

A low-angle photograph of the University of Manchester building, showing its Gothic architecture with stone walls, arched windows, and a central gable. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER University of Manchester

*Alliance Manchester Business  
School*

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Spring 2018/19



A person is sitting on a large, light-colored rock formation on a hillside. They are looking towards the camera. The background shows a vast valley with green fields, small villages, and rolling hills under a clear sky. The image is split vertically, with the left side being a lighter, more hazy version of the same scene.

## Content

## Page

Monthly Log

2-7

General Exchange Info

8-15

Items to Bring

15

Useful Links and Content

16

# Table of Content

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# January

I arrived at Manchester in the morning of January 24th and the weather was quite chill and a bit rainy. There were signs on campus to guide me place where international students check-in and the register process was quite simple with the kind help of staffs. I spend the first couple days exploring the downtown and getting the living essentials and getting to know my flat mates. Although I missed the school-wide orientation, I still met quite some friend through joining day tours hosted by business school and the international student society.



# February

I started to travel in February starting from places within the U.K. I managed to travel to York, London, Edinburgh, and Scotland using the weekends and the off days of my class schedule. Despite the coldness, it was a fascinating journey to visit different parts of U.K and learn about the history and background knowledge of various tourist attractions in them. Apart from cities in the U.K, I also had a short trip to Netherlands, one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. My friends and I rented a bike rode along the canals in the afternoon and visited the Van Gogh Museum.







## March

During March, I started to explore the sport options in UOM and there were plenty of them. I was surprised by the amount of sports activities UOM offers to students throughout the semester. The "Sporticipate Program", in particular is a program that offers various sports classes weekly for free. It was a great chance for students to explore their interest and try out different sports and meet others. Apart from the Sporticipate program, I also reached out to the men's basketball teams at joined them during their drills every week to meet more friends with same passion.





# April

The Easter break spans from April 5<sup>th</sup> to April 28<sup>th</sup>. During the break, I travelled to many countries including Switzerland, Hungary, Austria, Czech, and Croatia. Since we planned our trip quite long before the break, we manage to secure relatively cheaper flights and accommodation arrangements. I like Switzerland the most among all those countries that I travelled to. It was a country with beautiful natural landscapes and kind people helping and guiding us throughout the trip. One of the most memorable experience is that I went paragliding at Interlaken, an exciting and fascinating experience.





# May

May was the busiest month as the semester ends and deadlines for lots of courses arrives. I did a few presentation with my teammates and started to prepare for my final exams. Since most of the classes have a high weighting on the final assessment, library and learning commons were filled with student throughout the study period.







## June

I finished all my exams by the end of May and travelled to London when my parents came to visit me. I love how London has many different sides to explore. From the famous tourist sites like the London Bridge and The British Museum, to areas with less publicity but equally popular like the Brick Lane and its vintage markets. I enjoyed every minute there as I wrap up my exchange journey and flew back to Taiwan.







## General Exchange Information

### Visa Procedure

Since I am holding Taiwan passport with the intention to stay less than 6 month in the U.K, I wasn't required to prepare any sort of visa. For students with such circumstances, only the exchange admission letter and the arrival card are needed for get a short-term student visa stamp at the custom.

### Orientation Activities

The school-wide orientation takes place from January 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>. A welcome pack with detailed preparation work was sent via email before arrival. This includes the procedures regarding course registration and international student check-in. A series of events were hosted by UOM such as induction meeting, welcome parties, and city tours. These are great chances to meet some friends and get yourself familiar to UOM.



# International Services & Activities

The international student society hosts various events throughout the semester. In particular, I find the day trips or two-day trips quite worth the money. They offer different trips including

## Accommodation

Exchange students are guaranteed to be offered an accommodation option. Each student will receive a link to indicate up to three preference of hall in the application. I lived in the Witworth Park Dorm, a convenient resident option located in the city campus. Halls in the city campus area are most recommended since its near the city center with various transportation option frequently. Private accommodation usually require long term leasing contract, therefore are not suitable for short term exchange students



## General Exchange Information



## Course Registration

Course registration documents were sent before exchange. Students are required to fill the given document to complete the course registration process. Exchange students are required to take 50-60 credits.

## Teaching & Assessment Methods

UoM's teaching and assessment methods are quite different than that from UST. Most of the courses has a high percentage placed in finals. The teaching is supported by seminars hosted by teaching assistants. Most of the seminars require attendance and can be helpful in fully understanding the course content. Paper and additional readings are often suggested throughout the teaching period, thus self study after lecture are expected as some courses test on these additional materials.

## General Exchange Information





# General Exchange Information



## Sports & Recreation Facilities

There are quite a lot of gym options on campus. Apart from the main university gym, “The Gym” at also offers student programs with six month membership options. I personally opt for the gym in Witworth Park Dorm, which only cost 10 pounds for the whole year. Although the facilities were relatively old and there are not as many facilities, however, it might be a value-for-money option for those looking for a cheaper gym.

## Finance & Banking

I went to the U.K with my debit card with oversea ATM services instead of opening a new account locally. I brought 800 pounds and 300 USD just in case my debit card doesn't work in the beginning. The expense of accommodation, travelling, general living is around 30 to 35k each (might vary).



# General Exchange Information



## Social Clubs & Networking

As mentioned before, the international society organizes events regularly. Apart from this, some halls offer orientations or parties from time to time. Many sports or student clubs post their information in student union building or other notice boards around campus, all students are welcomed to join and explore.

## Healthy & Safety

A compulsory safety talk was held in the beginning of the semester with attendance taken. There will also be a online module regarding campus safety and emergency information with small quizzes in the end. Students are required to finish this module and meet a threshold in order to pass this compulsory module. Additional healthy and safety information can also be found on some notice boards within the dormitory hallways or inside the flat.



## Food

Manchester is a town with a fair range of dining options. There are restaurants in the city campus and cafeteria with food booth that offers cheaper meals. Dining outside of campus / in the city usually cost from 10 pounds to 25 pounds (regular low/mid-end restaurants). Supermarkets is another option for students who wish to spend less on food, not only do they offer meal plans, buying ingredients and cooking can be much cheaper.

## Transportation

Most students use bus to get around the city. Witworth park is relatively close to all lecture halls and all of my lecture room are within walkable distance, however, students in some halls might need to take buses to class. The 147 bus is free for UoM student (only the part from city campus to Piccadilly) and it comes often.

## General Exchange Information





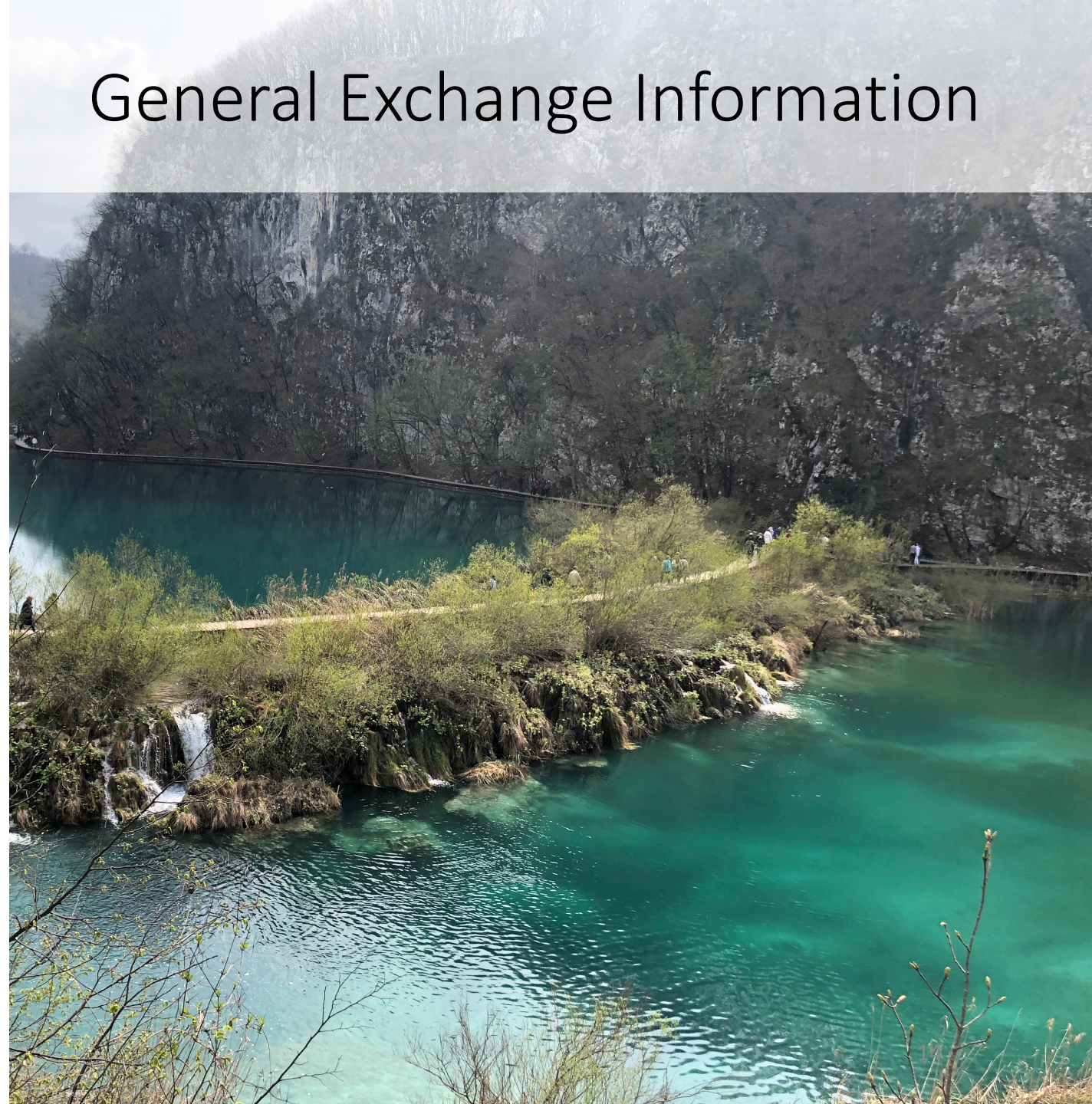
## Climate

The weather in Manchester is sometimes unpredictable. The first two months are quite cold, with temperatures around 0 to 5 degrees Celsius. It is often rainy and bleak in Manchester, it is recommended to bring an umbrella or a wind and rain proof jacket.

## Communication

I bought a SIM card from Three at the airport with the "Pay as you go" feature. It is quite useful as they offer different data plans from 2G, 5G, 12G and even up to 20G of 4G data. You can adjust your monthly plan according to how you find yourself using the data after the first month. In addition, 3's Pay as you go program works in most European countries.

## General Exchange Information





# General Exchange Information



## Cautionary Measure

Manchester is relatively safe city, but it is still recommended to be aware of personal belongings at all times and not stay out alone at late night.

## Items to Bring

1. Cash & Passport / ID
2. Personal Clothing
3. Cosmetics & Towels
4. Laptops
5. Debit & Credit Cards
6. Umbrella
7. Down Jackets, Windproof Jackets
8. Backpack
9. Exchange acceptance letter



# Useful Links & Contacts



Accommodation:

<http://www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk>

Student Portal:

<https://login.manchester.ac.uk/cas/login>

Skyscanner:

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

Railcard:

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