



UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

EXCHANGE REPORT
*UNIVERSITY OF
MANCHESTER*

ALLIANCE BUSINESS SCHOOL

KAM HO YAN MICHELLE

YEAR 3 (GBUS AND MARK)

FALL, 2018



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Content	Page
Monthly Log	2-5
General Exchange information	6-10
Items to bring	11
Useful links and content	12



1

MONTHLY LOG

September

I arrived Manchester in the early morning on 14th September. The weather was chill yet I am very excited about my coming 4 months of exchange. Being an international student and upon signing up for free pick-up services, the University has arranged shuttle bus from the airport to the our accommodation. Right after I stepped out from Terminal 2, there are already student helpers waiting for me and brining me to the bus station. As I checked-in to my accommodation and under the help of student helpers, I purchased house ware and living essentials in the next few days to get prepared for the new semester. Orientation starts from 17-21 Sept, although all these events are optional, it is a great chance to know other exchange students and get familiarized with the school. In short, this is a month of exploration. I have met many new friends and cooked together during the mid-autumn festival. I also gathered with a few exchange students from Hong Kong and Singapore for a day-trip to Chester and the Cheshire Oaks Outlet for some winter clothes.



October

Semester starts on 24th September. During the add-drop period, as I have already settled down with all my courses, I started my first trip to Switzerland with other exchange students from HKUST. We've stayed there for 6 days and went to places including Geneva, Luzern and Zurich, etc. Despite the high cost of living, I really enjoyed the beautiful sceneries and local cuisine such as the renowned cheese fondue. After that, I spend my entire month exploring around Manchester went to Liverpool for a day. I also signed up for a recruitment talk by Bank of America in late-Oct and get to mingle with their employees. October ended with a reading week, and I took a day-trip to Leeds and York with my friends from University of Leeds. York is really a historic place with very classic building and breathing sceneries. At night we went back to Manchester for the Halloween party and we had a blast.



November

This month starts with a 3-day trip to Edinburgh with other exchange friends. We tour around the city and managed to try out some Scottish whisky. It's really an enjoyable weekend to end our reading week. School starts after that followed with a few coursework deadlines. In my spare time, I would go to the gym or tryout some activities in the city center such as the Christmas Ice-skating rink. In mid-Nov, one of our friends got her birthday and we all celebrated with her. During Black Friday, I went to London to spend a weekend there. We also went to places such as the Bicester Village for some shopping and Cambridge where we met a few friends. The week after I went to Spain with one of my friends from UST who is on exchange in Europe too. We spent 4 days in Barcelona and went to see historical buildings such as Casa Mila and Sagrada Família.



December

It's nearly the end of semester. While we are working for coursework due before our last class, we still managed to attend the business school Christmas ball, it was a great opportunity to dress-up, mingle and have fun. After submitting all our coursework, me and other friends went to Italy for a week, trying out some of the best pastas and desserts in town. After we return, we spent our Christmas together in Manchester and did some shopping in the Boxing day.



January

January starts with a one-week trip to Iceland. I have been to a few day tours and went to places like the Golden Circle and the Snæfellsnes. We also went aurora hunting and tried out some local cuisines. Indeed, seafood is a must-try item in Iceland. As I returned back to Manchester, I farewell with a few friends and started finishing my alternative assessments. On 21st January, I headed back to Hong Kong, finally ending my 4-month journey.





2

GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

Visa Procedures

As I am holding the HKSAR passport and staying for less than 6 months, I am not required to get my tier 4 visa or getting anything prepared in advance. Instead, I just have to show my exchange admission letter from the University (both hard and soft copy are allowed) alongside with the arrival card at the custom to get a short-term staying allowance stamp chopped.

Orientation Activities

The orientation week takes place from 17th to 21st of September. A welcome pack indicating all preparation work would be sent to you via mail when you are still in Hong Kong, such as details regarding course registration and international student check-in. The schedule for the welcome week will be sent out from the school to your email in advance. The series of events includes induction

meeting, peak district ramble and some welcoming parties. Although these events are optional, I would strongly encourage the participation of these programs, as activities such as registering with a GP, getting a student card and international student registration are compulsory anyway. Parties and peak district ramble are also great chances to meet new friends.

International services and activities

The international student society has been organizing series of events throughout the semester. These includes weekend trips, bonfire nights, Christmas ice-skating sessions and some pub night events.

Accommodation

International Students are guaranteed an accommodation offer, where you are able to choose up to 3 options of hall in the application. I lived in the Weston Hall which is an en-suite, self-catered hall located in the city centre which is very popular among Chinese students. It is 5 mins walk from Piccadilly Station, 10 mins walk from Chinatown and 15 mins walk to the Northern District and Arndale Shopping Centre where Aldi and Wilko was located for low-priced grocery shopping. It is almost the nearest accommodation from the city centre and everything is in a walkable distance. The flat is consisted of 8 rooms with shared kitchen; yet its common area much larger than other halls too.

Halls in UoM are divided into 3 campuses, namely City area, Victoria park and Fallowfield (gradually extending from downtown to further locations). Although the school is located in the city area, Victoria Park is also a near place to live in. Private accommodation are not encouraged as most tenants in Manchester require at least a full-year of leasing contract.

Course registration

Course registration documents are sent to me via email in late June, where students are required to take 50-60 credits. There is a huge variety of both business and common cores courses, and we must hand in our registration form before mid-July. Unlike UST, you are still able to change your course choices during the add-drop period and there is usually enough quota for each courses.

Course Code	Course Title	Assessment criteria	Credit Transfer (if any)
BMAN 24521	Organization and Employment	100% Exam	N/A
BMAN 31911	Innovations and Markets	100% Coursework	ENTR3020 (3 Cr)
BMAN 31461	Retail Marketing	50% Coursework; 50% Exam	MARK 3460 (4 Cr)
UCIL 22501	Global Citizenship and Sustainability	30% Coursework 1; 50% Coursework 2	LIFS 1030 (3 Cr)

I opted for alternative assessment instead of sitting for exams. Thus, I am only required to hand-in essays which is due in late Jan (honestly the workload is equivalent as word limit of these essays mostly ranged from 2k-3k words, yet it would be a great option if you are planning to travel/ go back to Hong Kong after semester ends).

Teaching and Assessment methods

UoM has a relatively simple assessment method, as most courses are graded solely based on exams and coursework. Unlike UST, the British education emphasized strongly on student's initiative on exploration throughout the learning process. For example, most coursework leverages on student's creativity and knowledge. Professor will distribute a reading list in advance and students are required to write an essay based on his/her opinion towards the topic. There isn't a definite answer and attendance on lectures would not be taken, yet I don't think I have learned less than any courses I took from UST.

Sports and Recreation facilities

There are many gyms all around the city and 3 main gym in the campus (all gyms are paid and no free gyms like UST): Manchester Aquatics Centre and Sugden Sports Center in the city, as well as Armitage Sports Center in Fallowfield (all of the above gyms are sizable and more than equipped). Yet, only 9 or 12-month gym package are offered in Manchester Aquatics Centre; and 2 or 3-month package are offered in Sugden. Thus, I've purchased for a three-month gym pass over there. If you are looking for some free options, you can sign up for the Sporticipate program which offers a variety of sports activities every week for free. If you have time, you should definitely have a jog in the Platt Fields Park, it has the best scenery ever.

Finance and Banking

I activated the overseas ATM services for my HSBC debit card before I leave Hong Kong and I also bring along my HSBC credit card, alongside with £1800 and €450 cash. For some unknown reason my debit card was locked and could not get cash from ATM in Manchester. Thus, I opened a student addition account in Barclays and also an account from Monzo (a digital bank). As I know, HSBC requires a minimum one-year stay in UK and is thus not applicable. To open an account in any commercial bank, you have to get a student proof from the Student Union in the concierge of University Place and make an appointment online in advance. If you are in an urgent need of the account, there is a limited of walk-in quota for account opening everyday. You can go to the bank right after it opens to see if there is any quota left. My rough expenditure throughout the exchange are as follows:

Categories	Expenses (HKD)
Accommodation	35,000
Traveling	35,000
Living expenses	30,000
Return air tickets	7,500
Total	107,500

Besides, there isn't any physical store for Monzo and all account-opening procedures could be done via mobile app. It is a useful app as it

doesn't charge any handling fee when spending outside UK. You can withdraw cash and use the card in-store and all currency will be converted to GBP under market rate. You don't have to exchange currency before traveling.

Social clubs and networking opportunities

The international student society would organize networking events regularly. There is a student fair in the first week where each society have their booth set in campus, and students can join any of those if interested. Besides, there is an AMBS International Study Abroad Fair in mid-October for students in UoM to know more about their exchange options. Representing UST, we are able to promote our school to students in Manchester and I got to know students coming to UST for exchange next semester.

Health and Safety

In terms of my accommodation, compulsory safety talk was held at the start of the semester and attendance was taken. A few fire drill was also held throughout the semester.

Besides, all students are required to register for a GP once they arrive, where students are able to seek for medical advise whenever needed. You can choose a clinic which is near to your hall, and I have signed up for The Vallance Centre Brunswick, which is a 15 mins walking distance from my hall. Seeing the doctor is free, but £8 is charged per prescription. You have to call the clinic in the morning to reserve for any available slots.

Food

Manchester is a town full of restaurants and supermarkets. In terms of supermarket, basically there are a number of options from low-priced Aldi and Lidl to mid-range Tesco and Sainsbury, and to high-end Marks and Spencer. If you are craving for Chinese food, Chinatown is the best place to go, while W.H. Lung and Tai Pan is located in school campus. There are a number of bars in FallowField and some decent café in the Northern District. Coffee in Costa and pastries in Greggs also worth a try. Trust me, you won't starve in Manchester.

Transportation

My hall is located in the city centre and any places are in a walkable distance. Thus, I didn't purchase for a bus pass. The free bus 147 is located right in front of my hall and all the way to the school campus and further down to FallowField. Yet it does not operate during weekends and sometimes it takes a long wait. If you are in hurry you can simply walk to school.

Climate

Weather in Manchester is unpredictable, and honestly weather forecast in the morning is really just a reference. When it rains it gets really windy too, so bringing an umbrella may not be a good idea. Instead, you should bring a hooded jacket whenever going outdoor.

Communication

I got a SIM card from Vodafone in WHSmith initially, but I switched to Three after the card runs out of credit. I purchased a pay-as-you-go SIM card from Three in Arndale Shopping Center and made a £20 top-up every month for 12GB data , 3000 minutes call and 3000 texts. I can also use the card all around Europe.

Cautionary Measures

Manchester is a rather safe city, but still please beware of your own belonging especially mobile phone as phone theft is quite common in town. If you are planning to get a bike, please make sure you got your D-lock with you and bicycles are safely locked, bike theft is really an issue in UK.



3

ITEMS TO BRING

Essentials:	
Passport/ ID card	University acceptance Letter
Accommodation offer letter	Debit/ Credit card
Laptop and tablet computers	Cash
Earphone/ Headphone	Student's guide
Clothing:	
Down jacket / Hooded jacket	Umbrella
Thermal clothes and socks	Waterproof shoes
Gloves/ Beanie/ Scarf	Slippers
Others:	
Hygiene Kit, make up kit and medicine	Carry-on luggage



4

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS

UoM websites:

University of Manchester Accommodation website: <http://www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk/>

My.Manchester student portal: <https://login.manchester.ac.uk/cas/login>

Traveling:

Skyscanner: <https://www.skyscanner.com.hk/>

16-25 Railcard: <https://www.16-25railcard.co.uk/>

Hostel world: <https://www.hostelworld.com/>