

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER EXCHANGE REPORT



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Information Systems and Operational Management

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I Monthly Activity Log

JANUARY

I arrived at Manchester on 25th January as the orientation is held on 26th. 25th was a busy day because I needed to settle down all the stuff in dormitory. During the orientation activity, I met a lot of exchange students coming from different parts of the globe. There was also a walking tour which the local students guided us to have a walk around the campus and introduced the school buildings and facilities. Semester started from 31st Jan. Thus, I had four free days after orientation to explore the Manchester city. Arndale is one of the biggest shopping malls in the city centers and I could get whatever I needed there. Everything here was new to me and I was looking forward to studying in Manchester.



Manchester Town Hall



Central Library

FEBRUARY

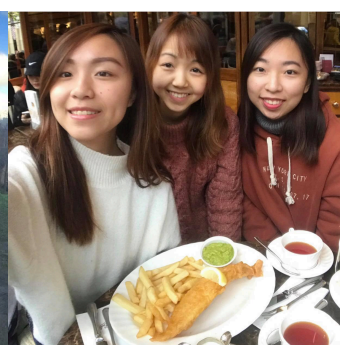
Lectures and seminars were ordinary and very similar to those in Hong Kong. In one of the courses I studied, I was assigned in a team with three UK students and we probed into a topic of technological modularity. Working on a group presentation was not new to me but it definitely was a great experience for me to collaborate with local students. Engaging in an exchange was my very first time going to the UK. It was just the beginning of semester so I still haven't encountered any academic pressure. I spent much time to explore the UK every weekend. I went to York, Oxford, Bicester and Liverpool with other exchange students.



Liverpool



Oxford/ Bicester



York



MARCH

All the courses I studied did not require mid-term exams. That was why I had a relatively relaxing period before the Easter holiday and I grabbed the time to visit Barcelona with other students. The Easter holiday of the university started from 23rd March and ended on 15th April. During the holiday, I joined friends from UST and other exchange students to travel around Europe. We went to Munich, Prague, Amsterdam, London, Lisbon as well as Porto. Felt blessed to see a lot of sceneries and meet a lot of great people around the world which made my exchange life fruitful and unforgettable.

APRIL

I continued travelling in Europe and returned back to Manchester on 19 April. To be frank, it was really tiring after travelling around non-stop for a month. So I did not leave the UK in the rest of April but I kept exploring the Manchester city such as participating in Manchester Color Run.



Sintra



Amsterdam



Prague



Color Run



Friends Gathering

MAY

May is the busiest month among exchange period. Classes ended at the first week of May but all the submission deadlines of projects and essays are mostly packed within the month. Hence, I stayed at hall or campus most of the time to get all the work done. My study plan was not tensed and I was still managed to have a trip to Copenhagen and Berlin. As final examinations were coming, school libraries and learning commons were packed with hardworking students. The exam structure was similar to that in Hong Kong. However, in Manchester, we were not allowed to access the past exam papers and their answers without the permission of lecturers.

JUNE

I finished my last examination on 5 June. Before going back to Hong Kong, I went to Venice and Rome with my friend to explore the cities of Art. Since I purchased the round-trip UST exclusive discounted flight tickets offered by Cathay Pacific, I was not allowed to change the departing port of returning flight. That's why I needed to take the flight back to Manchester from Italy first, then Manchester to Hong Kong on 15 June.

II General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

There is no need for students who are born in Hong Kong to apply for visa. They are eligible to stay in the UK for no more than 6 months. Remember to prepare and bring the acceptance letter from the host university along with you when you across the UK boarder.

Orientation Activities

Most of the orientation activities such as pub night and campus tour were organized by the International Society within the first two weeks after the start of semester. Activities were optional to join. Emails were sent to notify exchange students the activities. Those activities were a great platform for exchange students to get to know each other and expand social circle.

Apart from emails, students could keep track of the Facebook page of the International Society constantly. They would organize cross-faculty orientation activities for all exchange students studying in the university.

International Services & Activities

Not only the International Society, some local students were keen on arranging day trips to other UK cities and they welcomed all students to participant in.

Accommodations

Exchange students are allowed to state three priorities in choosing the school accommodations at the beginning of December. Accommodations are scattered around the campus in three areas- city campus, Victoria park and Fallowfield. City campus is the closest to the main campus while fallowfield is the furthest.

I stayed at ensuite room in Weston Hall in the city campus which was my first priority. Eight students shared the flat together. The geographical location of it definitely worth it. It took only 10 minutes to the business school and Piccadilly (train station) and 15 minutes to Chinatown and city center. Activities such as free yoga and pizza giveaway were frequently organized for its residents in Weston Hall. Bear in mind, there is no wifi but cable available in Weston hall. I brought a router from Hong Kong and used it in my room.

Many of my friends lived in Victoria Campus (Liberty Park and Hulme Hall). It took around 30-minute walk to the business school. Going to city center was quite time consuming so they would go there by bus.

Courses Registration

Exchange students are required to take 60 credits or 50 credits with the permission of home university. I applied for the approval from UST so I am allowed to take 50 credits only. It is noted that exchange students can only study courses

offered by the business school. Students are allowed to make changes on course registration during add-drop period. Details of courses I have taken are shown below.

BMAN20792 Technology, Strategy, and Innovation

The course is a combination of lectures and seminars. Seminars require attendance (5% bonus mark) while lectures do not. Lectures will initially address the nature of technology strategy and how strategy is selected and implemented in firms, as well as focusing on innovation management practices in both large and small firms. Seminars further explain and explore the concepts by discussing literature papers.

Syllabus

To introduce understanding of the main issues and conceptual frameworks involved in the design of technology strategy and management of innovation within national and international contexts. Further topics to be covered will include:

- Open innovation business model
- Collaboration and partnerships
- External acquisition of technologies
- Globalisation of R&D and international technology transfer.
- Intellectual property management strategies

20% from seminars, form a group of three to four to have a presentation towards a topic pre-assigned.

80% from 3000-word essay writing. Students choose an essay topic among three to illustrate it with ideas learnt from classes.

BMAN24322 Business Data Analytics

The course aims to provide students with a working background descriptive analysis and statistical inference and help develop skills in the use of mainstream statistical software. Modelling and optimization methods to address decision problems in resource management are also introduced. One final exam only.

Syllabus

- Probability Distributions
- Sampling, Estimation, Inference
- Forecasting
- Linear Programming: formulation & graphical solution, simplex and dual-simplex methods & Excel Solvers, sensitivity analysis, applications, integer programming, transportation algorithms

BMAN30732 Business IT Architecture

The course has been developed in partnership with IBM-UK and utilizes problem-based learning techniques and case studies. Students should learn the concepts, models and techniques underpinning the IT architecture discipline and the importance of IT architecture and the role of IT Architects in organizations. Not only the professor, professional IT experts from IBM are present to conduct lectures.

Syllabus

Students formed a group of six or seven for group work in lectures. Group work is based on a business scenario case study provided by IBM and a group presentation is required to showcase students' interpretation and suggestions towards the case. There is also final exam to assess students' understanding to business IT concepts. 20% case presentation and 80% exam.

BMAN31592 IT in Business Strategy

Syllabus

- IS Development
- Chief Information Officer
- IT Service Delivery- Outsourcing
- Competitive Intelligence
- IT Governance
- Integration

Coursework (group): 50%

Exam: 50%

Teaching & Assessment Methods

The teaching in the UK was similar to that in Hong Kong, which is a combination of interactive lectures and seminars. Coursework and final exam are two common assessment methods. Professors and teaching assistants always welcome any questions.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

Within the campus, there is a sports center and swimming pool which are right beside the business school. Exchange students are also eligible to participate in the societies. Stay tuned to the deadline of the admission of new society member (first week of school)!

Finance & Banking

HSBC and Barclays are the two most popular banks there. I suggest opening a bank account there for debit card. If you

would like to open the account with Barclays, you need to do it as soon as possible after your arrival as the vacancy offered by Barclays were very limited and reservation was required. I had my account opened at HSBC and the debit card really brought huge convenience to me.

Items	Amount (HKD)
Flight tickets	7500
Accommodation	32000
Living expenses	20000
Travelling	25000
Total	84500

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

Apart from activities offered by the university, the city always organizes large scale event which welcome anyone in Manchester to join. For example, Manchester Color Run and Arndale annual sales. Keep an eye on Facebook page and make sure you won't miss them out.

Health & Safety

It is a bit troublesome for exchange students who do not have a residence card to go to hospital. There is no clinics like those easily found in Hong Kong. Buying medicines from supermarkets seems to be the most feasible way when you get sick. Therefore, it is necessary to bring medicines with you from Hong Kong.

Food

I usually cooked with other exchange students from Hong Kong. Supermarkets (Sainsbury, Morrisons, Tesco) and Chinatown are close to Weston hall where I am living and I could purchase ingredients easily. Don't worry if you are a Chinese food fanatic, you will find loads of Eastern food restaurants and ingredients as Manchester is a multicultural city. On average, a meal costed ten pounds if eating outside.

Transportation

I usually walk because everything is so close to my hall. Bus is the most common transportation there especially for students living in Victoria Campus and Fallowfield which are far away from city center. Within the campus, students can take bus 147 freely with student card.

Climate

The climate in Manchester is so random. It was snowing and freezing in February but don't worry, heater is available in every room in dormitory. Remember to bring an umbrella along with you as raining is common there. There was also a

huge temperature difference between daytime and midnight especially during May and June. Some people said the last two weeks in May are the warmest among the whole year.

Communication

I used 3 sim card. It costed 15 pounds per month for 5 GB, or 20 pounds for 10 GB. It brought convenience as I was allowed to access the Internet in other European countries.

Cautionary measures

Manchester is a relatively safe city in the UK but always stay alert. Don't go out late and stay with friends if possible. Always keep an eye on your belongings. It is common to hear some bikers taking away your mobile phones when they ride by you.

III ITEMS TO BRING

1. Passport and visa (if applicable)
2. AMBS Acceptance Letter
3. Cash
4. Medicine
5. Jackets (or get some in Primark!)
6. Umbrella
7. Adapters
8. Laptop

IV USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS

1. University Accommodations
<http://www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk/ouraccommodation/>
2. Course Catalog
<http://courseunits.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/Undergraduate/Manchester-Business-School>
3. University International Society
<http://internationalsociety.org.uk/>
4. Skyscanner
<https://www.skyscanner.net/>

If you would like to know more about exchange in Manchester, feel free to get my contact from SBM. Have fun in Manchester! ☺