

EXCHANGE REPORT

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Fall semester 2016-JI, Xiayan

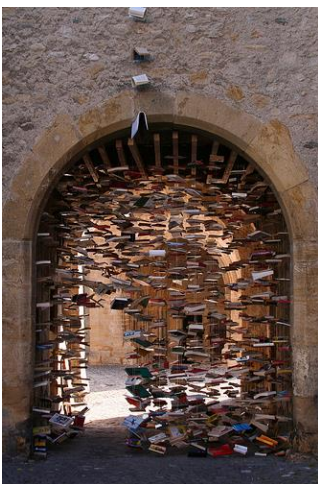
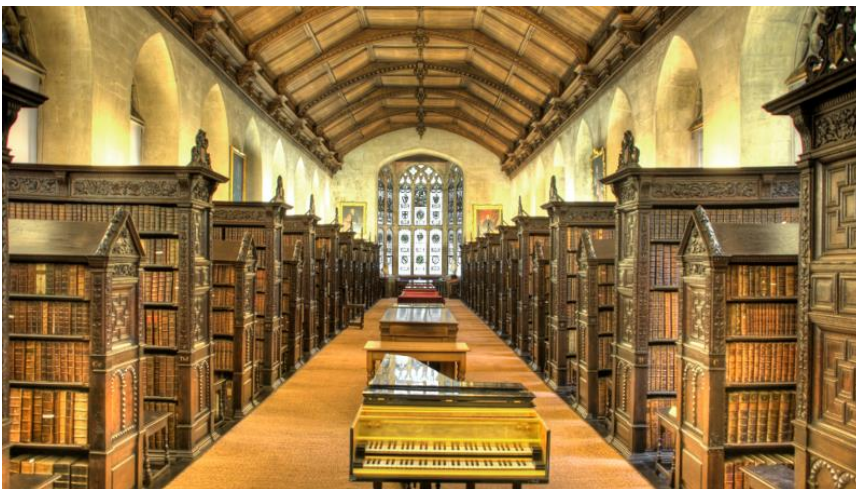
EXCHANGE REPORT

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

August

Cornell University starts earlier than other U.S. universities in fall, which was August 23th in my case. So I arrived on August 20th to attend the orientation activities, while getting familiar with the campus and shopping center nearby.

Most of the professors and advisors are really friendly and nice, that “we are here to address your question” is the sentence that I heard the most during that period. So feel free to ask any question you encountered in your life. Even if they don’t know, they will try to connect you with someone who can answer your question. The Cornell chatter is an online question solving community for Cornell students and faculty, make full use of that.



MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG

From August to

December 2016



September

The first month of the semester, I attended a trip organized by the international student office to the Niagara Fall, which lies in the border of the states and Canada. There were also trips to the New York City organize by them. The scenery was fabulous, and I would definitely recommend it as a choice to buffer the intense school work.



October

Unlike UST, Cornell has tons of prelims and homework every week. But their library is also attractive, constituting a good reason to study. Besides, eating and drinking is allowed in the library as long as they would not cause mess. Following is one of the libraries that I liked the most, they usually referred to it as the “Harry Potter” library.



Apart from that, I also participated in a marathon run in Binghamton University nearby.

November

During my exchange, I also participated in a program that connect me with a local family in Ithaca. They invited me to their Thanks giving dinner and took me an apple picking trip. Aside from that, I also get to travel to other interesting towns nearby to have a taste of the local lifestyle in the New York State.



December

After the busy examination week, I went on a trip to the New York City for the Broadway show and other places of interest.

General exchange information

1) Visa Procedures

The process of visa was not too tedious for me, just follow the instruction by our university and prepare all the documents required on time.

2) Orientation Activities

They will arrange exchange students to attend orientation with transfer students and freshmen. Some of them might be useful, especially for those teaching you how to make use of library facilities and resources. It will be quite useful to participate if you plan to take a course that has paper requirement at Cornell.

3) International Services & Activities

Keep an eye on the emails sent by ISSO, since they will organize some trips to nearby with quite fair fees. Some international student groups may also constitute good sources in terms of shopping and travelling.

4) Accommodations

For my case, on campus accommodations was not provided. And I rent an apartment with another exchange student from HKUST. We obtained the housing information from online resources such as Facebook, and contact the landlord in advance to our arrival.

5) Courses Registration

The system they use was much similar to that of HKUST. But for the enrollment date, which was before the start of semester, but you can drop it before half way to the end of the semester.

6) Teaching & Assessment Methods

Basically similar to UST, but they have more quizzes and mid-terms than ours.

7) Sports & Recreation Facilities

Gyms are available on campus, but you will need to pay for entry.

8) Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)

USD is used. There is a BOA ATM on campus, but I would recommend you to have a local trust bank card, which can be obtained on campus, for convenience concern.

9) Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

Depends on your interest, they will hold a society fair on the start of the semester. And each society will organize some sort of activities every week, which are good chances to make new friends.

10) Health & Safety

The Ganatte health center can meet your basic needs of medicine and vaccination. Be reminded that you will need to mail them a vaccination history form before departure, but you can also get the required vaccination done upon arrival, so don't be too bothered if you don't meet some of the requirements.

11) Food

Meal plans are provided on campus, food on west and north campus are of best quality. You don't need to purchase too expensive meal plan for every meal at the start, since you can always upgrade your meal plan afterwards.

12) Transportation

TCAT are free with Cornell ID card, so make use of them to travel to nearby towns and falls!

13) Climate

It gets quite cold and dry during winter, which is quite different to that of Hong Kong. But the heat is supplied indoors, so you don't need to worry much.

14) Communication

English is used. But you don't need to worry too much, since people are nice and they are always trying their best to understand you.

15) Cautionary measures

Don't stay out until too late in the night, since I was informed of some stabling incidents that happens at night from the campus security team.

Items to Bring

A checklist of Items to Bring

Converter

Clothes...

Boots

Coat

Medicine

Passport

Documents

Visa card / card that you can use to pay

Some cash

Useful Links and Contacts

Websites and contacts which you might find useful:

Course Roster:

<https://classes.cornell.edu/browse/roster/SP17>

ISSO:

<http://isso.cornell.edu/>

Applied economics and management department:

<https://dyson.cornell.edu/>