

OUTGOING STUDENT FEEDBACK FORM – 2007/2008

Programme- IMABS

University Attended- University of Florida

INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

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

You get assigned a “Navigator” which is basically an American Student Mentor who are generally very good. A variety of events are organised by the Navigators and this is a really good way to meet other internationals as well as American Students. Other programs are organised by both the business school and the international office. These are OK but I feel maybe the induction program could have been more organised and practical. It really wont take you long to get to know Gainesville though, the place is so lively and friendly it's the only introduction programme you really need, just go out and meet people!

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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

Teaching is very different but it depends of which type of course you choose. Some types of course (core classes such as Introduction to marketing, business law) have very large numbers and most teaching is on-line, (there are no seminars but there are teaching assistants and office hours if you need them). These courses are still very good and are more practical than UK courses, plus lectures are online so you can watch them on the beach! Other courses you can opt for are more specialised and have smaller more traditional classes, I did a specialised finance course which was really good and the professors give you a lot of time and attention. Just be careful because UF will let you register for any course so make sure you can do the pre-reqs. For example I opted to do “Beginning Spanish” which wasn't beginning at all because all US students do 4 years Spanish at high school. Just make sure you really look at the syllabus and see the lecturer. Further at UF they have a drop add/week so can try and drop courses, (add as many courses as you can then drop one).

MBS INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

Really good, always an email or call away. From the Manchester end plenty of info given.

MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS

Any additional information that could have been useful

Again plenty of info given, just try and get as much info out of people who have been before.

HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

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

To be honest, not brilliant when you first get there. But there are two really nice people on the front desk who are really willing to help and seem to love British students. Just a bit of warning, be prepared for a slightly unorganised and complicated arrival. Still they were always people around if you need anything and it's only a little minor bug!

ACCOMMODATION

I stayed off campus with my friend who went out from Manchester as well. Off campus has some plus's in that there's a little more freedom and some of the apartment complexes have amazing facilities, resort style pools, massive rooms etc. Just make sure you're close to uni or on a really good bus route (check Gainesville Regional Transport) as transport especially at night can be very limited. On campus housing (Weaver Hall) still seems really good, however people generally tend to then mainly mix with only other internationals, this could be great (the other internationals we knew were brilliant) but just bare in mind if you end up in "halls" try and mix with people outside the halls. Also if you stay in halls other people will be in your position and it might be a little easier to make friends, saying that though if your outgoing Americans are really friendly and it's not going to be long before you have plenty of friends. Also bare in mind you will be sharing a room if you stay in Weaver Hall (where they put international students). Also I did know of a couple of exchange students who went on gum tree like websites or local newspaper listings (check the alligator newspaper) and found people to share rooms with, also most of the apartment complexes offer room matching. Only other downside with apartments is it's slightly harder to arrange and you'll be in a 12 month lease.

DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE

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

First of all there's no need to fly into Gainesville, Orlando is 2 hours down the road and it might be a lot cheaper to fly there. There is a bus service called runways that runs to the airport and back about 4 times a day, (this is also really good should you want to travel whilst you're in Florida, YOU WILL DO!) Transport within Gainesville is a little hard without a car (most Americans have one though and are always willing to give lifts) but there are bus services, maybe consider buying a car especially if there is two of you, it might be a lot of hassle but it will make travelling easier. My mate and I got a scooter each which is great around campus and loads of students have one, but they can be dangerous, loads of people get knocked off them! Make sure you travel once you're there, there are plenty of opportunities to get away, try and schedule your classes to get Monday and Friday off then look for cheap flights or head to the beach, Miami, Orlando, Bahamas etc. Also take the opportunity to travel either at xmas or after term (everything finished beginning of may), I drove across the states then did south America, loved it! Integration with students is good, people are really friendly and very willing to make friends. Plenty of student groups be it Sport, social or anything. Group called trip that organised cheap white water rafting, rock climbing etc is worth a look. Final thing, Florida is the Gators, the American football matches are amazing and game days were some of the best days I had in Gainesville.

DESCRIBE IN ONE SENTENCE YOUR YEAR ABROAD

**Seriously the best year of my life for a thousand reasons, once a Gator
always a Gator!**