

Exchange Report

University of Manchester, UK

Alliance Manchester Business School



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Monthly Activity Log

January

I originally booked a direct return flight to Manchester through Cathay Pacific Student Fare price. However, due to the pandemic situation, my flight was cancelled twice. At last, I decided to depart on 21/1 and take the Singapore Airline for about 18 hours in total and a transfer at Singapore Airport. Upon arrival, I immediately went to the local supermarkets to buy different necessities and Dettol sprays for cleaning my room. I joined a free local day tour which took us to walk around the city while listening to the history and events that happen around the city. I went down to London to meet my other friends in the UK. I visited the different Palace to learn about the history of the royal family, watched the change of the queen's guards, and enjoyed the views along the Thames river. Also, as Chinese New Year approached, I organised a hotpot dinner with other exchange students who came from the Science School in the hall.



February

As the semester was about to begin, the AMBS arranged some orientation activities for us. I met students coming from the US, Singapore, Turkey and more. Face to Face lessons started in the second week of February, the professors were very energetic and the atmosphere in the lesson was relaxing. During the weekend, I went to Bath, Bristol. The weather in England became better and Stonehenge looked gorgeous. I also visited my friend in Oxford and have a taste of living in the historic buildings. Walking around between different colleges and visiting different buildings, made me feel connected with the history and also the local culture.



March

There was a presentation about a paper assigned in the third week of March. The groupmates were encouraging and they were willing to let me choose the part that I feel comfortable to do with. I finally finished the presentation with my teammates, as it is mainly about reporting what the paper had said, hence the presentation was simple. Apart from studying, I had gone to Iceland and Spain during the weekend to chase Aurora and also the exotic Spain culture. We successfully capture the aurora on the second date of our trip and also get to explore the beauty of the old Alhambra Palace. These trips made me gain more interest in European history.



April

The Easter holiday has begun and I also started my easter trip. I had been to Switzerland to look at the beauty of the Alps, to Germany to study and look into the history of Nazis and how they treated the Jews in concentration camps, and also to Belgium and Portugal. The trips were amazing and the people were nice. Most of the people wore their masks in indoor areas and it felt safer than that in the UK. However, there was a 2000 words essay due at the end of the easter holiday and I finished it during my Portugal trips and got an ideal grade for it in the end.



May

After the crazy European trip to a different part of the continent, I went back to Manchester and start to prepare for my exam. I went to the Central Library and the John Ryland Library to experience studying in a very artistic gothic building. I also joined my friends from Turkey and Singapore to went to York at the weekend. The exam started on 23/5 and all the exams were online for AMBS. As the exam was online and I need to calculate the time for quarantine so that I can be onboard for my summer internship physically, I booked a ticket on 29/5 to back to Hong Kong by Cathay Pacific. They got a webpage which marks every detail that you need to know to get you back to Hong Kong. After doing the Covid test before my flight and getting the report, I got on the plane on 29/5 and flew back to Hong Kong.



General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

I did not apply for a Visa as I am an HKSAR passport holder during the exchange. If you planned to stay over six months or would like to apply for internships in the UK you would need to apply for a Visa. At the border, the Customs officer will ask some simple questions to confirm your purpose in visiting the UK. You should always bring your official acceptance letter or the Confirmation letter sent by UoM with you whenever you travel back to the UK.

Orientation Activities

The AMBS will arrange some orientation activities near the start of the semester. During the orientation, they gave some basic information about the school and the city, they also arranged a city tour and a visit to the Peak District. During the tour, you can know more about the history of the city and also get to meet exchange students from all over the world.

International Services & Activities

The international society will organise different parties and tours to let you know more about the UK and fellow students.

· Accommodations

Before going to Manchester, you would need to choose five accommodations on a platform and will be randomly allocated to one of them. I was assigned to Denmark Road which is an en-suite room. There are four supermarkets within 8 minutes' walking distance. A bus station within 4-minute walking distance. The Whitworth park and museum are just in front of the hall. The hall environment is good and a good place to stay when u stay in the city.

Courses Registration

The course registration is mainly completed through email. The process is simple and you can register for the courses that you want. You will need to register for about 50-60 credits according to the requirement and each course will take up to 10-20 credits. I registered the following courses:

Course Code	Course Name	Exam Method
BMAN 24102 (10 credits)	Mergers & Acquisition: Financial Perspective	100% Exam
BMAN 31152 (20 credits)	Business Decision Analytics	100% Exam
BMAN 31792 (10 credits)	Financial Market Microstructure	20% Presentation 80% Exam
BMAN 31952 (20 credits)	Digital Economy: Platform, AI and The Business	20% Exam 10% Weekly MC Quiz 70% Exam

Teaching & Assessment Methods

Most of the course has a light workload. It is truly a place where you can experience university life. Most of the courses will have 100% on the exam. Some of them will have around 20% in essays and 80% in the exam. The exam is mostly of short and long questions. As it is still under pandemic, the exam was online and open for 48 hours for handing in the paper. The professors

were energetic and they are passionate about teaching. Apart from teaching theory, most of them will use real-life examples to explain how the theory can be used in real life.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

Some of the halls provided a gym and there are also gyms and also swimming pools around the campus.

Finance & Banking

I did not open a bank account in the UK instead I apply for the HSBC Mastercard Debit Card which I mainly used throughout the trip. You can use this debit card in the UK and also during your trip to Europe as long as you have GBP and Euro in your bank account. However, the card might be invalid sometimes when booking some budget hotels or tours. I suggest you bring about 2-3 credit cards with you as backup. Also, I opened an account for a virtual banking call "Monzo". You can use it in the UK and Europe as long as you have GBP in the account. You can add money into the account through bank transfer or the supermarket.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

The AMBS and international society will have a Whatsapp group to organise different parties and activities. You can register as a free member at the international society office and then participate in different activities at a discount price. They will have some afternoon tea for knowing students from different countries and also different weekend day trips to different cities.

Health & Safety

As it is in a pandemic situation, the school originally distributed free testing kits. They stopped giving it out when the government announced to lift all the bans in the UK. I brought 1L of alcohol and 500ml of alcohol rubbing to England. You can buy spray alcohol on Amazon called Ineos.

Food

I usually self-cook in the hall. There are Morrisons, Tesco, Sainsbury and Lidl within an 8 minutes walking distance. It is very convenient for me to buy ingredients from different supermarkets. There is also one oriental market just around the corner where you can buy cup noodles and different Chinese food to cook.

Transportation

There are 147 free buses within the campus area to the Piccadilly train station. The bicycle route in Manchester is well developed and it is straight through Fallowfield through campus to the city centre. If you want to travel to a different city in the UK, you will need to take the train to a different city. You can book the train ticket through the trainline and get a discount by registering the 16-25 railcard online. Uber is commonly used in the UK.

Climate

The weather is very rainy and windy in Manchester. I always wear a waterproof and windproof jacket so that it can keep me warm and dry when the weather conditions suddenly turn bad. In the coldest time, the temperature is about 0-5 degrees Celsius outdoors while it is very warm indoors.

Communication

I use Giffgaff for the sim card as it is freely distributed at the hall. And then I turned to use Smarty, as I can enjoy a free month if I was recommended by a friend. Remember to confirm with the company that the value that you added is truly added to the account or else you will constantly receive a message saying that your account is empty.

Cautionary measures

Always keep an eye on your belongings. There was some stabbing news and also someone rubbing students in the curry mile. Remember to put your belongings in pockets that were zipped and well protected.

Items to Bring

- Passport and ID Card
- Acceptance Letter and Confirmation Letter from UoM
- Vaccination card or letter of recovery from COVID
- Little amount of cash and credit cards
- Clothes and shoes
(Including the one for interview if needed)
- Waterproof jackets and shoes
- Laptop and chargers
- Adapters (for travelling)
- Medicine
- Sufficient masks

Useful Links & Contacts

- University Accommodations
<http://www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk/ouraccommodation/>
- Email address of AMBS Exchange Team
exchange.ambs@manchester.ac.uk
- Email address of Accommodation Team
accommodation@manchester.ac.uk
- Visa Information
<https://www.gov.uk/browse/visasimmigration/student-visas>
- My Manchester
<https://my.manchester.ac.uk/>
- Blackboard
<https://online.manchester.ac.uk/>
- 16-25 Railcard
<https://www.16-25railcard.co.uk/>
- Guidelines for travelling to England under pandemic
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/travel-to-england-from-another-country-during-coronavirus-covid-19>
- Information for flying back to Hong Kong under COVID
https://www.cathaypacific.com/cx/en_BE/covid-19/information-and-updates.html
- Student Fare ticket for Cathay Pacific
https://www.cathaypacific.com/cx/zh_HK/offers/collection/global-student-fare.html