



NYU

**LEONARD N. STERN
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

FALL 2016

LOW POH LYN

BBA GLOBAL BUSINESS & FINANCE

PART 1: ACTIVITY LOG



SEPTEMBER

- Attended the IBEX Orientation Lunch, where I met 16 other exchange students from universities all over the world
- Did a quick tour around NYC, and visited all the tourist spots before the academic semester officially started
- Watched the U.S. Open for Tennis, and the NY Yankees Game!
- Went to an underground music gig organized by Sofarsound
- Represented HKUST at IBEX's International Exchange Fair
- Watched NYU's very own Drag performance- *NY(drag)U*
- Participated *improveverywhere* MP3 experiment at Governor's Island. Improveverywhere organizes pranks in public places. For this project, they create an original audio file where participants download or listen to it live. Everyone goes to the same location with headphones, and try to blend in the crowd. At a set time, we would all hear the audio file and are supposed to follow the instructions given (together as one big crowd!). Hilarity ensues as participants carry out ridiculous, coordinated instructions, and see how non-participants react to that.
- Broadway Musical: *Something Rotten*



OCTOBER

- Went to New Jersey for AACF's (Asian American Christian Fellowship) Women's Retreat. I also went apple picking there (the apple cider donuts are AMAZING)
- Learned an incredibly important life skill: Cycling. I cycled around Central Park that very day, and it is one of the best experience ever, I could just stay there all day.
- Went to upstate NY for AACF's Big Event!
- Broadway Musical: Jersey Boys



NOVEMBER

- Went Ice-skating @ NYU Flurry
- Watched an NBA game: Brooklyn Nets vs. Portland (Trail Blazer?)
- Went to Connecticut to visit a family friend during Thanksgiving Break
- Attended the NYU's U.S. Presidential Election 2016 dinner
- Watched a piano performance on a barge in Brooklyn



December

- Last month in NYU ☺
- Attended IBEX's Farewell Lunch
- Watched the Nutcracker Ballet Performance @ the Lincoln Center
- Visited Columbia University
- Attended Michael Lewis' book signing event @ NYU Stern!
- Said goodbye to all of my friends there— this was incredibly difficult! But I am so happy that we are still very well connected till now. Till we meet again!

PART 2: GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

VISA PROCEDURES

As soon as you receive your visa package from NYU, you can apply for the J1 visa through the US Consulate. For more accurate information, you can visit this website <https://hongkong.usconsulate.gov/niv.html> and <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/>. You can pay the Sevis Fee at any 7-11 store, and once that is confirmed, you can make an appointment for the interview. Make sure you get this done earlier to prevent any complications later on.

ORIENTATION ACTIVITIES

It is important and compulsory to attend the orientation lunch because you get to know the NYU IBEX team who takes care of all matters related to your exchange (they are the best and the sweetest!), and you get to meet other exchange students from other university! You will be given a welcome pack that contains all of the important and useful information of NYU and NYC itself.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

The IBEX team did a wonderful job in organizing activities and providing us access to some best NY experience like the Yankees Baseball Game, U.S. Tennis Open, UN Headquarters Tour, and many more.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Most exchange students did not get their spot in NYU housing, including myself. I had rented a place in Herald Square, which is just 4 stops away from 8th street NYU. I found this place in one of the subletting groups on Facebook called NYC Sublets. Rest of my exchange friends found their accommodation through the NYU off-campus housing portal, Airbnb, and other Facebook groups.

COURSES REGISTRATION

Course registration was completely hassle-free because the IBEX team took care of it for us. Exchange students have priority over regular students in the first round of course registration, so it is important to send in your choices in advance. You can still change them during the add-drop period, but do not do it yourself because there may be complications with pre-requisites etc. You can send in your request to the IBEX team (Chrissy helped me in my case) if you want to be enrolled in/drop a class during the add/drop period.

Course enrollment restriction: Exchange students are not allowed to take more than 2 finance courses, and 2 Economics courses.

Courses that I have taken:

Finance- Portfolio Management

Finance – Principles of Securities Trading

Economics- Economics of Global Business

Economics – Competitive Analysis

Marketing – Global Marketing Strategy

FINANCE & BANKING (INCLUDING CURRENCY / EXPENSES)

I opened an account at Chase because minimum deposit is not required for students. In New York people do not really cash around and usually pay with their debit card, even if you are just buying a bottle of water at Duane Reade. (Unless it is Chinatown, street stalls, or some small Chinese/Japanese shops where they only accept cash). It is also useful to download the Chase App or Venmo on your phone because it allows us to transfer cash to each other.

SOCIAL CLUBS & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

In Stern, we get a common break time from 1215 to 1400 and that is when we get to participate in club activities, socialize and get lunch! Clubs usually organize their events using that time slots. I attended events by the Management Consulting Club, Quantitative Finance Society, Business Analytics Club and International Student Association. Event activities usually include, guest speaker series, company's information session, workshops etc. All of the events usually come with free food. If you want to find out more about the schedule, you can look it up at NYU Orgsync. Besides Stern Organizations, I am also very involved in the Asian American Christian Fellowship (AACF), where I had gone on retreats with them (The Intervarsity BIG Event, AACF Women Retreat), and joined their small & large groups. If you are looking for a fellowship, feel free to look them up on Facebook and contact them!

HEALTH & SAFETY

It is compulsory for exchange students to subscribe to the insurance plan. NYU automatically chooses the premium plan for us, but you can always downgrade to the standard plan. I left mine at the premium level.

FOOD

There are so many food options near the campus! There are several areas within walking distance that you can explore, St. Marks, Greenwich Village (pronounced as Green-nitch)– La Guardia Place, Thompson Street, Sullivan Street, and MacDougal Street, Union Square, and Chinatown. You can also download Yelp for recommendations, an app that is equivalent to OpenRice here in HK.

TRANSPORTATION

The Subway monthly pass cost around \$116. The subway system is not as straightforward as HK's, because uptown and downtown train stations may be different, and there are many different train lines. Therefore, make sure to check how to get to your destination with Google Maps, and do it before you enter the Subway because you usually do not get signal there. Besides that, instead of taking the Cab, make use of Lyft or Uber. I personally preferred Lyft because I frequently got promo codes.

COMMUNICATION

I subscribed to T-Mobile, and paid around \$50/month for a 2GB plan with unlimited call and message.

PART 3: ITEMS TO BRING

Do not over pack! Trust me, you will not regret this.

1. Make sure you have all of the required forms, papers etc. Remember to make copies just in case.
2. Because I went there from Sept – Dec, I brought both summer and winter clothes. You do not have to bring too much if you intend to shop there on Black Friday.
3. In case you missed anything, you can just buy them there or order from Amazon.

PART 4: BUDGET

BASIC EXPENDITURE

Accommodation	USD 5600
Food	USD 1500
Telecommunication	USD 200
NYU Insurance	USD 1600
Transportation	USD 500

PART 5: USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS

Public Safety: 212.992.222

Here's a little peak of what NYU is like: <https://www.youtube.com/user/hashtagNYU/videos>