

Responses for "UNIV: Share Your Experience with Future Students"

Instructions:

As you may remember, it can be an exciting but daunting experience preparing for your international placement. There are many things to prepare for and things you wish you had known prior to starting. By providing your feedback you can help future students setting off on their international placement journey. Not all questions are compulsory but we would appreciate it if you could complete this as fully as possible.

Unless you indicate otherwise, we may publish this feedback on My Placement for use by future students so please bear this in mind when providing your feedback. (If you wish to provide private feedback to the University on the quality of your experience please provide this in the Tell the University of Manchester about your Experience Questionnaire, also available in My Placement, which is NOT shared with prospective students).

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1. How would you describe your host university or organisation?

Please provide a general overview of your host university or organisation e.g. size, location, points of particular interest etc.

The University was large with a large number of students but small at the same time. Everything is walkable maximum 30 minutes from the high street to the business school. There are good bus links around the town which is free and the Main Street is about 25 mins from end to end. Very buzzy but a small town feel also. Great people who are very friendly and if you look lost someone will ask to help you.

2. What was the host town/ city/ region like as a place to live?

Very welcoming as a town, it felt like a very close knit university and everyone was willing to talk to you and help. I did not meet anyone that was not excited to meet someone British.

3. What was your accommodation like?

How did you find your accommodation e.g. was it university-controlled, company housing or private sector? What was it like? Are there any resources you would recommend to future students? If relevant, please include details of letting agents, useful websites or advice on good/bad areas to live. Did you need to find flatmates or buy furniture? If so, how did you go about doing this? Approximately how much did it cost per month?

I stayed in Granville which was a private halls right near to the Main Street called Franklin street. It's location was excellent and I had a roommate to minimise the cost. I was required to buy bedding, towels etc. But it was catered so I did not need to buy kitchen items. There was a wide range of food in the dining hall and this was open from 8am-8pm. I would recommend trying to live in an apartment close to campus as the drinking is strict with underage roommates and you would probably have your own room, however this would require looking on facebook groups for free rooms.

4. How did the academic system at your host university compare with/ differ from UoM?

For study placements only.

Were there any significant differences in academic culture e.g. the style of teaching, workload requirements, contact hours etc.? How were the teaching facilities and the teaching support? Did you have to make any particular adjustments to fit in with the host academic culture?

- You can structure your study to have days off i.e. the first semester I had a long day on Monday and Wednesday's but Tuesdays and Thursdays off.

- The studying has more small assignments rather than big exams which reduces the pressure on one assignment

5. Do you have any comments/advice regarding selecting and enrolling onto modules?

For study placements only.

Were you able to select modules in advance or did you select them after arrival? How easy was it to enrol on the modules that you wished to enrol on? Do you have any recommendations on modules you particularly enjoyed or any advice on ones to avoid? How was the overall process of registration at your host institution?

- Selection was easy once I had it explained to me by my buddy and the program administrator in US.
- When I got there I did not like 2 of my modules so I easily changed them with Ben Hershey's help.
- Any trouble I had with modules and enrollment was directly with Ben and he guided me through everything.

6. How was your working environment?

For Work Placements Only.

What was a typical working day like? Please comment on how many hours a day you worked on average and how much annual leave you received. What new skills did you gain? Would you recommend your placement provider to future students?

N/A

7. What was life like outside of work or study at your placement location?

What recommendations do you have for spending time outside of work and study while on placement? What local attractions, bars, restaurants, entertainment or sporting opportunities etc. would you recommend to future students? Do you have any recommendations on the best ways to meet local students or colleagues?

- Tons of restaurants on Franklin Street and Bars that have drinks deals dependent on the day.
- Cinemas/ music venues also on the Main Street
- Sporting - American football in the fall and basketball in the spring is massive - tickets to the games are free for students and always have pres and afters around the games.
- Two bigger towns Ubers away 20-30 mins to both have more restaurants and bars and are good fun.

8. If you self-arranged your placement, do you have tips for future students on how to do this?

For work placements only.

How did you find your placement provider? Did you use any third party organisations and, if so, would you recommend them?

N/A

9. Do you have any advice on travelling to your host country or placement location?

Please provide any tips on getting to your host town or city or travelling on arrival from the airport to your accommodation etc.

- Flights to Raleigh-Durham are very expensive going direct as there is only American Airlines that flies direct.
- Try flying via Charlotte or New York and book return tickets for Christmas.
- Ubers and Lyft are very frequent around the area as are Bird's
- University has buses around term entry and exit that are free to and from the airport - If not ask your buddy for a lift!

10. What was the transport like in the city/country where you were living?

Was public transport reliable and sufficient for local travel needs? Was it more or less expensive than public transport in Manchester? Was having a driving license useful?

- Buses were frequent and lots of different routes.
- The surrounding radius buses were free or \$1 further out
- Lyft and Uber are easily available
- Mostly walkable around
- I didn't drive and wasn't necessary - most of my friends drove if I ever needed to go shopping or to the liquor store

11. How did the cost of living where you were compare to the cost of living in Manchester?

More expensive

12. What advice would you give future students about managing their finances?

Please provide any advice on managing your finances both before and during your placement? e.g. Did you have to provide financial evidence to obtain a visa? Did you set up a bank account? Did you receive any form of additional support from elsewhere and, if so, do you have any advice for students on applying for this? Were there any unexpected additional costs that you think future students should be made aware of?

- Open a bank account and transfer an amount into a savings account - weekly budget excluding trips and its easy to stick to
- I was catered for 100 meals per semester and often ate breakfast just cereal in my room
- I was required to provide financial proof for Visa which my dad helped with
- Hurricane meant I was required to take a trip immediately and I was not prepared for that
- Medical insurance is a nightmare cost but absolutely necessary
- General supermarket shopping is more expensive than I realised

13. Do you have any comments or advice for future students about medical and health-related matters?

This can be advice on health-related matters before you went on placement or during your placement e.g. Did you need vaccinations or medical checks? Did you need to take any medication? Was it easy to register with a medical practice? If you were you required to purchase any compulsory insurance policies required by your placement provider, please provide details.

- No required vaccines except the ones we were required at Manchester
- I never declared any medication as I was only taking in birth control
- I was required to have medical insurance and contents insurance as I shared a room

14. How did you find studying/ working in another language?

If the language of your placement was not English, do you have any advice for future students on studying or working in a foreign language? What was your language level before beginning your placement? Did you undertake any preparation courses before you started your studies? Did your host university/ organisation offer any language support during the placement? If so, how was it? How much did your language skills improve?

N/A

15. Do you have any advice on items to take/ not take with you on placement?

Please tell us if you have any advice on essential items for students going on placement in general or to your specific placement destination. This could include clothing, medication, toiletries, entertainment, electronics etc.

- Don't take a hair dryer just buy one
- Can buy chargers that are direct American plugs there
- I took 2 suitcases with and was needed for me
- Bought all toiletries except my skin care out there as same prices as here

16. If you were abroad for one semester, what arrangements did you make for your room in Manchester?

Were you able to find someone to take your room for the period you were abroad? If so, how did you go about finding someone to do this?

N/A

17. What would be your top 5 tips for future students about to embark on an international placement?

Looking back on your experience now, what do you wish you had known before leaving Manchester?

- Say yes to everything
- Make friends with seniors as they go out to bars
- Travel by car if you can it keeps costs down - flights are expensive
- Avoid making friends with freshmen - they can't drink and only go to frats
- Put making friends first - study part will fall into place

18. Do you have anything else you would like to add?

N/A

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1. How would you describe your host university or organisation?

Please provide a general overview of your host university or organisation e.g. size, location, points of particular interest etc.

UNC Chapel Hill was an amazing university! The campus is very big and very green! UNC offers a wide variety of clubs and societies and I suggest taking part into them. Kenan-Flagler Business School is one of the top business schools in the US, and I was very satisfied with the business courses offered there.

2. What was the host town/ city/ region like as a place to live?

Chapel Hill is a very American-like town as I saw and expected from American college movies. There are many restaurants and bars in the downtown, where one can spend their free time. Because it's in the south, the weather was very nice, sunny most of the times, and a very mild winter. People were very friendly and I can say that I really experienced the "southern hospitality".

3. What was your accommodation like?

How did you find your accommodation e.g. was it university-controlled, company housing or private sector? What was it like? Are there any resources you would recommend to future students? If relevant, please include details of letting agents, useful websites or advice on good/bad areas to live. Did you need to find flatmates or buy furniture? If so, how did you go about doing this? Approximately how much did it cost per month?

I decided to get a private accommodation, because most of the college dorms were with a shared room. I looked online and found an apartment with 4 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms, where I shared just the kitchen and communal areas with the apartment mates. The price was about \$650 per month with utilities included. The buses in the town are free and I had no problem getting around. The only problem was that I had to uber on Sundays as buses off campus were not available.

4. How did the academic system at your host university compare with/ differ from UoM?

For study placements only.

Were there any significant differences in academic culture e.g. the style of teaching, workload requirements, contact hours etc.? How were the teaching facilities and the teaching support? Did you have to make any particular adjustments to fit in with the host academic culture?

The American education system is very different to the British one. There is this continuous assessment system, where each assignment counts for 5-10% of the final grade. Attendance and class participation is very important and UNC, and usually counts for about 30% of the final grade, thus don't skip classes! Usually you are permitted 2-3 absences per semester and it is

highly recommended to email the professor if you are about to or skipped a class. Finally, finals are usually 20-30% of the final grade, and I believe that this continuous assessment system helps you maintain a good balance for studying during the semester and makes it a lot easier for the finals.

5. Do you have any comments/advice regarding selecting and enrolling onto modules?

For study placements only.

Were you able to select modules in advance or did you select them after arrival? How easy was it to enrol on the modules that you wished to enrol on? Do you have any recommendations on modules you particularly enjoyed or any advice on ones to avoid? How was the overall process of registration at your host institution?

The classes were offered to me prior to my arrival in the US. You will receive an online application that you have to fill up and then the school advisors will enroll you into the classes. You are given the option to enroll in about 10 classes (usually you'll have four 3-credit-classes unless taking 1.5 credit classes), thus having back-up options. After the classes show in the student system, you can go there and swap or drop classes. The overall system was not difficult at all.

6. How was your working environment?

For Work Placements Only.

What was a typical working day like? Please comment on how many hours a day you worked on average and how much annual leave you received. What new skills did you gain? Would you recommend your placement provider to future students?

I had assignments due every week and I believe that I had to work at least 4-5 days per week. Usually I would do school work Monday-Wednesday/Thursday and Sunday, having the weekend off. There is a lot of group work as well. I strongly recommend doing all assignments, because despite the fact that 5% doesn't seem much, all of them together will really make a difference towards the final grade. I had taken some very interesting modules and I believe that I attained some new skills that will help me in future careers.

7. What was life like outside of work or study at your placement location?

What recommendations do you have for spending time outside of work and study while on placement? What local attractions, bars, restaurants, entertainment or sporting opportunities etc. would you recommend to future students? Do you have any recommendations on the best ways to meet local students or colleagues?

Outside school, I hanged out with my friends at the restaurants and bars on Franklin Street. Moreover, I went to Durham and Raleigh as well, where my friends and I had food, grabbed a drink, or even went to night clubs. Best way to meet local students is to join clubs, but also in classes -- especially when doing group work.

8. If you self-arranged your placement, do you have tips for future students on how to do this?

For work placements only.

How did you find your placement provider? Did you use any third party organisations and, if so, would you recommend them?

No Response

9. Do you have any advice on travelling to your host country or placement location?

Please provide any tips on getting to your host town or city or travelling on arrival from the airport to your accommodation etc.

Traveling in the US can be quite expensive. Plane tickets are significantly more expensive than in Europe. I suggest looking out in advance for good deals. There is a bus from Chapel Hill to RDU airport, but I always used Uber or Lyft there, as I was saving time. A ride there should be around \$20-\$30.

10. What was the transport like in the city/country where you were living?

Was public transport reliable and sufficient for local travel needs? Was it more or less expensive than public transport in Manchester? Was having a driving license useful?

The public transport was free and the buses ran until 11PM-12AM. There was also a night bus going around campus after 12AM that could be ordered through an app. I can't give that much information about it as I lived off-campus and didn't use it. But UNC students can give more information about it.

11. How did the cost of living where you were compare to the cost of living in Manchester?

Less expensive

12. What advice would you give future students about managing their finances?

Please provide any advice on managing your finances both before and during your placement? e.g. Did you have to provide financial evidence to obtain a visa? Did you set up a bank account? Did you receive any form of additional support from elsewhere and, if so, do you have any advice for students on applying for this? Were there any unexpected additional costs that you think future students should be made aware of?

The life in Chapel Hill was cheaper than Manchester in my opinion. Indeed, grocery shopping was more expensive, but ordering food in the US is cheap and with their large portions, one would suffice for 2-3 meals. I think I cooked max 5-10 times during my time there. In terms of banks, I set up a US bank account, but I also recommend Monzo -- a British online bank that has a very good exchange rate and no commission fees. I mainly used my Monzo card during my time in the US.

13. Do you have any comments or advice for future students about medical and health-related matters?

This can be advice on health-related matters before you went on placement or during your placement e.g. Did you need vaccinations or medical checks? Did you need to take any medication? Was it easy to register with a medical practice? If you were you required to purchase any compulsory insurance policies required by your placement provider, please provide details.

Healthcare is very expensive in the US. Luckily I didn't need to go to the hospital, but I suggest using the health insurance the university gives, as it covers most of the expenses. It's a bit pricy, but it is worth it.

14. How did you find studying/ working in another language?

If the language of your placement was not English, do you have any advice for future students on studying or working in a foreign language? What was your language level before beginning your placement? Did you undertake any preparation courses before you started your studies? Did your host university/ organisation offer any language support during the placement? If so, how was it? How much did your language skills improve?

The program was in English.

15. Do you have any advice on items to take/ not take with you on placement?

Please tell us if you have any advice on essential items for students going on placement in general or to your specific placement destination. This could include clothing, medication, toiletries, entertainment, electronics etc.

You should take medication with you, as they might not have the same type of medicine here. Also, take plug adapters. I didn't really take much other than clothes, as I could buy everything from there.

16. If you were abroad for one semester, what arrangements did you make for your room in Manchester?

Were you able to find someone to take your room for the period you were abroad? If so, how did you go about finding someone to do this?

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17. What would be your top 5 tips for future students about to embark on an international placement?

Looking back on your experience now, what do you wish you had known before leaving Manchester?

If you want to live of campus, try to find something as close as possible to campus/downtown
Use ZipCar if you want to drive around
Enroll in as many clubs as possible in order to meet new people

18. Do you have anything else you would like to add?

No Response