

University of Maine Business School MBA Trip to the United Kingdom, May 14-24, 2010



A unique requirement of the UMaine MBA program is that all students participate in an international trip during their program of study. These trips enhance cultural knowledge, sensitivity, and appreciation of different people, cultures and business practices.
http://mbs.maine.edu/~mba_msa/inttrip.htm Trip leaders: Dr. N. Jones & Dr. R. Strong.

Trip dates: Approximately 10 days within the May 9th – May 31st 2010 time period. **Note this itinerary is simply a framework and will be changed as appointments are made.**

Proposed schedule:

Friday evening May 14:	Fly from Boston, MA to London, England (overnight flight)
Day 1: (Saturday, May 15)	Tour of London, get acclimated. High tea at Brownes? Evening: UMaine alumni dinner?
Day 2: (Sunday, May 16)	Day trip Tour: Stonehenge, Windsor Castle, etc.
Day 3: (Monday, May 17):	Am: Meeting with international trade center Pm: Briefing at American embassy Evening: West End play?
Day 4: (Tuesday, May 18):	Am: Tour of Harrods and meeting with company managers Pm: Meeting with European Union representative Evening:
Day 5: (Wednesday, May 19)	am: Meet with international trade organization Pm: Meet with Lord_____, tour of parliament? Evening:
Day 6: (Thursday, May 20)	Ford UK: case competition presentations and meeting with company execs, tour of factory Evening: return to London;
Day 7: (Friday, May 21)	Case competitions with Company #2, meetings and tours Evening: return to London or train to Chester directly.
Day 8 (Saturday, May 22)	Chester:
Day 9 (Sunday, May 23)	Chester Evening: train back to London
Day 10: (Monday, May 24)	Daytime: explore London on your own. Evening: Fly from London to Boston



MBA Trip to the United Kingdom, May, 2010

The MBA field experience to the United Kingdom represents an opportunity to:

1. To help our students understand and appreciate the complexities of international business that drive trade and world economic development.
2. To provide our students with the opportunity to learn about the United Kingdom, by exploring their history, culture and business practices.
3. To become engaged in international business problems and complexities by working with British companies in a case analysis format.

We will study specific problems or opportunities with our partner companies. We will ask the participating companies to present our student teams with one or several business problems or opportunities of interest to that firm. The students will research those problems during spring semester before the trip and then present the results of their research in a case competition format to the executives of the participating companies.

Potential Class Requirements and Schedule: (Note: this will change as plans become finalized)

Class sessions in US:

Beginning of Spring semester, 2010: Assigned readings on international business, the United Kingdom, the EU, etc. Research British business and culture (find articles and/or books for students to read). Form teams.

Mid January, 2010:

Assignment 1: Begin to research companies (Ford UK and ABC Co.... TBD?)

Assignment 2: More assigned readings on British business, culture, history, politics.

Two meetings in February: discussions on cases and readings. Perhaps assign additional readings if needed. Some help with the research from business librarian if needed.

Spring break: Schedule meetings with international trade organizations & British embassy in Boston?

Late March: Continue (structured) discussions of company, case analysis, strategies, roles, etc.

Teams continue research and case analyses on companies

Two meetings in April: Continue research, discussions of companies, case analysis, strategies, roles, etc. Practice team presentations.

Trip to the United Kingdom!

After trip: 3 small reports due:

1. Reflections on trip, business practices, British Business schools, culture, international business?
2. Reflections on first company case analysis: results, what did you learn from the company?
3. Reflections on second company case analysis: results, what did you learn from the company?