

*Exchange Study Programme*

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**Exchange in University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

GAO Jiabei, Gabriel  
BEngECE, Yr-2

**My Place**

- Male residence for freshmen, mostly engineering student (Illinois Street Resident, Townsend Hall)
- Comfortable, convenient, cheap (covered by scholarship, that's the most important thing!)

**My Study**

- 4 courses, not very huge work load, but 300 and 400 level
- No PPT, only blackboard and chalk
- Different teaching pattern, office hours, mid-terms, TAs
- Extremely heavy work load
- Nice attitude with high quality

**Tips for Study:**

- Don't choose so many courses, don't tire yourself
- Talk to professors and TAs during their office hours
- Credit transfer, work out your best plan

**Out of Classroom**

- Club: rowing, tennis
- Jazz show, a kind of culture
- Job fair
- Sports and matches
- Travel around, alone or with friends

**Money**

- Gratefulness to CSE's sponsorship
- Nice control, meet my budget

**Tips for Money Management:**

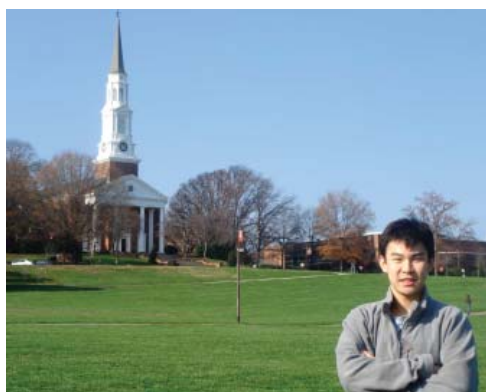
- Have a plan, apply for as much sponsorship as possible
- Be careful to the contract you sign
- Get familiar with credit card
- Don't panic, calm down if somebody charges you more
- Travel? Please find the cheapest accommodation

**Home Sweet Home**

- More independent and mature in all terms after the whole journey
- Nice relationships formed with local people
- Talking to top-level people in EE
- We should go out to see the world. We should love Hong Kong.

**Sharing**

- Find schools you love first
- Prepare well documentation, visa and your sponsorship
- Plan your coming exchange semester
- Adjust your plan, there will be unexpected things
- Know and talk to more people
- Travel by yourself at least once
- Review your journey and plan your future
- Interview Tips: Just be yourself. Be cultural-aware and be natural.



*A sunny day in Urbana-Champaign*

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## Exchange in Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

WU Jingjin  
BEngIE, Yr-2

### Study

Going exchange is an opportunity to study in a new way. Every university has its own culture of learning. Even in Singapore, the city which is thought quite similar to Hong Kong, I experienced something different. Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has a very big campus and hence a large number of lecture theatres and classrooms. One of my lectures, with about 100 students, was held in a lecture theatre with a capacity of about 500 people. The students liked to sit dispersedly so that they could focus on what the instructor said. All lectures in NTU are only one hour long. One course will have identical number of lectures to the credits it carried in one week. I think it is a good arrangement because I was often bored and could not concentrate in a two or three hours lecture in City U. NTU has four libraries on its main campus, however all of them close at 9 p.m. on weekdays and do not open at weekends. Perhaps by doing that, they want their students to manage time more efficiently and study more effectively. In fact, I felt more energetic and productive when dealing with my coursework during my time there.

### Life

Unlike City U, NTU is located in the “countryside” of Singapore. We need to take a bus for about 15 minutes to the nearest supermarket and MRT (subway, same as MTR in HK) for more than 10 stops to the city centre. For most of the times, however, we can find what we want within the campus. Almost every student hall of residence has an attached canteen, which offers tasty food (a thousand times better than City Express and Homey Kitchen) with various kinds of choices (Northeast China, Sichuan, Fujian, Hong Kong, Malay, Japanese, Korean, Western, Indian, Muslim...any kind as you can imagine). The gym and swimming pool on campus are free of charge to NTU student, and the long, diverged roads around the campus are good for walking or running.

### Play

I strongly advise students go exchange to make a list for what you

would like to do during your time overseas. The entries can be local attractions, like Merlion Park or Botanic Garden in Singapore, or simply something you think too crazy to do here in Hong Kong, like “party until sunrise”, “sleep on the beach” or something even more fancy. Don’t bury yourself in the library all the time, you are here to experience and enrich your life. Making several trips out of the town could be a lot of fun, and it is a good way to make new friends. In addition, you will gain invaluable experience when planning the trip yourself. For me, I went to Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand in my four months’ exchange, with friends from France, Finland, Korea, Austria, Taiwan and Mainland China. I believe they will be unforgettable moments all my life.



*A visit to Merlion Park*

## My Sharing on Exchange to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

WANG Dian  
BEngECE, Yr-3

### Just Arrived

When I arrived at O’Hare International Airport, Chicago, I felt very excited. I waited for my friends for around 1 hour and then we took the bus to the hotel near to the school because the student residence was not ready at that time. It was not that hard for us to find the way as we had already explored the local map before we went there. The next day we went to the school to report to the department and joined the orientation.

I lived in student residence which is a triple-room. I lived with two freshmen, Ryan and Tom. They are very friendly and kind. The room is not big and there is no independent bathroom. However, it is safe, warm and clean. I like the furniture. They are quite old but comfortable.

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### My First Class

I got four courses altogether with 12 credits. My first class was Power Electronics. Professors still used blackboard to conduct classes rather than power point. Another major difference was that most classmates did not speak Chinese, so I had to keep on speaking English all the time. Besides, there's much more homework to do in UIUC! I had to work very hard to complete them.



*I love UIUC*

### People I Met

I met several people. The first one, of course, was my roommate. He was really nice and we talked a lot about the Chinese and US culture or lives. I have also met a really nice professor, Professor Franke. He taught wireless communication and I had an independent study with him. He taught me a lot and we were also good friends. In addition, I also met a Chinese girl and she was really nice and helpful. She was my classmate and we did experiment together. Actually it was easy to make friends there. People are all very kind and willing to be friends with you. However, sometimes I felt that I did not have the same interest with them. Most foreigners like parties and drinking but I do not like those at all.

### Out of Classroom

There are many communities in the school. You can join any of them. I joined table-tennis and physics communities. There is an association called CSSA, which provides lots of help and organized several activities for Chinese students such as the Mid Autumn Festival Celebration Party. I also traveled to several places in the US, for example, Chicago, West Coast of the US, New York, Washington D.C. and Boston.

### Overall Sharing

Exchange is really a nice experience. You should take the chance to learn more. Besides playing and traveling around, hard working is also important. Your academic results got in the exchange institution

are also a critical part for your future career, especially for those who want to go abroad for further study. What's more, safety and health are the most important things. Do not save money for them. Make sure you are safe and healthy, that is the basic for everything.

## My Exchange in University of Maryland

*JIANG Weixuan*

*BEngIE, Yr-2*

### Just Arrived

Washington D.C is a warm, clean and tidy city. From the IAD Airport to University of Marylands there is quite a journey, so better have somebody to pick you up at the airport. The sunshine, the daisy blossoms and the fresh smell of the grass all made me so excited!

### My Place

My dorm is expensive, but it's worth paying. "Perfect" could be used as the right expression for describing it. I shared my place with 3 people. We got a big LCD, commodious couch, and pretty good bathroom and kitchen. That's a fun place, which was always filled with laughter.

### People I Met

I met a lot of cool people and made a lot of friends. I feel extreme privilege to have the chance to see President Obama in person, giving a speech on Health Reform.

### Out of Classroom

I actively participated in lots of out of class curriculums such as football game, trip to Miami.

### Overall Sharing

I give five solid stars to my exchange life in University of Maryland.



*University of Maryland.*

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## My Exchange in University of Washington

*LI Kwok Leung, Adrian*  
*BEngIE, Yr-2*

### Just Arrived

I arrived on 14 September 2009 and the flight was around 12 hours, however, I was not tired but excited because the exchange study started! It was lucky that I had a friend picked me up when I arrived and I found my advisor in UW in the next day of arrival. At that time, I really had no idea where I could find my advisor, but I found her eventually after I went to several places in UW.

### My Place

I did not live in dormitory as I applied late. I lived with my college friend. I think it is better living outside the campus because it will let you explore more about Seattle. I would like to say it is safe around the campus and you can notice that UW policemen are always around you.

### My First Class

US students are more hard working than what I thought. Those lectures are divided by one hour section only and most EE course are having a lab section instead of a tutorial section. All the Americans are self-studied and solve problem themselves rather than keep asking the tutors. The lectures there are more funny and having more examples.

### People I Met

I am so lucky that my best friends there are the local students. He is my classmate in the tutorial session. His age is same as me but more independent than me. As he says, most Americans move out from their family and live independently when aged 18. He is enthusiastic to introduce all the special things in Seattle and some English slang to me.

### Out of Classroom

There are so many activities that you can do there and there are different association clubs for people from different countries, like

Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, etc. There are also opportunities for exchange students to do a job or volunteer work such as working in cafeteria. And I went to different parties in Halloween, New Year Eve or Christmas time.

### Overall Sharing

Actually, I must keep in touch with my friends made in UW as my friend there told me that many exchange students were just going there to learn English and no exchange of culture. Luckily that I am not the one he said. Both my English and Mandarin improved as there were many Taiwanese and Chinese people. The most challenging part is sometimes I had to cook the dinner or lunch by myself.



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## Student Ambassador Scheme

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### Adventure Camp

## My Experience on Adventure Camp

*HAN Yiwen, Linda*  
*BEngECE, Yr-1*

This survival journey for me, is more like a life-long learning experience than just a two-day camp. It is unforgettable not only because of the challenging tasks that we have been assigned, but also it has enlightened me on many things that are easily to be neglected in everyday life.

### To Survive is Far More Difficult to Do than to Say

You know, I did not have the regular military training in my high