

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

**Programme** International Management & American Business Studies

**University Attended** The College of William & Mary, Virginia

---

### **INDUCTION/ORIENTATION PROGRAMME**

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

This started the morning after arrival. On the first morning we met with all the other international students which was great as you get to be around people who are experiencing the same feelings as you are. There was about 50 of us in total, about 7 of which were Brits. For the first couple of weeks it is likely that you will have a lot of contact with your 'fellow Brits' while you are settling in and getting comfortable. There were some useful aspects of orientation such as tours of the campus and teachings on American law etc but some of the information was just common sense. After spending a day with the international students you are then mixed in with the incoming American students on their orientation.

### **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

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

The academic experience is amazing!!! I feel I have learnt more in this year than I did in the previous two at Manchester combined. Classes are a lot smaller (up to 30 people) so you have a lot of one-on-one time with the professors. The modules are built up from various types of assessments (presentations, cases, mid-terms, finals, participation etc) throughout the term and so unlike Manchester, it is rare that you will find a course that is evaluated by one large final. However, this does mean that you have to work pretty hard throughout the whole period rather than just cramming at exam time. I didn't find the work to be any more difficult but there was a lot more of it so this may be a major constraint on your time. Another downside is that some classes start at 8am. I made the mistake of taking one of these and the early morning has the ability to wipe out the rest of your day. One cool thing is that your exams are in December so we don't have to study over Christmas, and the business school doesn't have class on a Friday which makes for great long weekends.

You have to study at least 12 credits a semester

Most classes/courses = 3 credits (but there are some that are only 1.5)

Therefore, it is likely that you will have four different classes each semester. You can take more credits if you want (up to 18). Most people who go to W&M take 15 a semester. If you take more than 12, your best 12 credit results are taken. My advice would be to only take 12 which is what I did. That way you have less class time and more time for everything else. As I mentioned earlier they do a lot more work than we do so I would avoid taking on anymore than you have to.

With regards to actual classes - They have 100, 200, 300 and 400 level classes. 100 levels are the basic levels and it works up from there. The students here pretty much

stick to the level depending on their year i.e. freshman take 100's, juniors 300's etc. 100 and 200 business level classes are pretty basic after what we have studied at Manchester so we pick from the 300 and 400 level courses. I don't think there's much of a difference between the two (difficulty wise) - although the 400 levels are more interesting (in my opinion). With business courses you won't have any problems registering as a lady called Jen Waina will override the system (you won't be able to register yourself as the system won't say you have the right pre-requisites - but that won't be a problem when you arrive and she will sort everything out for you)

For the 25% you are allowed to take outside the business school I experienced a bit of difficulty. I wanted to take a film studies course but the professor wouldn't give me the override. Therefore, if you spot a class you want to take outside of the business school, get in touch with the professor early and let them know a bit about yourself and why you want to take the course. Hopefully then, they'll give you the override.

The business courses which I took that I would recommend are:

Entrepreneurial Ventures (3 credits - best class I've ever taken but also class with the most work I've ever taken)

Advertising & Marketing Communications (3 credits - really hands on marketing class)

The Art and Science of Negotiation (1.5 credits - you perform loads of negotiations against members of the class)

### **MBS INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**

Level of support, additional information that could have been useful

The level of support I received from Manchester was just what I needed. They weren't in contact with me daily, just at the times when I needed their assistance or they needed information from me. The relevant members in the office also respond to you extremely quickly.

### **MBS SECOND YEAR MEETINGS**

Any additional information that could have been useful

To be honest, I thought the meetings were very thorough and although there was probably a couple of things it may have been useful to know at the time, I can't remember them now, and so it is likely there was nothing of importance that I was left unknowing.

One thing we weren't told (as the Manchester office probably isn't aware) was that there is a couple of boxes in the international center for students from Manchester. In it are things left by the previous Manchester students so you will be able to look through that and pick out the stuff that's been left before.

### **HOST INTERNATIONAL OFFICE**

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

The international office at William & Mary is very useful and the staff are all very friendly. There are a few people there all who specialize in different areas; one guy (Steve Sechrist) sorts all the documentation out so you would see him if you have any visa issues etc and Merit will organise many international outings to keep you occupied such as whale watching, a visit to Virginia Beach, bowling, skiing etc. They

are all great people so much so that many of the international students socialized with the staff from time to time.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

As we applied so late, we were just given whatever accommodation remained. For me this meant I was placed in the Reeves International centre which was a fairly nice place to live and more importantly was air-conditioned! It was however, right at the end of campus so you had to walk a long way to get anywhere. Other Brits over there were located in dorms such as Chandler and Jefferson, more in the middle of things, BUT WITHOUT AIR-CONDITIONING. I can't stress how much you will benefit from getting an air-conditioned room as Williamsburg gets extremely hot. You will be given a roommate. Mine was fine in that he was very tidy and was a hermit at his computer so it was like he wasn't even there. It can be advantageous to become friendly with your roommate as often they bring a lot of items that you will find useful but couldn't bring yourself (fridge, microwave, television etc)

## **DESTINATION INFORMATION AND OVERALL EXPERIENCE**

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

The bus service in Williamsburg is pretty poor so it is important to make friends with someone who owns a car. This will aid you in getting around Williamsburg and seeing the places that it is tough to walk to. Flights around the country are pretty cheap and even a steal if you find the right ones. It can make for very inexpensive holidays

The delis are pretty cool. They are nothing like the bars in Manchester and there are only three of them but they are still a good laugh.

The campus food is pretty good. There are 3 main places to eat which are all ok; I prefer the Marketplace. However, don't make the mistake that I made and buy the unlimited plan as its way too much and you will eat out a lot more later in the term so there's no need for it. I switched down to the 120 meal plan which was \$500 cheaper.

Involve yourself in the fraternities and sororities even if you have no interest in joining. Its a great way to meet people. I joined a fraternity (Kappa Sigma), as did two of the other British lads and two English girls I knew out there enjoyed joining tri delta (sorority).

Williamsburg is a cool little town, but it is LITTLE!! While you're over here travel as much as you can. I've made use of friend's houses and last minute deals off the internet and would recommend going to places such as New Orleans, Atlanta, Washington DC, Chicago & New York

Sport - There is quite a bit going on over here. There is Basketball and American football to watch, and loads of stuff to play (I played soccer, squash and volleyball). The gym is free and pretty nice.

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

Friends for life, once in a lifetime teaching, a great institution...possibly the best year of my life!

---