

Manchester Business School

2016 Semester 1

BCom ACCT & FINC

Accommodation:

I stayed in a hall of residence, at Oak House which is located in the Fallowfield campus. I highly recommend Oak house as it is in the main student area, and therefore has a very social atmosphere. There are over 3000 students staying at the fallowfield campus and although it is the furthest away from the university, there is buses running 24/7 between the halls and the uni so transport isn't a problem. Oak house is self-catered and you live in flats with 7 other people and share a kitchen and 2 bathrooms. I found buying food at the grocery shop very cheap compared to NZ, especially fruit and vegetables so you can save a lot of money by going to a self-catered hall, and since you will be doing a lot of traveling you will find that you aren't in Manchester all that often. All the halls are full of first years but it is extremely common for people to take a gap year before going to uni so I found that most of the first years were a lot more mature/responsible than first years in Dunedin. Oak house was also quite different from the halls in Otago in the way that it didn't have many rules, and there wasn't RA's keeping control of the place. I only seen an RA walking around twice in my whole semester, so you really get the freedom of flatting with the benefit of free heating.

Money:

Groceries are very cheap. I was living off about £15 a week for groceries and I was still able to buy avocados, cherry tomatoes, fresh herbs, salmon etc. eating out at restaurants is quite expensive though, averaging about £15-£30.

Travel is very cheap. Bus to London and back for £10, to Glasgow and back for £15, return flights to Dublin for £20. £30 will fly you to Europe (Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels etc.). It's very easy to just fly to Europe for a weekend.

I was spending about £60 a week on living cost not including cost of Hall. This would cover food, meals out, and cover charges to get into clubs.

Night life:

Manchester has one of the best night life's of the UK. There is no student night because every night is big. Like Dunedin O-week big. There are over 100 different clubs/bars in Manchester, all with different types of music and different crowds so you can really find a couple of places that you love. Clubs are open much later than Dunedin as well. Usually 3am on weekdays and up to 6am on Thursday-Saturday. Everywhere has a cover charge to get in but they all have really good DJ's so it's more than worth it. A lot of big bands all play in Manchester as well so it can be a great opportunity to catch your favourite artist live.

The Dress code in Manchester is very similar to Dunedin, some nice places require you to dress up but in general, pants and a t-shirt is the usual.

Studying:

I found Manchester much easier than Otago. You take 5 or 6 papers a semester in Manchester but they are much smaller course loads. Most papers only have 1 2hr lecture a week and sometimes a seminar as well. This means that your time table won't be very busy (I had Mondays and Fridays off). Most courses are 100% exams, so I found that you can take a lot of time off throughout the semester to travel and then just study really hard at the end before exams.

Weather:

Very similar to Dunedin. Doesn't get quite as cold in the winter, or quite as warm in summer. It will still probably snow 1 or 2 days but doesn't get frosts very often. Temperate never really fluctuated between 2 and 20 degrees. The Halls have heaters/ radiators so the cold isn't a problem. Europe is warmer, so just fly there for a weekend to get out of the cold if you get sick of it.

Manchester:

Manchester is an awesome city. It has a very similar student culture to Dunedin. There is always so much going on in the city, whether it be food festivals, or concerts or parties. Even after traveling all around Europe I would still choose to live in Manchester if I had the chance. It's the best place to base yourself from and then travel to other places for short trips.

I can't undersell how fun of a place Manchester is. It is the overall package.



Pangaea Festival held in the student union building

1 of the 11 stages at the infamous



University Campus