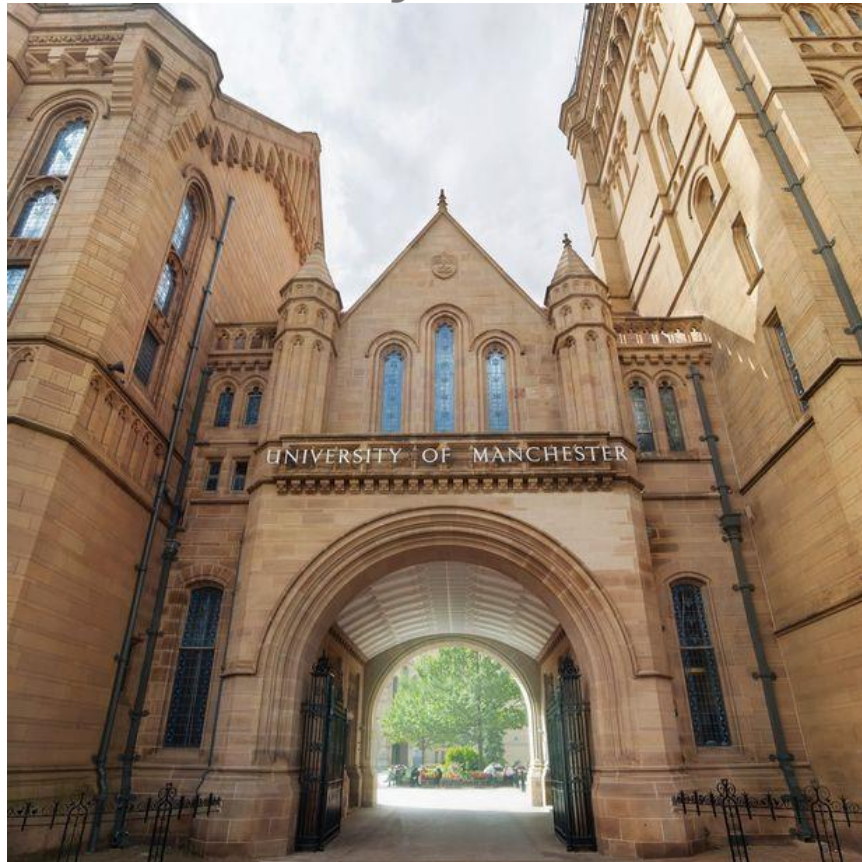


MANCHESTER
1824

The University of Manchester



Exchange Report

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

WONGSO, Hanna Theodora | Finance and Information System | Spring 2017

Table of Contents

	Page
Part I	2
Monthly Activity Log	
Part II	4
General Exchange Information	
Part III	5
Items to Bring	
Part IV	8
Useful Links and Contacts	
Part V	9
Best Practices of Host University	

Part I – Monthly Activity Log

JANUARY 2017

I first arrived in Manchester on the 26th January 2017. The weather was rather cold then and there are not a lot of people on the street. However, the next week, on the 30th, there are more people coming as classes started. I have my orientation on the 28th and there I met the other exchange students. At first, I was a bit worried about meeting new friends, but turns out they are nice and there is actually another Indonesian exchange student there too. There are also a lot of Hong Kong students there so we made a group chat where we share information and help each other adapt better. That day was also the day for Chinese New Year celebration so my parents and I went to Manchester's China town. It was very crowded and a lot of people were celebrating, not only the Chinese, and it was very festive with a lot of booths for food and games.

FEBRUARY 2017

It was still cold in February and school had just started. It rains quite a lot there therefore it felt even colder. The university buildings are separated from each other so I need to make sure that I allot some time to search and get to the lecture venue. There was a day trip arranged by the school too for us the exchange student around Manchester to get ourselves familiar with the city. I also joined the International Society. The society provides discounts for members to join trips to different parts of UK almost on a weekly basis and other cultural events. They will provide the transportation to get to the destination and then we were given some time to explore the city on our own and a guide to the city such as the popular tourist attractions and brief history of the city was provided. And since I have arrived in Manchester, I went to watch a football match on the 16th of February. It was a new and interesting experience for me although I have never been really interested in the sport. There are thousands of people in the stadium cheering for their team and there are security guards here and there to prevent fights and keep the place safe in general.

MARCH 2017

In March, the weather was less cold and there were more flowers so it was beautiful. I also went to other cities in the UK such as York and Keswick. I would say that it was the right time for travel as the weather gets warmer. The exchange coordinator also arranged a hiking trip to Peak District for the exchange students on the 8th of March. At the mid of March, it becomes busier as deadlines for group projects and presentations are getting close which usually are at the end of March before the Spring break. In March, most of the exchange students are also planning their trips for the Spring break and some even started planning earlier. Since I need a visa to travel to Schengen countries, I went back to Indonesia for almost a week for the application close to the start of the Spring break.

APRIL 2017

The Spring break starts on the 1st to 24th of April so I travelled during this period with another 2 exchange friends and a HKUST friend who was also on exchange in Sheffield. We went to Belgium, Denmark and Finland for 10 days and went back to UK before going for another trip to the Netherlands for several more days. The trip was really nice as the view was beautiful in Spring for most of the cities we travelled to and it was still snowing in Finland. However, I could not travel more as my visa only allows me to travel in total for 15 days. So, for the rest of the break I just went to other places in the UK or just stay in Manchester and look around the city. After the break, a lot of classes had actually finished although my classes are still ongoing but it was more relaxed as most of the projects and presentations were over.

MAY 2017

In May, most of the courses are on the final lectures or review lectures and students are preparing for their final exams. Mine ends on the 6th of June. So, most of the time I would only be staying in my room to review for my exams. There was also the attack on the 22nd of May. I heard about the news from social media. The location of the attack, Manchester Arena, was quite far from my dormitory which is at Whitworth Park student hall.

JUNE 2017

My last exam was on the 6th and I went back to my home country, Indonesia, on the 10th, so basically after I finished my exam I just meet up with some friends and then I started packing up. Actually, before the exams I planned to go to other cities like Edinburgh after all the exams are over but due to the attacks that was happening in the UK I decided that maybe it would be better to get back home as my parents were worried. Overall, I find this exchange to be very meaningful as I get to meet new friends and most importantly I get to learn and experience the cultures and customs in the European countries which I had never really get to experience first-hand before.

Part II – General Exchange Information

VISA PROCEDURES

Since I am from Indonesia, I need to apply for a student visa before going for exchange in the UK unlike the other local Hong Kong students. The options are to get Tier 4 General Student or Short-Term Student visa. The University of Manchester emails the information for the visas such as the pros and cons of each visa types, how to apply for it and the documents that need to be submitted. I applied for the visa in Hong Kong during the fall semester right after I got the information from the host university. I received the information quite late as compared to my friends who are going for exchange to other countries so I just applied immediately in Hong Kong. I chose the Short-Term student visa as it is cheaper and a friend of mine said that it is not that much different as compared to the Tier 4 visa. However, I found out that with Short-Term student visa it is not possible to apply for Schengen visa in the UK so I actually need to go back home for the application. It would be better to apply for the Schengen visa before going for exchange. For students from other countries there may be different arrangements and usually it is provided in the websites for visa applications.

ORIENTATION ACTIVITIES

Before the semester starts, the university arranged an orientation for the exchange students to make our student id and sharing of general information such as lecture timetables, where we can get them and the websites to get lecture notes and other academic related stuffs. We also get to meet with other exchange students and there was some ice breaking games. After the school started, there were also some tours and trips with other exchange students inside and outside of Manchester.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

There is a society for international students called the International Society. They arrange trips to different parts of UK and other cultural events such as Chinese New Year Dinner, Indonesian Night, Thailand Night, etc. The society basically provide the transportation to the destination and a fact sheet about the area like famous tourist attractions and map of the area, but it would be better to use your own map (e.g. Google map) as the map provided may not be very clear.

ACCOMMODATION

The university provides catered and self-catered accommodations. I lived in Whitworth Park student hall which is located in the City campus and is very close to my classes. The closest class took me only around 5 minutes to get there and the furthest took only around 15 minutes. It is not too far from the city centre too, maybe around 30 minutes' walk. However, bathrooms and kitchen are shared with flat mates. In my flat there were ten people in total, each having their own single room. It was quite troublesome having

shared bathroom but I chose this accommodation as the location was most ideal for me. Another hall which is quite close would be Hulme. It is close to a supermarket called LIDL and is not too far from the campus although slightly further away as compared to Whitworth Park student hall.

COURSE REGISTRATION

The Alliance Manchester Business School requires exchange students to enrol in at least 5 courses with 10 credits each and a maximum of 6 courses in total. We are allowed to take at most one course outside of the business school. I took 5 business courses during the exchange. The course registration starts before the semester starts and there is an add drop period at the beginning of the semester. The course registration details and courses available are usually sent by the university via email after the student gets accepted for the exchange program.

Course Code	Course Title	Assessment
BMAN31802	Applied Business Investment	Group Project (35%) + Group Presentation (15%) + Examination (50%)
BMAN30242	Financial Engineering	Examination (100%)
BMAN30732	Business IT Architecture	Coursework (30%) + Examination (70%)
BMAN31792	Financial Market Microstructure	Examination (100%)
BMAN20792	Technology Strategy and Innovation 1	Essay (80%) + Group Assignment (20%)

TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

The teaching method is pretty similar to that of HKUST where there are lectures and seminars or workshops which usually are compulsory and attendance are recorded. As for the assessment method, most of the courses that I took got final exam except for one where it was assessed based on group presentation and individual essays and there were no midterm exams.

SPORTS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

There are some sports classes organized by societies and the university. There are gyms too but it is not free of charge. A lot of the students there just jog around the campus or parks nearby.

FINANCE & BANKING (INCLUDING CURRENCY / EXPENSES)

I opened a bank account there in Barclays as one of the branch is close to my accommodation and I just close the account when my exchange program ended. I think that it is more convenient to open a bank account there as I could save on the charges

every time I need to exchange money and there are a lot of payments that requires a credit or debit card. To exchange my money, I would usually go to the post office as the rate is quite good and they give special rate for students.

Item	Cost (HKD)
Air Ticket	15000
Travel (in and out of UK)	15000
Accommodation	25000
Living Expenses	8000
Total	63000

Note: the amount is just approximation and expressed in Hong Kong Dollar

SOCIAL CLUBS AND NETWORKING ACTIVITIES

To get more information about the clubs we could take a look at the specific club's Facebook page and sometimes they do distribute flyers around the campus and sidewalks. There are also networking events and some of them are announced through emails or we can just go to a building called the University Place where they would sometimes hold career fairs or other events at the ground floor.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

In Manchester, I would say that it is better to be back at the accommodation before it gets dark especially during the weekend as there are not many people around and most of the stores close very early. If it is really urgent to go out at those times it would be better to go with some friends just to be safe.

FOOD

The food choices in Manchester are not as varied as in Hong Kong and they are not cheap. During my stay in Manchester I would prefer to cook my own food most of the time. There are some supermarkets around and the goods are at a reasonable price. I would usually buy my groceries at Morrisons or LIDL as I find these two supermarkets to be relatively cheaper than others and they are quite close to Whitworth Park. There is also a Chinese supermarket where they sell a lot of Asian food products near the campus called W.H.Lung.

TRANSPORTATION

Since I live very close to the campus and city centre is only 30 minutes away on foot, I seldom take public transport. However, there are a lot of buses going to city centre and they come quite frequently. And there is also a bus going to the airport (bus no. 43) which costs around 2 GBP and there is a stop within the campus so it is very accessible. For trips going out of Manchester, we could apply for the 16-25 Railcard which cost around 30 GBP and we can travel by train to different cities in the UK with 30% discount.

CLIMATE

When I arrived in Manchester in late January, the weather was still very cold. The temperature was below 10°C most of the time and sometimes go below zero. The weather remains cold in February and gets slightly warmer in end of March, around ten degrees. In May, the weather gets even warmer and since the heater in some of the rooms could not be turned off, it may get really warm inside. I bought a fan which I find to really help and there are a lot of small table fans we can buy at the city centre which are available at an affordable price.

COMMUNICATION

I purchased a prepaid SIM card from EE. It cost around 12 GBP per month. It is not too expensive however I could not use the package outside of UK so I need to get the add-ons which are more expensive. A lot of my friends got SIM card from 3 as they can use their package outside of UK and the price is pretty much similar.

CAUTIONARY MEASURES

As mentioned before, the streets in Manchester are not as crowded as those in Hong Kong so I would recommend to be back at the accommodation before dark or to travel with some friends. There are also some cases where some people were playing with their phones on a relatively quiet road and got their phones snatched. So, it would be better not to use phones while walking and pay attention to our belongings at all times when we are outside. It is also recommended to stay away from places that are too crowded now due to the recent attacks in the UK.

Part III – Items to Bring

- Winter clothes
- T-shirts and pants (for when the weather gets warmer)
- Formal attire/smart casuals for presentations
- Hair dryer
- Smart phone
- Wallet
- Laptop
- Chargers for smartphone/ laptop/ other electronic devices
- Adapter (for travel outside of UK)
- Water bottle
- Passport
- Student ID card
- Credit card
- Debit card
- Confirmation letter from the University of Manchester
- Medicine

Part IV – Useful Links and Contacts

BBC weather (Manchester) - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/weather/2643123>

UK student visa - <https://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa>

Trainline - <https://www.thetrainline.com/>

Security Control Room (24-hour contact number) - +44 (0) 161 306 9966

Student Services Centre - +44 (0) 161 275 5000