

Spring 2017 Exchange Report



The University of Manchester



Country: United Kingdom

Major: Business Administration (Finance)

Date: January 23th 2017 – June 22nd 2017



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Preparation for Exchange

What to Bring

Considering the windy and changeable weather in Manchester, I brought warm waterproof jackets and scarves with me. However, you may also want to pack some spring/summer clothes because Manchester can have hot weather in May and June. Also, remember to bring adapters for use in UK. I bought a pack of adapters for different countries at Dollarstore.

I tried to pack lightly because I would need space when I return in June. I bought most of my daily

Academic Details

The universities in England usually have three-year undergraduate programs, meaning the course load can be quite heavy; most students would take 5-6 courses per semester in order to fulfill 50-60 credits. Initially I found the teaching style very similar to that at SFU with weekly lectures and tutorials. However, there were much less assignments but more readings at UoM. I was very panic at first when I saw the endless reading list for each of my classes, but I later realized that I was not required to read all of them. Also, the instructors would post all sources of reading materials online, and textbooks can be borrowed from the library (using older editions are generally permitted), so I had very little expenses on the course books.

Overall, the British-style education emphasizes heavily on independent study. Students are encouraged to do researches on specific topics that interest them the most, but not required to know all the course materials taught in the classes.

The format of examination is very different from that at SFU. All of my business management courses required students to write two formal essays on certain topics within 1.5 or 2 hours. Fortunately, all topics were given during the revision lectures; I only needed to pick two topics to prepare in advance. We had around one month to study for exams, but I still felt time constraints as I spent countless hours reading news articles, research papers and critics, especially when finals were worth a huge portion of my entire grades. Generally speaking, instructors expect students to include citations and references in their essays. I found my overall learning experience at UoM to be challenging yet rewarding.

In terms of the grading system, presentations tend to be less formal and easily graded, but it is extremely difficult to get a high First (A-range) on essays due to high expectations. All being said, do not be over-stressed about the course load! Although I took five courses at UoM, it was less intense compared to SFU.

If you are unsure of something, just go ask your instructors or teaching assistants for help; they would be very pleased to talk to exchange students!

Refleciton After Exchange

It was my first time being away from home and I worried that I might experience cultural shocks. Surprisingly, I adapted very quickly to the new environment; I had never felt lonely or missed home during my exchange term. I completely immersed myself in Manchester and gained a better understanding of the British lifestyle.

Manchester is an amazing city, while the people there are even better. I

If I have to give an advice to the future exchange students, I would encourage them to always be open to new experiences if they want to get the most out of this unique opportunity. As cliché as it may sound, studying abroad has definitely been the best decision I've ever made in my life!

A List of Places to Visit in Manchester

The John Rylands Library (looks just like the Hogwarts)

Manchester Town Hall

MediaCityUK (BBC Tour, etc)

Manchester Museum

Manchester Museum of Science and Industry

Old Trafford (if you're a football/soccer fan!)

Chetham's Library

Northern Quarter (street arts, coffee shops and vintage stores)

AND MORE!

Photos (from top to bottom):