

# Exchange Report

## Indiana University, USA

Kelley School of Business

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Year 3, BBA in Global Business and Economics

Fall 2017

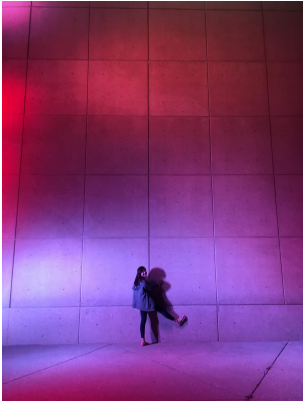
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## Part 1. Monthly Activity Log

### August



Semester started on 21st August and students were required to arrive on or before 16th August, which was the orientation day. During the orientation day, I had to check-in my accommodation and get my student ID card at the Memorial Union. After settling down, I visited the College Mall, a shopping mall nearby IU where boutiques, groceries and restaurants were, to set up my bank and mobile accounts. The first week of school was kind of chill which allowed me to explore the school. The wall outside the Art Museum was a popular attraction for students to take photos, whereas the water fountain outside the Theatre was a campus

icon and a “swimming pool” for students during Summer and Fall.

Other than academic related activities, sports games such as the Football Game (Indiana vs. Michigan) started during the second week of the semester.



### September

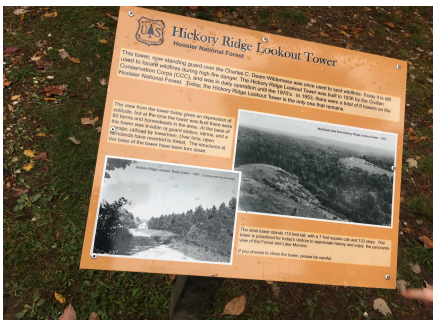
September was the time when assignments and projects started to pile up. Despite the busy schedule, I got to visit Chicago during Labor Day weekend and participate in the 5k Color Run event organized by the Sports Recreational Centre of Indiana University. The Color Run was hosted every fall semester which students could run around the college campus and douse in different color powders.



## October

It started to get a bit chilly during early October which was a sign of the upcoming fall season. My roommates drove me to the Fire Tower, which was 30-mins away from IU, to see the color changing leaves. The tower was around 110 feet tall. It was used by firefighters back then to spot fire and it was freezing cold up there.

Halloween is a big thing in America. Every family would decorate their house with festive decorations such as pumpkins and skeleton lights. I was invited by the Office of International Student to join a pumpkin carving activity. It was an amazing experience as every person could pick their own pumpkin and customized their designs. My local friend also invited me to her home for a nice Halloween dinner with traditional festive food.



## November

Every American saves their money and wait till Thanksgiving every year to shop at a discounted price. Other than shopping, locals like to gather with their family and enjoy Thanksgiving Dinner with festive food like Turkey, stuffing and sweet potato gratin. I spent the first five days of Thanksgiving holiday at my friend's place in Los Angeles and the remaining days at my roommate's house in Indiana. It was a memorable experience as I could live with the locals and learn their traditional practices. Besides, I managed to see a basketball practice game at the Stadium of IU in late November before the Final Exams period.







## December

A week right after Thanksgiving, I flew to Canada to meet my relatives and visited the Niagara Falls which is located on the boarder of Ontario and New York. It was definitely a Must-See attraction, you will be impressed by how beautiful the nature is as there is always a rainbow even though some parts of it got frozen due to the cold weather.

Indiana had a freezing cold and snowy winter. Other than staying in my room getting ready for my exams, I introduced my roommates Chinese culture by bringing them to a hotpot place in Downtown which was owned by a Chinese family.



## Part 2. *General Exchange Information*

### 2.1 Visa Procedures

I received my VISA through the package I got from Indiana University prior to departure. I applied for the J-1 VISA as I travelled to the US with my Canadian passport. For other Hong Kong passport holders, you should apply for I-20 VISA.

### 2.2 Orientation Activities

There were a few orientation activities during the beginning of the semester such as Pizza Gathering and Bowling Party. I strongly recommend you to join the activities as you will be able to meet and exchange contacts with exchange students of other countries.

### 2.3 International Services and Activities

The OIS (Office of International Students) is really helpful in keeping international students on track with activities/ notices of the school. It provides all sorts of cultural and festive activities to international students such as Exploring Indiana Day Trip, Pumpkin Carving event and Women Soccer. The OIS will also send emails to instruct you on setting up your e-form which includes Health Insurance, Student Visa and Orientation documents.

### 2.4 Accommodation

You have to apply for on-campus student housing through submitting your priorities on the Residential Programs and Services website where you can choose your preferred housing, requested roommates and budget. Since the application ends in mid-May, it is better to complete the preference list as soon as possible. I liked my accommodation in Union Street (Linden Hall) as it was a new, furnished apartment which was just 10-mins walk from the Business School.

\* four-bedroom apartment: \$4,895USD per semester (laundry, kitchen, furniture and bathrooms are included)







## 2.5 Course Registration

A few months before school starts, IU sent me a google form to fill in the courses that I wished to enroll in. I believe exchange students do have a priority towards course registration but it is still better to do it within one to two weeks upon receiving the form. Courses that I enrolled includes:

Game Theory for Business Strategy (BUS G-303) /Business Econometrics (BUS G-350) /Introduction to Managerial Economics (BUS G-304 ) / Venture Ideas (BUS W-232) / Venture Models (BUS W-233)

## 2.6 Teaching & Assessment Methods

Classes were conducted in small groups (around 30-50 people). Professors encouraged study groups within students to facilitate in-class exercise and group projects. For all Economics courses, grades will be based on assignments which is due every week, two midterm examinations, one final examination and class participation. Meanwhile Entrepreneurship courses mainly depend on in-class quizzes, two presentations and two written reports.

## 2.7 Sports and Recreational Facilities

The Students Recreational Sports Centre is open from 6am to 11:30pm daily. It is equipped with gyms, badminton courts, swimming pools, tennis courts and a few other multi-purpose rooms, while sport equipment such as badminton rackets and birdies are offered. My favorite thing about the SRSC is their Group Exercise Sessions (Cardio, Strength, Yoga and Dance) which is available every day from 8am to 10pm on a first-come-first-serve basis.

## 2.8 Finance and Banking

I brought a check with me and set up an account at the Chase Bank, a popular bank in America especially Indiana. The bank may require a \$50USD reduction if the account lasts for less than 6 months. I spent around \$120,000 HKD on airfare, accommodation, travelling, daily expense and food.

## 2.9 Social Clubs and Networking Events

There are different kinds of student societies around the school. Pay attention to the floor when you are walking on campus as student societies tend to promote their activities by writing them on the ground with chalks. During the semester I actively participated in Chi Alpha, a student-led Christian group, and Entrepreneurship Club which was ran by one of my classmates from my Entrepreneurship class. Besides, there are lots of fraternities like Alpha Sigma Phi, Kappa Sigma etc. in IU which often organize networking events.

## 2.10 Health and Safety

I bought an insurance plan recommended by IU (AETNA Life Insurance Company \$972USD). It covered almost everything but dental care which was very pricey. If you have to visit the dental clinic, there are a few clinics around the campus such as the Campus Family Dental where you are reach by taking bus No.6 or No.9.

## 2.11 Food

There are food courts in almost every student housing, if not, there will always have a convenience store. The variety of cuisine ranges from local American food to Asian food at the price of around \$10USD for a lunch meal which includes a dish and a drink. Apart from eating in school, there are a lot of restaurants nearby in Kirkwood (downtown) and College Mall too.



From left to right: Baked! Cookies, Steak 'n Shake, McAlister's Deli

## 2.12 Transportation

From Airport to Bloomington (vice versa):

- Star of America Shuttle (\$18USD per trip) or Uber/Lyft (\$60USD per trip)

From IU to neighborhood e.g. Kirkwood, College Mall (vice versa):

- Bloomington Transit (There are a number of buses which can reach to almost everywhere in Bloomington and it is free of charge if you show the driver your student id) or Uber/ Lyft



## 2.13 Climate

August	September	October	November	December
25 - 32°C	20 - 28°C	15 - 25°C	5 - 15°C	-10 - 5°C
(Hot)	(Warm and rainy)	(Starting to get chilly)	(Cold)	(Freezing cold and snowy)

## 2.14 Communication

The local students tend to use “Group me” and Messages rather than WhatsApp for group discussion. Communication within students and professors are efficient. Students can either visit the Staff Office during professors’ office time or simply send them an email, it is likely to receive a reply within 24hrs.

## 2.15 Cautionary Measures

The weather in Indiana is pretty unpredictable. Do remember to bring a jacket with you as the temperate can drop dramatically at night. Additionally, try not to walk alone on the street during night time. Even though it is safer to walk inside the school campus, there may be drunk students especially on Friday and weekend nights.

### Part 3. *Items to Bring*

- ✓ Summer Clothes
- ✓ Winter Clothes (Jacket, Coat, Windbreaker etc.)
- ✓ Umbrella
- ✓ Skin Care (e.g Moisturizer and hand cream)
- ✓ Beddings
- ✓ Laptop
- ✓ Medicine
- ✓ Shoes that cover your ankle just in case of snowing
- ✓ Adaptor
- ✓ Scarfs and Gloves

### Part 4. *Useful Links and Contacts*

<https://one.iu.edu> (You can find almost everything there including your Bursar Bill, Canvas, even laundry status)

<http://www.rps.indiana.edu/housing.cfml>

Bloomington Transit App (Where you can check the location and arrival time of the bus)