

UF | UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA



Exchange report
University of Florida, USA
Warrington College of Business



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Part I Monthly activity log

August

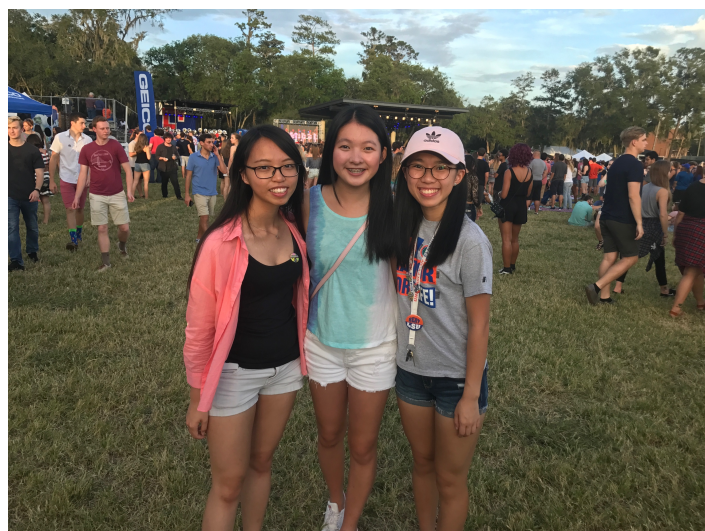
I first arrived at the University of Florida in Mid-August, which is few days before the semester officially started, to attend both the mandatory orientations organized by the business school and the international students department of the school itself. Different from typical campus in Hong Kong, the campus is huge with different activities that you may enjoy, for example, lake Warburg for kayaking and other water sports, little zoo for feeding the animals and stadium to enjoy football matches. The orientations indeed helpful in terms of meeting new friends and they also provide us sufficient information to get familiar with the registration system and school life. The buddy program organized by the business school has arranged different activities for exchange students. In August, I've enjoyed my first sprint float in Spring Lake, it was exciting and fun. I've also visited St. Augustine, which is one of the oldest town located in Florida.

September

There's a hurricane attacked Florida that made the school had no choice but stop schooling for a week. I've been spending the months with campus social activities, for example, kayaking and rock climbing in Lake Warburg. I've also went to the UF bat house and it's interesting for seeing lots of bats flying away from their house in the evening.

October

October is full of midterms and as well as activities. Halloween is quite a big thing in the States that people will prepare foods and costumes for celebration. The first weekend of October is the homecoming week that the school arranged different activities for celebration, e.g. the Homecoming Parade. We have Rapper Snopp Dogg and singer Dava for the performance in the event Gator Growl. The homecoming football game is another highlight of the week that it was my first time watching America football and the excitement during the game is unforgettable.



November

I spend my thanks-giving holiday in Miami and theme parks in Orlando. Miami is a popular vacation spots with gorgeous beach and beautiful artistic places to visit. We do not visit Key West as it still under reconstruction after the hurricane but we do enjoy great time at the Miami beach and cultural experience in Little Havana.

I've also watch airshow for the first time. NAS Jax Air Show showcase the America local culture with a variety of military and aircraft demonstrations. The Blue Angels' performance amazed me that create a once-in-a-life-time experience.

Jason, the Associate Director of International Programs, organized Thanks-giving dinner in his house. Exchange and local students all brought the cuisine from our own countries to share with each other, create a memorable night by enjoying good times with friends and facilitate cultural exchange.

December

Approaching to the end of exchange journey, lots of farewell and photo-taking days was arranged with my friends. I only have four exams in December that occupied most of my time in the last two week stays at UF. The weather is still wonderful that it's not cold. I've also planned a trip to New York to conclude my exchange journey in the States.



Part II General exchange information

I. Visa Procedures

Many students may apply for Visa at that time, so it may take longer than expected for scheduling appointments. Applying for US Visa as soon as getting the exchange offer is suggested. You can follow the procedure listed in the website and get the checklist of supporting documents required.

<http://www.ustraveldocs.com/hk/hk-niv-typej.asp>

II. Orientation Activities

UF arrange two compulsory orientations for exchange students before the semester starts. One of them is offered by the international student center which will go through some important guidelines and issues exchange student typically faced. Another one is offered by the business school that give you the opportunities to meet local UF students and make friends with other exchange students through team-building activities. They also show you around the campus to help you get familiar with different places. The orientation activities are quite useful in helping you know more about the campus life and meet different people that I build life-long friendship with people met in orientations.

III. Internationals services and activities

There are different student societies in UF organize and offer activities for students to join. For example, the Navigators organize tours for students to visit Disneyland in Orlando. Gator Global Guides organizes events for business students, e.g. Gun Shooting event and Day trip to St. Augustine.

IV. Accommodations

You can choose the accommodations in school or rent a house by yourself.

I applied student dorm through school and got into Weaver Hall, which basically have half of them as international student and half local. That create cultural atmosphere for you to make friends there and enjoy campus life.

V. Course registration

You can check the database online and send email to the business director for registering the course you want. You don't have to use the system yourself but though email to settle the course registration.

VI. Teaching and assessment methods

The courses I took in fall semester is listed below:

ENT 3003	Principles of Entrepreneurship
GEB 3373	international Business
ISM 4220	Business Data Communications 1
MAN 4723	Strategic Management and Decision Making
QMB 3250	Statistic for Business Decisions

Except from ISM 4220, others are online courses provided by UF. They provide online videos that don't require you to go to classes or attendance. Other requirements of the online courses are more or less the same as a regular class.

ENT 3003 Principles of Entrepreneurship

This course requires blog writing posts every week. I usually do 2-3 posts a week, each 600 words. Sometimes the tasks do request conducting interviews, recording sells pitch video and book reviews. It is time consuming, yet interesting class to attend. Each week has a quiz on the lesson content, which only consist 5 MC questions.

GEB 373 International Business

This course is demanding as it covers cultural, political and economic issues of different countries among the world. The group project is a stimulation game that we have to compete with other groups to promote our products in the market. There are three exams during the semesters. The questions are all MC, covering the course materials and news articles.

ISM 4220 Business Data Communications 1

This is a module class that only take place at the first half of semester. Attendance and pop-up quiz in class contributes to student participation grades. There are two exams and a group project on a topic interested by the group.

MAN 4723 Strategic Management and Decision Making

This course also includes a stimulation game, yet, it is an individual one that will contribute to the final grades. There are three cases and three exams during the semester. There are two short essay questions on each case with an article given. Exams are all MC questions.

QMB 3250 Statistic for Business Decisions

There are bi-weekly assignments and five exams in total. Grades only count the top four exams and you can earn extra credits to improve the grades. This course teaches the practical Statistic programs, Megastats, which you may find it useful in future career.

VII. Sports and recreation facilities

They have different sport and recreation facilities in school and admission of activities are usually free with Gator 1 Card. They usually located near the student dorm.

Reitz Union - Restaurant, study area and bowling place all located at Reitz Union. You can also enjoy a wide variety of activities every Friday night, called Gator Night.

Lake Wauburg - The two UF RecSports parks provides outdoor activities and watersports, e.g. kayak, boating and rock climbing.

Fitness Centre - Southwest Recreational Centre is the largest gym at UF and there's the Student Recreation & Fitness Center, located near Weaver Hall. You can register sport class for free online.

Florida Museum of Natural History - It is one of the ten best university museums in the states, you can know more about biological diversity and cultural heritage if you are interested.

VIII. Finance and banking (including currency / expenses)

Items	Expenditure (HKD)
Flight	12,000
Accommodation (on campus – double room in Weaver Hall)	22,000
Food and groceries	15000
Insurance	2000
Books and academic materials	1000
Travelling	15,000
Others	5,000

IX. Social clubs and networking opportunities

There are fairs organized by UF and the business schools, showcasing different student clubs for you to join in the beginning of semester. You don't have to register but show up on the event to know more about different clubs and societies. The business societies and clubs are more career-based, they would invite companies and school staff to assist students in planning their college and career life. Some career talks or sharing from firms would be organized.

Most of the sport games are free for students to watch and registrations are requested. Football game ticket is usually quite popular, you may want to buy ticket in Facebook page, “UF Football Ticket Exchange” or purchase a single student ticket on Thursdays before the day of the game as some unclaimed student seasonal tickets will be sold to students.

X. Health and safety

Health insurance is mandatory for students to buy. You can either have your own insurance plan and apply for waiver to the school, or go for the school plan. You can always go to international student center for health insurance clarifications. Remember to settle the health insurance issue before the requested deadline, or else the school will ask you to buy it with the school plan compulsorily, which may be more expensive than choosing the plan yourself.

XI. Food

There are large variety of food choices in campus, for example, you can get Asian food in Panda Express at Reitz Union. You can also try different restaurants in Gainesville, especially along the University Avenue. **Patticakes** on the Plaza and **Karma Cream** are two highly recommended café if you want a quiet place with delicious bakery and ice-cream to spend some quiet time or study. **Relish Burgers** is a popular burger place among UF students, serving fresh burger with locally-grown ingredients.

XII. Transportation

You can take bus for free by showing the student card issued by UF, Gator 1 card. You can also use Uber and Lyft for transportation. It is quite easy to get to anyplace in Gainesville.

XIII. Climate

Florida rains quit often that always bring an umbrella with you is a good idea, sometimes it rains for few minutes between lessons. The weather is generally quite hot even till December so you would probably pack more summer clothes and few jackets for fall semester exchange.

XIV. Communications

You can go for a family plan with other exchange students or buy a prepaid plan from T-Mobile with a monthly charge of USD\$40. The prepaid plan usually provides unlimited data and you can access WIFI in campus.

XV. Cautionary measures

UF campus is quite safe for students to stay. However, if you want to avoid walking alone at night in campus, you are recommended to call the Student Nighttime Auxiliary Patrol (SNAP), which is a free point-to-point transportation service sponsored by UF Student governments. There are few stations in campus with the sign “SNAP” or you can simply check and request the service through the app. You should also always check the UF email for any updates.

Part III Items to bring

Identification Documents	Laptop
Clothing	Suits and business clothing
Notebook and stationary	Sunglasses
Medicine	Bed sheet and pillow

Part IV Useful Links and contacts

The dates and time of final exams are all listed on the website of course catalog before course registration, so you can always plan your schedule ahead with those information.

<https://one.uf.edu/soc/>

Join the Facebook pages to have updates in the field you’re interested in, for example, “uf student football ticket exchange” for selling or buying Football ticket.

Part V Best Practices of Host university

The business school has organized a student society called Global Gator Guides, which organize activities for students and partner the exchange student with a local student as the buddy. They offer helps whenever you have any problems or issues during your stay.