

2020 SPRING

# The University of Manchester



Choy Lok Yin Stephanie  
BSc in Economics and Finance (Year 3)

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# January

After spending 17 hours in total on airplanes and at airports, I finally arrived in Manchester a few days



before the orientation event (24<sup>th</sup> Jan). I settled down and wandered around the city centre. It was Chinese New Year and

therefore red lanterns were everywhere.

There were also Dragon Dance and other performances for celebration.





# February

Since the semester has just started, the workload was light. I need to attend an online exam for a course I took at HKUST last semester. Luckily, I still had time for short trips in Liverpool and London during weekends and day-offs. I watched 'Mary Poppins' in London West End. The show was



fabulous. If you also want to watch a musical, remember to book your tickets earlier to have good seats at lower prices!

# March

I had two presentations and two reports to submit in March, so it was quite a



busy

month. I went to Birmingham and Coventry in the first

week. Because of an outbreak of

coronavirus in the UK, I need to come back immediately

in late March

and continue

my study

through online

mode.



# May

The remaining few lessons were recorded and uploaded by lecturers. I did not have to attend classes in real time. All the courses I took had a final exam. One of them was a 7-day essay while the others were 24-hour open-book exams. It was very demanding for students who had two exams on the same day. Luckily, I did not have to face such situations.



## *Visa Procedures*

HKSAR passport holders do not need to apply for a Visa if you stay in the UK for less than six months as well as not having any part-time or full-time jobs. The Customs officer will ask you a few simple questions, like how long you are going to stay in the UK. You need to show the official acceptance letter to the officer when you enter the border, so remember to bring it with the passport if you travel to other European countries.

## *Orientation Activities*

The Alliance Manchester Business School will hold an Induction Day a few days before the semester starts (compulsory). Basic information about the city and your study will be given. It is a great chance to meet other exchange students too. You can also join a campus tour or a city tour. The tour guide shares interesting history and stories. The list of activities will be sent via email before you leave HK and you can decide whether you would like to join or not.

## *International Services & Activities*

The Alliance MBS International Team handles inquiries from exchange students. You can send emails to contact them. The International Society organizes different activities throughout the semester, such as trips to other UK cities, language classes and voluntary work. You can sign up to be a member for free and join activities at a discount afterwards.

## *Accommodations*

Exchange students are guaranteed on-campus accommodations if you submit the online application and accept the offer on time. You can rank up to five options (single room and double room in the same hall count as two). Halls are on three campuses: City, Victoria Park and Fallowfield (not recommended). I lived in Wright Robinson Hall on City campus. It is a 5-min walk from Piccadilly station (for travel), a 20-min walk from Arndale (for daily necessities) and a 20-min walk from the main campus (free bus available). Activities like pizza parties and movie nights are organized regularly.



## *Courses Registration*

Schedules and syllabi will be sent via emails in October. You have around a month to plan. Exchange students are required to take 50-60 credits. Unlike HKUST, all procedures are done through emails and you usually can study the courses you choose. You can make changes during the add-drop period.

## *Teaching & Assessment Methods*

Generally, there are a 2-hour lecture and a 1-hour seminar per week for one course. There are more readings and discussion. It is easy to audit lectures. For seminars, attendance is taken. Most lectures are recorded and can be found in 'Podcast', while course materials are available in 'Blackboard' (like Canvas).

BMAN 24102	Mergers & Acquisitions: Financial Perspectives	100% Exam
BMAN 24312	International Business	20% Group Work 80% Exam
BMAN 30242	Financial Engineering	100% Exam
BMAN 31152	Business Decision Analytics	30% Essay 70% Exam
BMAN 31792	Financial Market Microstructure	20% Group Work 80% Exam

## *Sports & Recreation Facilities*

Unfortunately, no free gym membership is given to Semester 2 exchange students. You can join 'Sporticipate', which offers a wide range of free sports classes. After signing up online, you can join any classes by walk-ins. Arrive earlier since the equipment is provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

## *Finance & Banking*

To open an HSBC bank account, I got a bank letter as a proof of address from the Student Services Centre. Then, I booked a timeslot at the branch near Arndale and spent around an hour to complete the application. Remember to bring the letter, your passport and student card with you. The debit card is really convenient. Most locals prefer not to use cash. I also opened a Monzo (a virtual bank) account which I intended to use for travels. I usually transfer money from my HSBC account to my Monzo account because depositing cash into Monzo accounts directly is troublesome.

## *Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities*

Both the International Society and halls organize activities as mentioned. Student societies and sports clubs also set booths and distribute leaflets on campus.

## *Health & Safety*

It is compulsory to complete an online module called 'Health and Safety Induction' at the beginning of the semester. You can register with a General Practitioner after you arrive. It is suggested to bring medicine with you from HK.

## *Food*

There are many supermarkets in the city centre, such as Lidl and Morrisons. I usually cooked in the dormitory. Remember to bring your passport if you buy knives. The staff will ask you to show your passport. I shared some of the cooking utensils and cooked with my hallmates. So, we do not need to buy many.

Cookies are always my favourite snacks.

## Transportation

I can take Bus 147 from my hall to the main campus. It is free within the campus by showing my student card. I often walk around when the weather is good. You can consider buying a 16-25 Railcard if you travel a lot by train inside the UK. Download 'Railcard' app if you choose a digital one. 'Trainline' app is convenient for buying train or coach tickets.

## Climate

The temperature is usually below 10°C, but it is warm indoors and I need to take off the down jacket. It rains a lot, but the rain is not heavy. Most locals do not use umbrellas. I will wear a hat in such situations.

## Communication

I bought Three 'Pay as You Go' cards in Sham Shui Po (\$100, 10GB per month). It can be used in many European countries too. Wi-fi is available on campus and in my hall.

## *Cautionary Measures*

Keep an eye on your personal belongings at all times.

Pickpocketing really happens. Avoid going out alone at night since it becomes very quiet. You can use debit cards during travels and avoid bringing a large amount of cash.

## *Items to Bring*

- Passport and ID Card
- Acceptance Letter
- Cash and Credit Cards
- Clothes (including formal attire) and Shoes
- Smartphone and Laptop
- Chargers and Adapters (for travels in Europe)
- Earphone
- Umbrella
- Stationary
- Water bottle
- Chopsticks
- Medicine

# Useful Links & Contacts

- Alliance MBS International Team's Email  
[exchange.ambs@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:exchange.ambs@manchester.ac.uk)
- Visa Information  
<https://www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/student-visas>
- Accommodation  
<http://www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk/ouraccommodation/hallsofresidence/>
- Sporticipate  
<http://www.sport.manchester.ac.uk/sport/sporticipate/>
- The International Society  
<https://internationalsociety.org.uk/>
- My Manchester  
<https://my.manchester.ac.uk/>
- Blackboard  
<https://online.manchester.ac.uk/>
- 16-25 Railcard  
<https://www.16-25railcard.co.uk/>
- Trainline  
<https://www.thetrainline.com/>