

Exchange Report

Indiana University Kelley Business School



Yingwen Chen 2017 Spring

<Part 1> Monthly Log

January 2017

I arrived Indiana on Jan 5th. It was very late due to the delay of my flight but Karleigh still waited us there, which made me feel warm on that cold winter night. She then drove us to the campus, which took about an hour from the airport in Indianapolis. There was almost no buildings along the way but farms and trees until we reached Bloomington. There were banks, restaurants, bars and people in this small town. I lived on campus in Pine Hall, which was located in central campus. It took me 15 minutes walk to Hodge Hall, where most of classes of Kelley Business School were held. And we had a general idea of the campus and our schedule thanks to orientation activities organized by the International Office of IU and enjoyed the first month of study there.

February 2017

Life was not easy studying in Kelley. Many classes got two or three midterms if no extra group projects or presentations. There were also homework and quizzes every week. So in February I had to get started with those. Professors there were very kind, providing practical and helpful guidelines for us to prepare them well. What is more, I had nice group mates, whom I could discuss problems and study together with. We also had conversations about the difference between studying in IU and in HKUST, which allowed us to know each other better and helped me adapt to my living there more quickly. One of my friends drove me to her apartment and we made dinner together on the eve of Spring Festival, making me feel at home.

March 2017

Finally there came the spring break. Five of us from UST, all of whom were now being exchanged in the US, planned our 10-day trip for a long time. We had booked our flight tickets and apartments on Airbnb in advance. After meeting at Washington DC, we spent 3 days in DC, 2 days in Philadelphia and 5 days in NYC. We rent a car for DC and Philadelphia but chose subway in NYC due to the heavy traffic here. Among the three cities, personally I think NYC is most interesting.

There are many museums and galleries of modern arts and I highly recommend those to the east of the Central Park. Yet it is pity that we left no time for the Statue of Liberty and Brooklyn, where I would definitely go for the next time. However, after break time, I got through the second round of exams and deadlines.

April 2017

Time passed quickly. As I had got more and more enjoyed my life in IU, it was the last week I had there. Students got really busy especially in this month and the library was always packed with students busy reviewing their courses even until midnight. Unlike in Hong Kong, there are no one-week break before the exam break but usually professor would finish their lecture earlier and left at least one class for content review. Despite one final, two essays and three small group projects due this month, I still made one small trip to Chicago with my friend from CityU during a weekend. Chicago was a very clean and neat city which reached beyond my expectation. Though it was not safe as news stated, you could not miss the night view and the Cloud Gate there.

May 2017

All the exams were finished before May 5th. Having packed my luggage and checked out my room, I realized that my exchange life had come to an end. I would never forget my life there, living and studying alone in a whole new environment. I really appreciate all the kindness that I have received in IU and the great atmosphere of study. I really learned a lot from all my professors and new friends. Hope to see them again in the near future :)

<Part 2> General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

Indiana University would send the DS-2019 form to UST and you would make an appointment to apply the visa after preparing all materials needed online.

Remember to get things ready as soon as possible and usually the embassy would proceed the visa for a week.

Orientation Activities

There would be a welcome lunch and a campus tour from international office. There would also be dinners for all exchange students at the beginning and the end of the semester for free. Staff are very helpful and if you have any questions about IU, feel free to ask them.

Accommodations

Both on campus and off campus halls and apartments are available. I would recommend places where transportation is convenient. Apartments would have a independent bedroom and a shared kitchen, bathroom and living room for four students.

Course Registration

Emails would be sent to students around the beginning of October about the course selection procedure and course list. Students should include at least 4 required courses and 5 alternative courses as preferred courses in the course request form. Courses of 12 to 18 credits could be finally enrolled according to the schedule.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

Every week and stages, you have to follow the class well in order to complete the quizzes or projects so the workload of each class is relatively big. Every exam has clear instructions to follow and every professor has their office hours when you could seek help by appointment. Class participation is often taken into account and asking questions is highly encouraged in class.

Health and Safety

Insurance is necessary for your exchange period. You could choose insurance for IU student but UST Business School has already bought our insurance which could waive it.

Food

Fortunately, there are many Chinese restaurants and even Korean and Thai restaurants in Bloomington due to the large amount of international students there. Also there are two Asian supermarkets and you can buy cooking materials.

Transportation

From Airport to campus, there are shuttles from “Star of America” and “Go Express”, whose websites offer detailed schedule and price of daily trip. “Double map” is a great map to check bus routes in Bloomington, which are free for IU students. Uber is also a good choice since taxi is extremely expensive.

Climate

If you are planning to visit Bloomington during the spring semester, you would expect a long winter. But still some summer clothes are necessary if you are planning to southern America during spring break. The temperature would be varying from -10c to 20c in Bloomington during the semester.

<Part 3> Items to bring

Your passport with visa and DS-2019 form and copies of them; winter and spring clothes; laptop and adaptors(same with ones in Mainland China); calculators and stationaries; formal suits.....

<Part 4> Useful links and contacts

IU Application

<http://ois.iu.edu/admissions/apply/transfer/index.shtml>

IU Account

<http://itaccounts.iu.edu>

IU Map

<http://map.iu.edu/iub>

On campus housing application

https://apps3.indiana.edu/RPS_NewHousing_V2_Online/Default.aspx

