
professors as well as the TAs always encourage us to go and ask questions during their office hours. This is what I enjoyed very much.

Out of Classroom

There are all kinds of activities around throughout the semester. With other exchange students, I had trips to DC, barbecues and dinners for free. I also helped out in Office of International Services as volunteers to give US students some understandings of Hong Kong.

There are fairs for societies and associations recruiting. One of the most helpful associations is the Chinese Student and Scholar Association (CSSA), where you can find lots of Chinese students. It was of great assistance that it provides guide book for arrival and airport pick-up service, especially for new comers.

Each week, there will be NCAA tournaments, football games and other interesting sports events. It was really great fun where I found the real US university culture. When you sat down inside the stadium wearing Maryland hoodies and hear “Go, Maryland go!” everywhere, you would be infected.

Goodbye

I really got a wonderful time living and studying in UMD. It was so sad for me to say goodbye to all of the friends I made in US. We’ll keep in touch through Facebook and email after my staying here and may be sometime in the future, we’ll meet again.

The most valuable part for this trip is that I got a lot of experience on self-driving travelling. We went to piers to get a tan. We drove all the way from College Park to Boston through eight states. We were exhausted but really excited and got an eye-feast.

Sharing to Future Exchange Students

An exchange experience is very rewarding for university students. The first month in another country is always the hardest time for you. You’ll miss your home, find everything in life difficult to adapt and start to complain. However, things will get better after this period of time. You’ll enjoy your different life and love the people and culture there. It’s an unavoidable process. Take it easy! You’ll gain more understanding when you really put your passion into your life.



Unforgettable Memories in University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

LIU Jiawei

BEngIE, Yr-2

My blog

It is really worthwhile to have an exchange experience abroad. Studying in a totally different environment and experiencing different cultures there gave me many unforgettable memories.

When I was in UIUC, I had come across so many interesting experiences. I went camping in a camping site, experienced “bar crawl” with my roommates, had fun in Corn Maze in a chilling night and made gingerbread and Jack-o’-lantern with my own hands.

Just arrived...

It was really a tragedy to transfer flights with heavy luggage especially when the first flight was late. Due to the delay of the

first flight, I failed to catch up the second flight to Chicago and thus being trapped in San Francisco Airport for another six hours. When I finally arrived at Chicago O'Hare Airport, it was already 10 p.m., but that was not the end of the story. We needed to take a shuttle bus to campus in Champaign from Chicago. However, it was too late and we hadn't made reservation beforehand. It cost us 74 dollars per person to get on the bus yet the regular price was only \$20.

When I arrived at my dorm, it was already 3:30 in the morning. The whole trip was so tiring and frustrating that I caught a heavy cold afterward. Anyway, I finally managed to arrive at the UIUC campus!

Orientation

On the second day we were invited to attend an orientation held by the university along with all other exchange students, newly transferred students and freshmen of UIUC in the Assembly Hall. After the University President gave his welcoming speech, everyone in the hall sang the university anthem together. It was really a holy moment.

There were also all other kinds of orientations held on campus. The block party held in ARC, the visit of Memorial Football Stadium and Quad Day in front of the Student Union.

My place

When I first arrived, I was arranged in a temporary housing with three other dudes. One Italian and two Americans. My roommates are all very nice and easy to get along with, I really miss the time I spent with them.

The residence I lived is called LAR (Lincoln Avenue Residence) and the hall I stayed is called Shelden Hall.

Our dormitory room is twice as big as others' rooms. Also, we made some decorations.

My first class

Classes taught in UIUC are quite different from the classes here. I had to admit that the quality of teaching there is much higher than CityU. Teachers always write on the blackboards instead of reading PowerPoint in the class. We had to write down the notes

and need to concentrate on the lectures. Workload is also heavier there than in CityU. Instead of tutorials classes, they often provide office hours for students to drop in and ask question freely.

People I met

Most people there are warm-hearted and friendly. When you get into troubles they are always willing to help you out.

I met a lot of students there, including local students, students from China and other exchange students from different countries.

I love living in LAR because my floor mates are nice. Normally, we always left our door open so that people could drop in and have nice talks with each other. I still remember the time when my floor mates invited me to sit along the corridor and we enjoyed a nice chat together.

As I love playing basketball, I also joined the basketball match held by the CSSA in UIUC. Though we lost the game at last, it is really great fun to play with them.

Out of Classroom

Watching NCAA tournament, watching football games, joining Corn Maze, making gingerbread etc... Lots of fun.....

Money

The textbooks are really expensive in USA, but fortunately, there are several ways for you to lower the cost. You can rent the textbooks online, buy the second-hand textbooks or sell the books at 60% of the original price at the end of the semester.

Because I did not need to pay the housing fee, it only cost me less than 4,000 HK dollars throughout the whole semester. But if you want to go traveling during the semester break, it is better to prepare more money. I went traveling to both the East and West Coast of America during thanksgiving and Christmas breaks, and it cost me more than HK3,000 dollars in total.

Goodbye

I had a wonderful time living and studying in UIUC. It was really a pity moment when I said goodbye to the classmates in the same project team. We had once spent a whole week including three overnights in the library to finish our project. I will miss my

classmates and those friendly floor mates there. I also exchanged my contact information with my roommates.

The most rewarding part of my exchange experience is that I learned a new way to study in university, learned more about American cultures and developed the ability to quickly adapt to a new environment.

Home Sweet Home

After I returned back to CityU, I become more proactive in learning. Instead of just looking at the PowerPoint delivered by professors, I will write down more notes during the lectures. My reading and writing skills have also improved since I read and wrote a lot in UIUC.

Sharing

Exchange study is really a nice and valuable experience to everyone.

Though sometimes, it is not easy to get into the life there, such as high-calorie but not-so-healthy food, irregular lifestyle, embarrassment caused by culture difference or unsafe environment (compared to HK); as long as you can keep a positive and optimistic attitude towards the life there, you will probably find it much more fun.

Overall Rating

After all, I will rate my overall exchange experience 5.
(Top score : 5)



Remarkable Experience in University of Oklahoma

*LI Kaiyan,
BEngIE, Yr-2*

My Blog

I would never regret to join the exchange programme. I had so many 'first time' experiences during this very short period. They include my first NBA game, my first football game, my first self-cooked dish, my first American friend, etc. I have learned a lot about European culture from my three European roommates.

I am going to miss this unforgettable experience for the rest of my life.

Just Arrived...

When I first arrived in Norman, I was jet-lagged and felt very tired that I went to bed at 7 p.m. . When I woke up it was already 11p.m. and I could not fall asleep again. The host university did not have any picking up arrangement so we called a taxi (eight dollars per person) to the residence.

Orientation

The University of Oklahoma provided a lot of orientation activities that lasted for the whole week. There were student helpers that showed us around the campus. There was a party that helped us make friends with American students. There were some games organized for exchange students to let us know each other.

There were about a hundred exchange students from all around the world. At the end of my exchange, I still could not remember everyone's name. What a pity!

My First Class

The most significant difference that I noticed during the class is the way that the professor delivered the lectures. They did not have powerpoint slides and they chose the very old style of delivering notes, that was simply writing on the whiteboard and students took their own notes, which troubled me a LOT.

And professors raised many questions during classes and most of the students answered actively. Whenever they had problems, they