
a woman who had been blind for 15 years. Although there is no medical school at CityU, we devote to contribute our understanding to the retinal prosthesis community by investigating the limiting factors for function restoration of sight such as cross-talk between neighboring electrodes and biocompatibility of neural electrode technology. The mission and interest of our laboratory is to develop new instrumentation and stimulation methods that enhance the understanding of neural response to electric stimulation in neural prosthetic and neural modulation research.

I hope of many more years of wonderful experience with all of you, students, staffs and colleagues, through research and teaching at CityU. Let me share with you my motto as a conclusion to my sharing. It is a scripture verse from the Bible, "By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal... I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back". (MSG Bible, Philippians 3:13-14) 「不是我以為已經得著了……總要忘記背後，努力面前，向著標杆直跑。」 I hope it would become an inspiration to you as well.

學生校友通訊站

Exchange Study Programme

My Exchange Experience at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

HU Wenjie

BEngIE, Yr-2

Acknowledgement

First of all, I would like to extend my wholehearted gratitude to the College of Science and Engineering as well as my home Department of Electronic Engineering for offering this precious exchange opportunity to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign as well as their financial support. Thanks also go to another sponsor HSBC for financing my journey.

On Arrival

I had an unforgettable start of my journey on August 15. I took a connecting flight from Shanghai to San Francisco and then from San Francisco to Chicago. Due to an hour delay of my first flight, I missed the connecting flight and had to wait in San Francisco International Airport for six hours. It was already midnight when I arrived in Chicago. Luckily, there was still a coach called LEX that I could take to school. When I finally arrived at the dorm, it was already 3:30 in the morning. The first friend I met there was Kim. She studied in Chicago but went to visit her friend in UIUC. She got off the coach with me and when I got lost in the dark, she and her friends drove me to the student residence and helped me with checking-in. Although I had an uneasy beginning, I was touched by the American people and felt so warm from the bottom of my heart.

Before I went to the US, I had kept in touch with my new roommate Faith for a long time through e-mail. She contacted me as soon as she knew I would be her roommate and we talked about hobbies, family, self-experience and room-setting. She gave me a lot of information about weather and the surrounding environment of Urbana-Champaign to help me prepare for the journey. When I reached the dorm, she had settled down and brought me much convenience.

My Place

I lived in a double room in Trelease Hall of Florida Avenue Residence. Thanks to the agreement reached by our College of Science and Engineering and UIUC, housing was free in a double or triple room. This has saved me a considerable amount of money. My roommate was Faith, an American freshman majoring in bio-engineering. To my great surprise, her mother was from Taiwan and her boyfriend could speak Chinese, which brought us many topics to talk about. Faith and I had similar characteristics and got along well with each other. When I was leaving, she gave me a flag of UIUC, a card and a hug and said, “Don’t be upset. You can always come back one day if you want.” I will treasure the friendship with Faith forever.



My Exchange Experience at University of Maryland

LIU Heyang
BEngIE, Yr-2

University of Maryland, College Park, is a well-known public funded university. It has over 150 years’ history and is the flagship institution of the university system of Maryland.

My life in UMD was a fantastic journey which was totally different from life in China. I feel the distinctions in language, skin color

and the climate, and the diversity of their way of thinking, their life style and their culture. Study in UMD seemed to depend on co-op learning, which gave me chance to communicate with local students, join local activities and get to know about American life little by little.

People

Most people in the US are warm-hearted and extremely friendly. When you get into troubles, they are always willing to help you out. I also met a lot of exchange students from various countries in the first several weeks and we got along very well. We together always hanged out, took a trip to DC, and drove all the way to Boston.

Before my trip to the US, I always thought that one who always smile, say hi and talk to a stranger was kind of weird. But now, I think it’s kind of good manner to show one’s self-confidence, and you can also gain a lot of information and make many friends. I am feeling free to talk to stranger now and have lots of fun.

Accommodation

As an exchange student, I was able to live on campus, which is very convenient to go to class every day. I only needed 10 to 15 minutes’ walk to the classrooms. The housing fee is about \$2800 and I have to pay another \$2000 for my dinning plan.

I was living in a suite with four suite mates. Our dorm was awesome. It was well carpeted, covered by both wired network and Wi-Fi and had really good air-conditioning for both summer and winter. However, it did not have a kitchen, so we had to buy a dinning plan and always ate in the diners.

Study

I chose 12 credits of specialized courses. The courses are much more difficult than those in CityU but luckily I got good grades. Classes taught in UMD are very different from CityU. Professors use blackboards and chopsticks instead of PowerPoints. Students use big notepads instead of printed PPT slides. This kind of teaching method lets us always concentrate on the lectures and never fall off.

We have fewer hours in class but more hours on homework and exams. Homework is due every week for every course. The