

**2013-2014**

**University Attended: University of Western Australia**

## **FEEDBACK 1**

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### **INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME**

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

The orientation programme lasted for one week.

### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

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

The style of teaching is excellent. All the lectures are recorded as well, which is very useful for future reference.

The method of assessment is very organised. We have weekly assessments by which I got to learn a lot more, as they all are assessed. Teachers and tutors are very supportive with teaching, which puts the students at ease.

### **INSURANCE, HEALTH COVER**

Please include any information relating to the purchase of compulsory health insurance ie costs etc. or whether this was waived by having the University of Manchester Insurance Policy

I had to pay a compulsory health insurance fee of \$562.

### **ACCOMMODATION**

As much information as possible on what accommodation is recommended or not recommended.

The student accommodations are excellent. Especially St.George's College (which is a student accommodation).

All the student accommodations are right next to UWA which is very convenient.

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

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

It can take up to 2 months to get an Australian visa, depending on where you are from.

Besides that Perth is a beautiful city, which offers you the things that cannot be provided in a country like U.K. The weather keeps you active and makes you want to go and enjoy the beautiful beaches on sunny days. I have made friends for a lifetime. UWA is populated with exchange students from all over the world. I have learned a few words in Portuguese, French and German and learned a lot about other cultures and festivals. UWA organises activities for students almost everyday. In short, you will never get bored. It offers activities like Windsurfing, kayaking and other water sport activities which I have thoroughly enjoyed. I went for a road-trip in my mid-semester break to discover the beauty of Western Australia. Words cannot describe my experience so far. I had an opportunity to play with dolphins and snorkel in the wild with the fishes.

Academically - We have a lot of group projects and other group activities, which I think is great to learn how to work in a team. I have joined AIESEC, which is a student body that organises volunteering and internships for students to go out and reach the world. I'm most likely going for an internship in Dec/Jan.

### **DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD**

A full year of just beautiful beaches, snorkelling, roadtrips, and dolphins? I'd say If you haven't been to Australia, you have been nowhere.

## **FEEDBACK 2**

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### **INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME**

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

The Orientation went on for a week. In the Orientation I learnt about the University and how things work here . I

was welcomed by the University and key staff from my area of study. They advised me where to go for information, advice and other assistance. I learn about the programs and services offered by Student Services and met other students and started to build friendships. It involved a lot of ice-breakers, games and fun activities.

#### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Style of teaching, courses, ease of access to courses, methods of assessment, teaching support  
I had to choose 8 units for the year. 4 units per semester. The teaching style is exceptionally good. All the lectures are recorded and at the students disposal, at any given point of time as well, which makes it very easy for students to catch up on their missed work. The library has every textbook the unit commands. The teachers are very helpful, and are happy to answer any questions. I had a lot of assignments throughout the course, which counted for a large part of my grade, and then the final exam. The tutorials attendance and participation also count for certain marks towards the final grade. This was a very good method to keep the student engaged with the course matter. We also had to give feedback on the teachers performance as well.

#### MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful  
I think that MBS has been excellent in giving support and responding to my queries instantly.

#### MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Any additional information that you feel could have been provided  
I was well informed about everything.

#### HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Level of support, additional information that could be useful for future students  
The Host international office is very supportive with information.

#### INSURANCE, HEALTH COVER

Please include any information relating to the purchase of compulsory health insurance ie costs etc. or whether this was waived by having the University of Manchester Insurance Policy  
All student visa holders must have medical insurance or Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) for the duration of their student visa, which was \$562.

#### INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS

This should be information on any extra fees that the University charged but should not include accommodation, books, transport, visa etc.  
No

#### ACCOMMODATION

As much information as possible on what accommodation is recommended or not recommended.  
The residential colleges around UWA are recommended. These colleges are catered, and are right opposite the university. I lived in St Georges College. It is exceptional. Trinity, St Catherines, Tommy More and Uni Hall are recommended accommodations. However these accommodations are a bit expensive.

#### DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Transport, travel, social life, integration with local students, student activity groups  
Student Transperth bus passes for students are cheap. The residential colleges are communities, hence very interactive. People are friendly. There are activities going on everyday at the university and the residential colleges. I was kept very occupied the entire time. Australia is a beautiful country. I did a lot of travelling. Went for roadtrips and scuba dived at one of the wonders of the world! The great barrier reef.

#### DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

Coming to the University of Western Australia was a self realization journey of what I wanted to achieve in my life. The teaching style is excellent at the University and the country is beautiful to take trips and time out from studies.

**As this was a new exchange for MBS in 20113/14, included below is the feedback from the University of Manchester student who also attended UWA on exchange.**

### **FEEDBACK 3**

**Programme** Psychology with International Study BSc

**University Attended** University of Western Australia

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#### **INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME**

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

We had a week of orientation when we first arrived, including course enrolment, orientation around the university and introduction to university life at UWA. This week also involved excursions around Perth if we wanted to do them.

#### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

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

I found that the teaching at UWA was in much smaller classes than I was used to at Manchester. At home I had only ever had lectures with a couple of tutorials scattered over the semester. At UWA it was much more hands on – I had tutorials every week, lab classes and practical sessions as well. Also having been used to assessment in the form of the odd essay or lab report and then an end of semester exam (contributing to the majority of my marks), I found UWA to be much more about continuous assessment, as participation, and small tutorial tasks contributed to my overall grade alongside exams. Many of my end of semester exams ended up only being worth about 30%. It was easy to access course materials via the online system and course enrolment, although slightly complex was gone through with us step by step to make sure we did it correctly. The staff were all very supportive and easy to approach whenever issues arose. My only issue was that for psychology there were limited 'interesting' modules available to take – such that I ended up taking courses from outside the official psychology domain to create a more interesting workload for myself. Also, although Manchester had agreed that I could take a post grad module whilst at UWA to vary my modules, UWA did not allow this. However I feel that some of these courses proved to be very useful in both increasing my knowledge in the psychology area and also providing a solid foundation for other work I did.

#### **MBS INTERNATIONAL TEAM**

##### **Level of support, additional information that could have been useful**

Although not part of the Manchester Business School, so not having direct contact with them or the business school at UWA, it was lovely to meet Susan Fidalgo at the UWA exchange fair. The study abroad staff that have been my point of contact at Manchester have been unbelievably supportive, and I can't praise them enough. The emails every now and then to see how we are all going have been great, and although I have not had to contact them for anything serious, their support generally has been appreciated.

#### **MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS**

##### **Any additional information that you feel could have been provided**

Again, this was through study abroad not MBS. I found the meetings where we got to talk to other students who had been abroad already particularly useful – and definitely great for getting excited about the experience! I feel that I got lots of information about study abroad as a whole, and studying abroad in Australia too, but didn't get anything about Perth or UWA. Obviously in my case this was due to Manchester never having sent someone there before, but it definitely meant that I had to do all my own research into Perth as a place, UWA and module selection and accommodation a lot more than others at different universities. I also think that especially for UWA, information about the different university colleges would be helpful, as not only do a lot of exchange students who go to UWA go into college, but it's also quite difficult to find alternative housing in Perth. Hopefully the information I can provide on my return will help future students going to UWA – so that they feel more 'in the know' about where they are going.

## **HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**

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

I found the study abroad team at UWA much less forthcoming than the Manchester office, and quite hard to approach. When I had to go to New Zealand unexpectedly for family reasons, I went to study abroad for help with what to do about getting mitigating circumstances for outstanding work, and found that they didn't know what to do in this situation – they weren't very helpful and actually ended up sending me to the wrong department to deal with the issue. Also when I approached them in my Global Ambassador role about helping them out at events etc, they seemed really disinterested – in such that I never ended up hearing about any study abroad events, except for the UWA fair which I found out about from Susan Fidalgo in Manchester and not UWA. I found that whilst many students would turn to the local study abroad office for help in situations, most of the time I turned to the pastoral care staff at college who were absolutely amazing and really supportive in every situation that arose.

## **INSURANCE, HEALTH COVER**

### **Please include any information relating to the purchase of compulsory health insurance ie costs etc. or whether this was waived by having the University of Manchester Insurance Policy**

As I hold a New Zealand passport I did not need to obtain the same health insurance as others coming into Australia – but others holding passports of other nationality did. As far as I'm aware these people also had to pay for additional insurance on accepting their college place, however I am unsure of the details (I can find out if this information will be useful).

## **INFORMATION ON ANY ADDITIONAL COSTS**

### **This should be information on any extra fees that the University charged but should not include accommodation, books, transport, visa etc.**

We had to pay a 'Services & Amenities Fee' to the University which was \$140 for the year.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

### **As much information as possible on what accommodation is recommended or not recommended.**

Without a doubt, if future students can afford it, I can't recommend college enough. For me, it gave me a base, an immediate set of friends and a security net. I stayed at Trinity College (and although I'm biased) I think it was definitely the right choice. It had a good balance of a social but work hard attitude and I feel that the community there was second to none – and as mentioned above, the pastoral care staff were absolutely incredible – a second family for anyone worrying about studying abroad. I honestly feel that my study abroad experience would have been nowhere near what it was had I chosen alternative accommodation arrangements. Each college has something very different about it, and I would definitely recommend students to thoroughly research all the colleges as they all offer slightly different things – especially with regards to price, meals, room type etc.

As University Hall is the cheapest of the colleges, I know a lot of people consider going there, however from my experience I wouldn't advise this. Friends I know that went there found it much harder to integrate with others – there were few college events, and the vibe was much more an office block with individuals living in it than a community. They found that they knew their flat and a couple of other people (of their nationality) and that was it. They also rarely interacted with locals. Those girls actually ended up moving out second semester into a house as they didn't think that they were getting their money's worth in terms of the college experience. However the useful thing with Uni Hall was its flexibility with meals. Whilst Trinity was all meals included (even if you were away you could get a packed lunch/dinner), Uni Hall was two meals a day on a lunch card system. This meant you could choose two meals each day (they could be different every day) to have at college and then make alternative arrangements for the other meal, adding a bit of variety.

The option we were definitely encouraged to take from our study abroad meetings was to house share whilst abroad. I also think that while this works for a lot of people, it's pretty hard to find a house in the right area in Perth. The friends I know that did the house option found it really hard when they first arrived because they were really unsettled and didn't have an immediate plan of what they were going to do. Some of them ended up staying in hostels for a while – even after uni started, whilst others that found houses ended up being quite far away from uni. One girl in my lectures was a 40 min bus ride away from uni, but due to when the buses ran if she was meant to have a lecture at 8 she would have to get the bus at 6.30! She ended up moving into Trinity second

semester as it was so easy – a 5 minute walk from uni. However some of my friends that were in houses second semester got lucky and ended up getting a house close to uni. This definitely worked out for them.

## **DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE**

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

Public transport in Perth – probably the only thing that is cheap, but doesn't always run when you want it to! Get a 'smartrider' (like an Oyster card) as soon as you get to Perth – you can get a specific student one that is even cheaper. From college most places I wanted to get to were on bus routes, but it was often difficult getting some places on evenings and weekends when buses either didn't run/were infrequent. I relied a lot on lifts from Australian friends with cars. One of them exchanges bought a very cheap car at the beginning of his year which he found very useful.

Travel – be prepared to spend a lot travelling from Perth! Everything costs a lot more to get to than being on the east coast, but it's worth it. Also definitely explore the west coast – it's amazing and I really found that I saw 'true' Australia when travelling the west coast. I found that another thing college really helped with was having a good set of exchange friends to travel with – something that others I know on exchange didn't have. Jetstar (one of the budget airlines in Australia) often have really good sales so I'd recommend looking out for those as they make travel lots cheaper, and also just plan ahead – I planned all my travelling in advance so I could keep costs down, it really helped. I guess my main advice to anyone would be get a job in Perth. It's very easy to balance studying abroad, social life, and travel with getting a job and the pay over there is amazing! It really helped me fund all the travelling I wanted to do. Although it was easy to get a job in Perth if you wanted one, another bit of advice if anyone struggles to find a job is to speak to one of the colleges – one of my jobs was doing housekeeping for the conference rooms at college, it was on campus, and paid well. Also babysitting – pretty easy to get and also pays well. I used a website called findababysitter, and got all my babysitting jobs from there.

Social life – Perth isn't known for it's crazy party lifestyle but it has a lot more nights out than people give it credit for. Perth in the summer is AMAZING – surfing or sunbathing at the beach and then the famous 'Sun sessions' are great. Living a 15 minute drive from the beach was a definite benefit from being in Perth and many weekends/between classes time were spent down at Cottesloe Beach soaking up the sun. One of my favourite social aspects of studying abroad was the sports side of it. Australians are very into their sport, and participation at any level is really encouraged. College had so many social sports teams that everyone could get involved with, and I played lots of social netball as well as trying out lots of sports I'd never played before. College events were often focused around sports and it was a great way to meet a diverse range of people. Also another benefit about college was that we had our own gym, so we didn't have to pay a membership to the uni gym. PI or Perth International (Perth's international society) was also a great way of meeting other exchangers. They ran lots of events, my favourite one being the trip to Rottnest Island – a weekend in August, and a great way to get to know lots of people a month in, and see one of Perth's best tourist attractions.

Integrating with local students – for me this was easy as I met Australians straight away through being in college. The Australians were all very welcoming and made sure we felt at home. A lot of my travelling involved staying with them at their homes, and some even came with some of us exchangers on our various trips. However I found that it was harder to make friends at uni (so this would probably be the case if living in a house) as because most Australians live at home, they go to uni like they would to school, and it's much more of a 'in and out' experience rather than using it for socialising. Having said that I found that because for many of my subjects I had small group projects to do that aided the social interaction with locals.

My overall experience was so much better than I could ever have imagined, and I feel so lucky to have been placed in Perth. It really did feel like I experienced the Australian laidback lifestyle, and as I said, living 15 minutes from the beach is any English girls dream.

## **DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD**

The most fulfilling, memorable experience I have ever been part of, and something that I will take with me for the rest of my life.