were left with no doubts about what we had to do in the next few weeks.

### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

Style of teaching, courses, ease of access to courses, methods of assessment, teaching support

I thoroughly enjoyed all of my classes at USC. The teaching style is very different as you are usually in a class of about 30-40 and there is a lot of participation. Don't be surprised if your professor knows your name by the second class and wants to meet with you to find out more about you. Take advantage of this as they are a great resource and will always be willing to help you out. Participating all the time may seem scary at first, especially coming from Manchester, but it makes class so much more interesting and you learn so much more.

I only had to take three classes per semester here so I didn't find the workload heavy. However, you have to do work more often- classes are not optional and you will probably have a midterm, final, group project and other assignments here and there for most classes. Although I had to do graded work more often, I found this a much better system as your marks are accumulated throughout the semester rather than through one final exam at the end. The group projects are also really practical and teach you a lot more about the business world that you can learn from a textbook.

Make sure you look out for the list of one and two credit modules on offer here. You only take 3 business classes per semester, so have a lot of time to take something random if you want. This semester I took tennis and beginning pop rock guitar! Can't do that at Manchester! Make sure you take them 'audit' so you don't have to do any exams or quizzes- definitely an opportunity to do something you normally wouldn't.

### **MBS INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

MBS was great at getting information to us before we left and I always knew exactly when I had to send forms in or apply for things. I had no problems while I was away,

but I have no doubt that if I had, the international office would have been in touch straight away and done everything they could have to help me.

### **MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS**

Any additional information that could have been useful  
Nothing I can think of. We were lucky as a student who had been at USC the previous year was available to answer any questions we had. Make sure you talk to whoever was at your university as they will be able to give you a realistic picture of what life will be like there.

### **HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**

Level of support, additional information that could be useful for future students

Sean O'Connell pretty much runs the exchange programme single handed. He sent us a tonne of useful emails before our arrival so we always knew what was going on and always replied to emails really quickly. The office will organise a few events throughout the year, but it will be down to you to meet people and make friends with the other internationals, as there are not a lot of these.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

None of us got a choice which we had put in our top 5 but we ended up being very lucky as they put us in graduate housing where we have our own rooms. It's a little bit more expensive but I'm not sure I could have got used to sharing! If you do share, make sure you pick a roommate you think you can get on with, or are explicit about your likes and dislikes if they are matching you with someone. All housing is close to campus but most people have bikes, which are very useful.

### **DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE**

Transport, travel, social life, integration with local students, student activity groups

LA is notoriously a very difficult city to get around. They have a public bus service but this can take hours to get anywhere. You could rely on others to drive you places or hire a car/take the greyhound or megabus for weekends away, but the three of us decided to avoid all the hassle and buy a car. This honestly was one of the best decisions we made out here! We got it for \$2000 from craigslist.com and hope to sell it for the same. We couldn't have done half the things we have without our car so I would strongly recommend it. But make sure you take someone who knows about cars with you so you don't get ripped off!

It's really important to make friends with local students here, as you will be at SC for a whole year whereas all the other exchange students leave at Christmas and not as many come in the spring. Meeting American students will truly give you the real college experience and they will know all the great places to go!

We joined the E-Club (entrepreneur club) here last semester, which was fun as they had a few mixers, and we met a lot of people, some of the speakers

were good too. This semester I haven't really been to any events, as they haven't really done anything social.

Overall this year at SC has been an incredible experience for me that hasn't really felt like school at all. The sun shines pretty much every day and being able to say you go out in Hollywood is pretty surreal. I have no doubt that I'll stay in contact with the friends I've met here and will never forget the places I have seen and things I have done. I

**DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD**

One of the best years of my life! A truly unforgettable experience- for all the right reasons!