

# **EXCHANGE REPORT**

**University of Manchester, U.K.**

**Alliance Manchester Business School**



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**2017 Fall**  
**OM & MGMT (Year 3)**

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## PART I – MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG

### **September 2017**

I arrived in Manchester on 15<sup>th</sup> September. I was so excited about starting my school term in a completely new environment. At the same time, it meant that problems were popping up and I had to settle them on my own. It was really a challenging start. During the Welcome Week, I received useful information about the school and the city. At the Peak District ramble, I met a lot of exchange students from all over the world. It was also a great chance to explore the mesmerizing countryside. By the end of September, I also went to Edinburgh for 3 days with my friend. It was such a nice place, no wonder J.K. Rowling could think of the best-selling novel there.

### **October 2017**

At weekends, I visited few cities in the UK. I went to York, Chester, Liverpool, Whitby and Blackpool. For York, I had a taste of the traditional English high tea in a famous teahouse. It was such an enjoyable afternoon. Chester is a walled city, but the most surprising fact is that I found the Roman Amphitheatre there. Liverpool is the birthplace of the Beatles, where I found myself engrossed in the sea view. Whitby is one of my favorite cities in the UK. Apart from the delicious fish and chips, the view from 199 Steps is magnificent. You can feel a moment of peace and calm. Last but not least, Blackpool is a place full of entertainment, where you can find casino, thrilling rides and waterpark. Blackpool Illuminations is something you must not miss!

**November 2017**

I had one week holiday for Reading Week, so I decided to go to Italy. I visited cities like Rome, Venice, Milan and Florence. Italian food is excellent. I totally fall in love with its pizza, gelato and latte macchiato. I must say it was a wonderful trip. After that, I also went to Ireland and Netherlands. I was stunned by both natural landscape. More importantly, I started working on my essay, because I had to hand in 3 essays before Christmas holiday.

**December 2017**

December was the busiest month, because there were deadlines for presentations and assignments. Also, it is time for some students ending their exchange journey, so we had a few farewell dinners. On the other hand, I watched a football match between Manchester United and Bournemouth. It was so exciting and Manchester United won the game at last. During the Christmas Break, I went to France, Belgium and Luxembourg. I returned to Manchester on 31<sup>st</sup> December.

**January 2018**

I went to countdown at Town Hall for 2018. The firework was so great and I love it so much. After that, I spent most of my time preparing for exams, because I got 3 exams this month. Sometimes, I dined out with my friends to relax. After finishing all my exams, it was time to say goodbye to my dear friends and I back to Hong Kong on 28<sup>th</sup> January.

## PART II – GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

### **1) Visa Procedures**

The University of Manchester organized a webinar regarding the visa application. You may find it useful if you need to apply for visa. For HKSAR passport holder, you do not have to apply for visa, given that you stay in the UK for less than 6 months. It is important to remember that you need to preset the acceptance letter to the immigration officer when you arrive Manchester.

### **2) Orientation Activities**

The Welcome Week was from 18 September to 22 September. The Alliance Manchester Business School organized a wide range of activities for exchange students, like induction meeting, campus tour, Peak District ramble, welcome party, etc. It is a good chance to mingle with peers and learn more about the university.

### **3) International Services & Activities**

There is the International Society for all international students in Manchester. It organizes regular trips around the UK. They also have language classes and cultural events. If you plan to join a lot of its activities, it will be better to join the membership as to enjoy the discount offered. You can ask for one-semester membership for 10 GBP.

### **4) Accommodations**

The University provides guaranteed housing for exchange students. The student halls are mainly located in three campuses, namely City, Victoria Park and Fallowfield. When choosing the accommodations, you may wish to consider the following things. First, the location of the hall. Halls in City Campus, as you can tell from its name, is in city center. It is the closest to the university campus, yet the rent is higher. But if you love going parties, you may choose to stay in Fallowfield. Second, catered or self-catered hall. Catered hall means the hall will provide you with breakfast and dinner. It may be a good option if you don't know how to cook. For non-catered hall, you will prepare meals by yourself. Certainly, it is much cheaper.

### 5) Courses Registration

A full workload for exchange students is 60 credits with a minimum of 50 credits. You can fulfill the requirements by taking any combination of 10 or 20 credit courses. It is important to note that we can only choose the courses provided by the Alliance Manchester Business School. For me, I studied the following courses which added up to 60 credits.

Course Code	Course Title	Equivalent HKUST Course	Assessment
BMAN24271	Globalization and Employment	MGMT3000 Level	100% Examination
BMAN30601	Human Resource Management	MGMT3000 Level	100% Essay
BMAN31391	The Economics of Sport	Free Elective	25% Essay 75% Examination
BMAN31451	Foundations of Supply Chain Management	ISOM4770	100% Examination
BMAN31731	Behavioral Strategy	MGMT4210	30% Essay 70% Case Study Report

### 6) Teaching & Assessment Methods

All courses are taught in a combination of lectures and seminars. It is quite similar with those in HKUST. Lectures are usually for delivering theoretical knowledge, while seminars focus on group discussion or case study. It is interesting to find that most seminars are taught by professor instead of teaching assistant. Exchange students are allowed to choose special assessment, in which you have to hand in essay rather than sitting for exam.

## **7) Sports & Recreation Facilities**

There is a program called Sporticipate, which offers beginner-level sport classes to university students. You can give a try to many sports, like Ultimate Frisbee, Self Defence, Street Dance, etc. The sport activities will be held across campus and even in halls, so it is very convenient. However, there may be some occasional changes in time and venue. You must pay close attention to their Facebook's updates. To join the program, you can register on UoM sport website (<http://www.sport.manchester.ac.uk/sport/sporticipate/>). On the other hand, you can join regular sport practice by being a member of clubs and societies.

## **8) Finance & Banking**

It is recommended to open a foreign bank account. Therefore, you don't have to withdraw money from Hong Kong bank account every time and pay for charges when doing online payment. When you apply for the student bank account, you need to prepare your passport, student card and proof of UK address. Then, you will receive your debit card in two weeks' time.

## **9) Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities**

The Student Union will organize a lot of networking events at the start of the semester and after the exam period. However, the tickets are often sold out fast. On the other hand, there is a student fair during the Welcome Week. You can join different societies according to your own interest. I joined the International Society and followed them to several cities in the UK. I met some friends during the trips too.

## **10) Health & Safety**

Upon arrival, hall tutors will help you to register with a General Practitioner or you can go to a clinic and register by yourself. In case of any emergencies, you can go to any one of the walk-in centers. There is one on the second floor of Boots in the city center and one in St. Mary's Hospital.

### **11) Food**

If you cook by yourself, you can easily get the ingredients from supermarkets like ALDI, LIDL, Morrisons, Tesco and Sainsbury's. Some of the groceries or food are even cheaper than Hong Kong. If you miss Chinese food, you can go to Chinese supermarkets in China Town or W. H. Lung (behind Business School). On the other hand, there is a lot of options if you dine out. The restaurants are quite concentrated, mainly located in City Center, China Town and Curry Mile.

### **12) Transportation**

You can take bus 147, which is free for all university students. To enjoy the service, you need to present your student card to the driver. However, there is only part of the route free for students. If you go to city center, you can consider taking bus 142 and 143. You can also buy a bus pass, if you travel a lot by bus. For me, I usually walk, because it is a good way to exercise and save money at the same time.

### **13) Climate**

The weather in Manchester is quite cold and windy. It is better to bring more warm clothes with you. You may wish to bring a pair of gloves, but you can also easily get one there. Sometimes, it rains, mostly in the form of shower. The weather is quite unpredictable. I suggest always keep an umbrella in your bag, as the rain can get quite heavy sometimes. Also, it is suggested to wear water-proof boots. Your feet will get freezing, when it is raining. During my stay in Manchester, I saw snow twice. However, both didn't last long.

### **14) Communication**

I used Giffgaff, since it provided packages for different mobile data usage. For me, I chose the 10 GBP goodybag, which offered 2 GB data and 500 minutes. It also offered free roaming service in other European countries.

### **15) Cautionary measures**

It is important for you to always stay alert, especially in crowded places. When taking the bus, it is better to sit near the driver. Try to avoid going out alone late at night. Don't play your phone while you are walking, because the traffic is quite different from Hong Kong and your phone can be easily grabbed by someone.



### PART III – ITEMS TO BRING

- Passport
- Passport-sized photos
- Credit card
- Confirmation letter
- Laptop
- USB
- Warm clothes
- Slippers
- Medicine
- Towels
- Body cream
- Bed linen
- Duvet
- Pillows
- Hair dryer
- Chargers
- Water bottle

## PART IV – USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS

- Course Catalog:  
<http://courseunits.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/Undergraduate/Manchester-Business-School>
- University Accommodation:  
<http://www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk/ouraccommodation/>
- International Society: <http://internationalsociety.org.uk/>
- Megabus: <http://uk.megabus.com/>
- National Express Coach: <http://www.nationalexpress.com/>
- 16-25 Railcard: <http://www.16-25railcard.co.uk/>
- Skyscanner: [www.skyscanner.net](http://www.skyscanner.net)
- Hostel World: <http://www.hostelworld.com>
- Booking.com: <http://www.booking.com/>
- Airbnb: <https://www.airbnb.com>