

Personal Report

Manchester Metropolitan University, Wintersemester 2018/19, 2 Semester International Business Administration, Fachbereich 3, Frankfurt

Language

Which language did you use? How did you communicate with your fellow students?

The language we used was English. I have met a lot of international students and tried to learn at least the basics of their mother tongue. I communicated mainly in English with my fellow students.

Accommodation

Did the host university arrange for accommodation?

Yes, in a dormitory.

How high were your overall monthly costs for accommodation (in Euro)?

620€

How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?

Very good.

How well was the accommodation situated? How long did it take you on average to reach the partner university (in minutes)?

The accommodation was 3 minutes away on foot from the university. It was 15 minutes away from the city center and close to a supermarket and a gym.

Which web sites, forums, facebookpages, contacts, etc. can you recommend for looking for accommodation?

I recommend to join the Facebook page for international students as well as the flat mate groups on Facebook and WhatsApp. Some of the groups are accessible after you show evidence that you are a student. The university helps you a lot with the search of an accommodation, if you do not receive an offer for student residence, the university propose to you some other alternatives near the campus.

Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)? And how would you describe the surroundings of your accommodation (shopping facilities, distance to the city center, nightlife, etc.?)

I have lived in Briarfields Hall (M15 6DH). The accommodation was brand new from inside and generally really nice. It is near Deansgate (Party Street) and near the Gay Village. The nightlife in Manchester is a lot different than in Germany. Expect to go out from Wednesday to Monday. The city center is 15 away and there is a Tesco 10 minutes away as well as a SPAR 3 minutes away. The gyms are near as well. Manchester Aquatics Center and Sugden Center which have the best membership for students.

Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation

Which is the best arrival time?

The best arrival time is before the fresher's week which starts on the 17.09. It will be nice to have 2-3 days to look around the city and buy some essentials for your accommodation.

How did you organize your arrival? Was the extent of the orientation program sufficient? What activities can you recommend? Were all important questions answered? What did you have to find out yourself? How fast were you able to get in contact with the domestic students? How were the services for exchange students?

I applied for accommodation early. Before the end of the summer semester in Frankfurt. The orientation program was sufficient and all questions I had were accordingly well answered. I had to find out that banks are unwilling to open a bank account for you. I recommend Revolut as an alternative of the regular banks. I met the local students during the fresher's week and while joining a sport society. The services for exchange students were excellent. There is a free transfer for students from the airport to your accommodation, which I found really nice and respecting.

Living Abroad

Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad?

Higher, it cost about 150%.

What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad? How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? How was your student life off-campus? How were the mensas/ student cafeterias? What types of meals were served? How much did the meals cost? How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on-campus? Were you able to use study rooms? Were you able to rent separate rooms for studying? Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?

You can expect at least 150 pounds of additional expenses. Traveling around the UK can be expensive but its most of the time worth it. There was not a semester ticket but you can find railway

Studying at the Host University

How would you describe the academic standard of classes compared to Frankfurt?

Much easier.

Did you experience any difference in teaching methods/ class structure? Which were the difference regarding your expectations and your experiences at the partner university? What surprised you, what should newly arriving students know? How were the student services? Was the fact, that you were an exchange student taken into account (by professors or other staff)? If so, how? How were difficulties, which you or other exchange students may have met, handled by the partner university?

There is a huge difference in teaching methods. We had to take courses from their final year even though we are in our second year in Frankfurt. Surprisingly, the courses were easy and not very demanding. There were a lot of group works, so if you are not team player you will struggle. You have to expect that the British students are not as ambitious as their German peers and they are happy with mediocre mark. Out of experience, I strongly recommend to do group works with international students, if you go there to make friends with the local students and do not really care about your marks you might as well join British dominating groups. Everyone who works for the university is very nice and polite, sometimes the professors might think less of you due to the fact that you are an exchange student. If you are not happy with your mark you should contest it and ask for a feedback, usually, you can only gain from asking your professor to look again over your assignment.

Final Remarks

What should future exchange students know/ do/ avoid? How would you overall rate your exchange experience? In what ways have you benefitted academically, personally, linguistically for your future career?

Say thank you or cheers after you hop off the buses, it is considered impolite to not show appreciation for the people who give you some kind of a service. Use "Cheers" to show appreciation always. I would rate my experience abroad with 67% which was ironically my average academic mark. The weather is not nice on the island and it is dark most of the time. Academically and personally, I changed my view of how the business and world should be run. I feel that there is a huge need of sustainable business practices if we want to conserve our and many other species on this beautiful planet. I would say that I was able to slightly improve my command of English and I do think that I improved my future career chances.