
Sharing

The more you get prepared, the more comfortable you will be when something happens.

When in Rome, do as the Roman do. This is the best way to experience the foreign culture.

Study is important, but study is not all of the story. If you have time, go out and have fun!

Keep in touch with the family and your friends.

Be optimistic, everything will get through.

Overall rating

5 (5 is the highest in the rating scale)



An Enjoyable Exchange in Purdue University, U.S.

XU Yisi

BENG3-INFE, Yr 3

My Pre-departure Checklist

I applied for student visa right after I got my admission letter. As you need to make a reservation for the visa interview, you better plan for your preparation work carefully.

You need to decide whether you want to rent an apartment or live in the student residence. I need to sign a contract with the university before a deadline to guarantee a residence place, so make your decision early.

My host institution requires us to purchase a health insurance, so you should also think about it. Besides health insurance, travelling insurance is another must for you.

Just Arrived...

I searched on the social networks to find some student organizations in the host institution which provides pick-up service for freshmen before I booked the air tickets. You should check the pick-up time and site carefully. With the preparation work, when I arrived at Chicago O'Hare International Airport, I got on the shuttle bus in no time.

I signed up for the orientation for international students. The warmhearted volunteers helped me carry my baggage to my residence. After that, we joined a welcoming dinner, during which we chatted and had pizza in the lawn.

Orientation

I joined the orientation which is called BGR (Boiler Gold Rush) in Purdue. And if you join BGR as an international student, you can join the BGRi designed for international students for free.

During BGRi, I opened my bank account, purchased SIM card for my phone and bought all the daily necessities I need. BGRi is very helpful for international students to get used to the everyday life in the US.

BGR introduces university life to all the freshmen, no matter you are from abroad or local. The staff spent a whole year to prepare for the BGR, and you should never miss it!

There are several interesting traditions in Purdue during orientation period. One is called “Crossing the Tracks”, during which all the group members of my BGR team jumped over the track arm in arm. Another is called “Fountain Run”. All freshmen needed to run through all the four fountains on campus.

My Place

I lived in the residence hall on campus, which is relatively safe compared to other off-campus accommodation. If you come back from school late at night, you can call the campus security to escort you to your residence hall.

My First Class

The campus is really huge compared to that of CityU. So before your first class, you should get some ideas about the buildings and campus map to make estimation on time for travelling.

The education system between Hong Kong and U.S. is quite similar, however, I still had some difficulties in adapting to the learning environment there. The biggest difference between my school life in Hong Kong and the U.S. is the heavy workload there. What surprised me most during my first class is that, we had assignments every week, projects every two or three weeks, and quizzes happened much more frequently than in Hong Kong. And the semester consists of 15 weeks, which is 2 weeks longer than that in Hong Kong. But thanks to this, I could spend much more time on studying and I think I have made big improvement in my professional fields.

People I Met

I made a lot of friends during the international orientation. We sat around the long table in dining court and talked a lot about the life style back in our hometown during lunch time.

People in the small town West Lafayette where Purdue is located are very helpful. When I just arrived there and was not very familiar with the surroundings, people there offered great help.

When you stand on the pedestrian and check the map using your

smart phone, people will just come over and show you the way to your destination.

Americans are very easygoing as they will greet you when meeting you on the road, even though you do not know each other.

Out of Classroom

University students in the US really love sports. Among all the games, they definitely love football the best. If there is a football game, the campus will be full of audiences and the campus radios will be reporting the game for the whole day.

Money

I brought certain amount of cash to the US (at least enough for the first several weeks).

You may open an account in the local bank after arrival, so that your parents can send you money just in case.

I also brought a credit card with me. It was very useful for online shopping. When I travelled in the US, credit card was that important for making reservation of hotels and booking air tickets and train tickets.

Goodbye

What a pity that I had to leave when I had just got used to the life in Purdue. I will miss my friends there, and maybe I will go back to pursue my Master Degree soon.

Home Sweet Home

I realized how convenient the public transportation system is in Hong Kong, and finally I had Asian food which I missed so much.

Thanks to my exchange experience, I become more outgoing, and I am not afraid to chat with others in English anymore. I have better time management skills, and manage to handle the heavy workload without pressure. Also, I found myself more independent.

Sharing

I was a little bit shy when I just arrived in the US. I dared not communicate with people there naturally. But soon, I realized that people there are just as nice and common as you. I just talk to them more openly!

MSc Overseas Internship

Winter there is extremely cold. Make sure you bring enough clothes to resist against the snowy season there!

Overall Rating

Definitely 5 (5 is the highest in the rating scale)

Join the outbound exchange programme and enjoy your stay abroad!



Valuable Research Experiences at University of California, Los Angeles

TANG Ying, MScEIE 2012 cohort

“Applied Research Internship Scheme in Electronic Engineering” offered under the Master of Science in Electronic and Information Engineering (MScEIE) programme is two semesters long. It provided me an opportunity to integrate and apply what has been learned during taught postgraduate through working on an applied research project taking place in a research environment.

My project was carried out at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) under the supervisor of Prof K N Tu. The campus provided a supportive academic environment, with many opportunities on participating in lectures or training classes, and exchanges with well-known professors. Weekly meetings enhanced my knowledge of material science related topics through the increased interaction and discussion with other colleagues.

Through the scheme, I had the opportunity to visit special places. For example, I made a trip to University of California, Berkeley (UCB) and visited the famous ALS with Prof Tu’s students. ALS lab in UCB is much more magnificent than I have imagined. I adored this place for it is full of creativity and challenges. The trip left me an impressive memory.

One of the biggest benefits of joining this scheme is that it gave me a better opportunity to get into US PhD or master program. It is due to the increased face-to-face interactions and closer relationships with potential recruiting professors. This experience is only available from taking classes in the US.

Visiting UCLA for half a year is a special experience in my study life. This trip positively influenced my life. I made many friends who have positively changed my attitude towards life and studies. I studied more on the topic of 3D IC packing technology. I understood more on IMC’s process formation, polishing techniques, SEM’s operation procedure, and FIB’s image analysis.

I took part in social activities during my stay at UCLA, such