



New York University
Leonard N. Stern School of Business

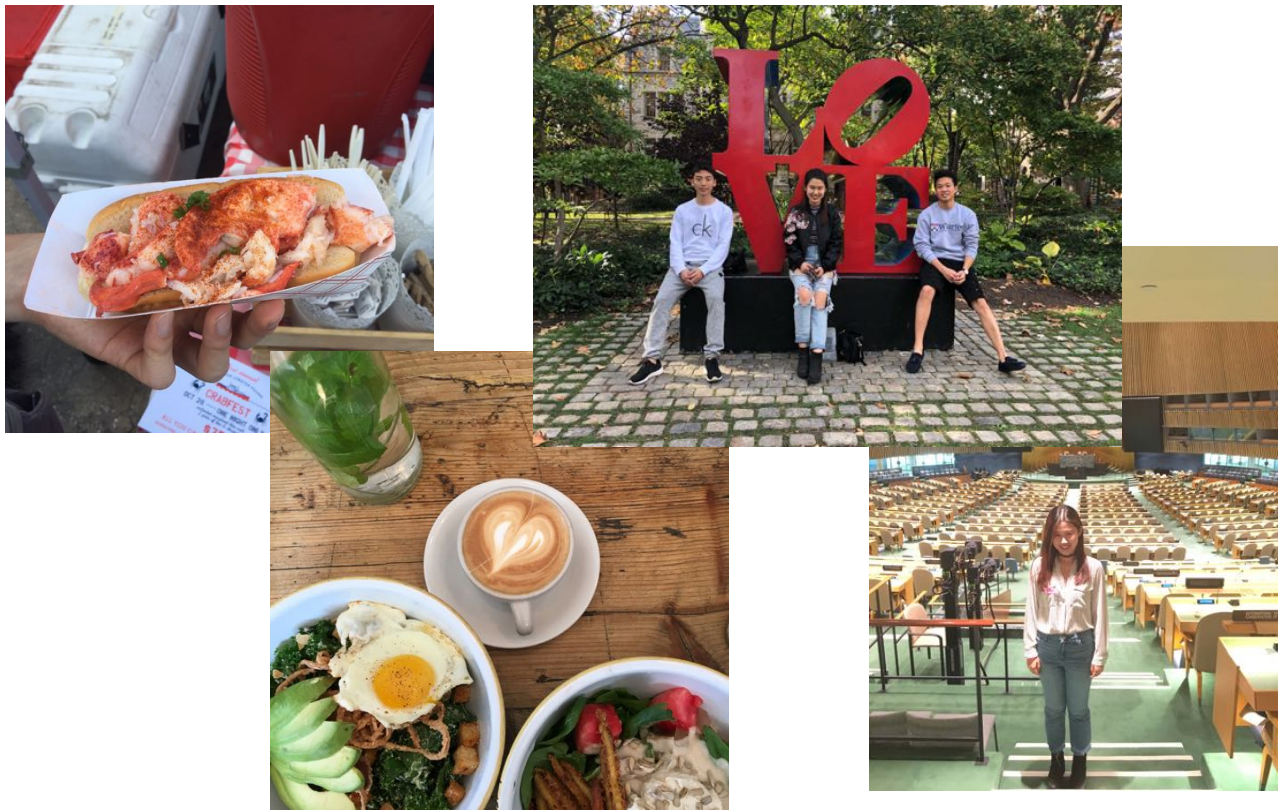
Fall 2017
XIONG Ziyi
BSc in Quantitative Finance

PART 1. Activity Log



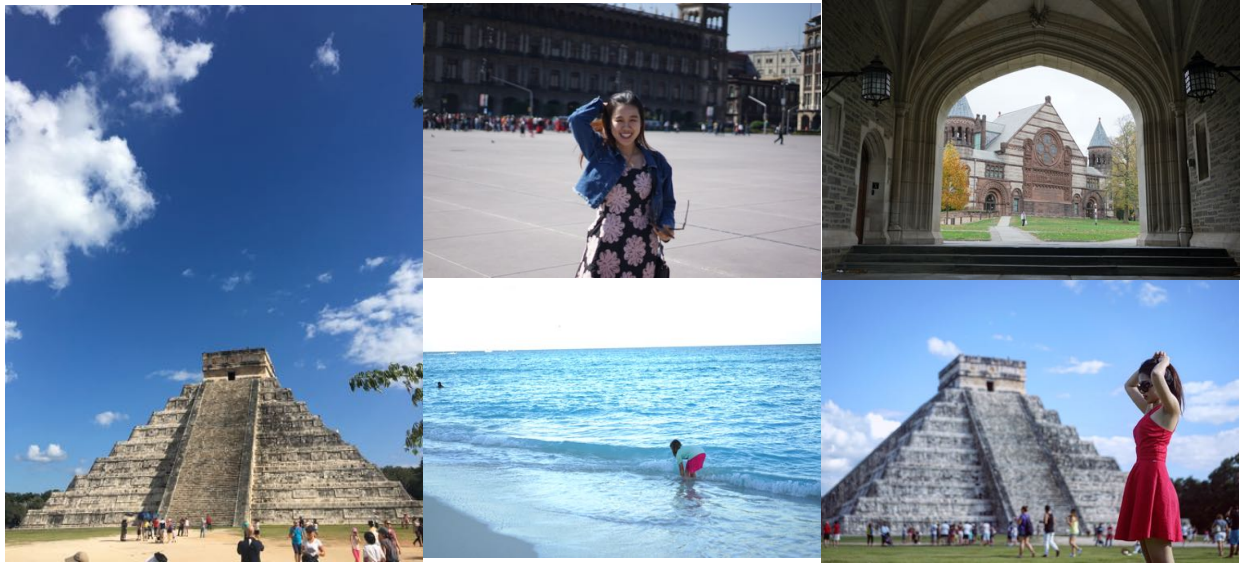
September

- ✓ Attended IBEX orientation session and NYU Welcome Week (freshman orientation). NYU Welcome Week included a series of events including city tours, shows, campus tours and mingling events which exchange students are welcomed to sign up and participate. We visited Brooklyn Bridge, Chinatown, Hudson River and had lots of fun
- ✓ IBEX Office gave out tickets to US Open, but couldn't see the game because of the heavy rain ☹
- ✓ Visited former roommate in Boston. Joined a house party in Boston College, and visited Harvard and MIT
- ✓ Went to an underground music concert held by Sofar
- ✓ Represented UST in the IBEX Fair
- ✓ Attended tons of information sessions and several interviews for different banks



October

- ✓ Visited MOMA (Museum of Modern Arts), Metropolitan Museum of Arts, Highline Park and Central Park. Tried food in Smorgasbord which is a popular weekend market. Watched Broadway including Anastasia and A Play That Went Wrong. Free tickets for A Play That Went Wrong was given out by IBEX Office. Tried different brunch places in SOHO.
- ✓ Went to Ed Sheeran' s music concert and watched my first NBA game (Knicks vs Brooklyn Nets)
- ✓ Visited friends in Philly. Went on weekend trip to Newport and Providence. Visited Brown University and Yale University. Lobsters in Providence were soooooo good :p
- ✓ Had few interviews including both face-to-face interviews and video conferences. Some banks will fly the interviewers to their New York office to first or final rounds.
- ✓ Had a day trip to the United Nations headquarter held by IBEX program



November

- ✓ November was all about the Thanksgiving break
- ✓ Had weekend trips to Princeton University and Washington DC before Thanksgiving. We also did shopping in Woodbury Outlets which is about an hour's ride from New York. I got some winter clothes which turned out to be useful because it can get really cold in New York during winter.
- ✓ Watched several Broadway shows including Miss Saigon, Sleep no more and Phantom of Opera. If I had to pick, Miss Saigon and Sleep no more are definitely must-gos
- ✓ Went to Mayday's music concert
- ✓ The final two months are also time when we explored lots of good restaurants. For meat lovers, definitely try out Peter Lagers. But remember to book at least two weeks ahead since it is really hard to get a seat
- ✓ For Thanksgiving, I went to Mexico and visited Mexico City and Cancun.



December

- ✓ Exam period started and you have all the projects, assignments coming, but I personally found the workload manageable
- ✓ Before exam period, we went skiing in Hunter Mountain. It snowed heavily that day and we had a gorgeous view. We also joined a free ice-skating event in Central Park organized by NYU. Despite the freezing weather, New York had the best view during Christmas season
- ✓ We had farewell lunch with fellow IBEX students and we also organized several farewell lunch and dinner among ourselves. It turned out to be really hard to say goodbye since the people I met here already turned my friends for life. Luckily, most of us we can reunion in Hong Kong several months later
- ✓ After the end of the semester, I joined my parents for a two-week tour in Westcoast. We visited San Francisco, Las Vegas, LA, and several national parks along the road

PART 2. General Exchange Information

VISA Procedures

Didn't receive my visa documents until the end of May. Applied for interviews right after receiving the documents and took the interview during summer. Be sure to plan ahead if you are not staying in Hong Kong during summer because the documents can arrive much later than expected.

Orientation Activities

Orientation lunch and OGS' s information session are compulsory. They will go through all the important notes about taking classes, visa and provide useful tips for living in New York. We will also meet around 20 other exchange students.

International Services and Activities

IBEX Program had lots of activities exclusively for us including tickets for US Open, Broadway and day tour to UN Headquarters. For visa-related issues, OGS (Office of Global Services) would be really helpful

Accommodations

I didn't get the housing offer at first, but I sent emails to the housing office and appealed. They offered me a place at Second Street Hall which was less than 10 minutes' walk away from Stern Building. The location was perfect and the room was okay although it was a low-cost room. The housing fee was \$6,600 for the whole semester.

Renting by yourself would definitely be cheaper. I had friends who rent a pretty decent place in K-town with the view of Empire Building for only \$2,000 per month, while my friend staying in single room in Alumni Hall paid \$10,000 for the whole semester.

Course Registration

IBEX Team will send emails to collect course choices approximately by the end of May. Exchange students can take up to two courses in Finance and no more

than one course in CAS. Courses in Stern are relatively easier to enroll in because we have priorities over full-time students. Popular courses in CAS are harder to get enrolled. One can always contact IBEX team for help with ease during add/drop period, so rest assured even if you had few flips when submitting the course registration form.

I took Equity Valuation, M&A, Financial Modeling and Analysis, Management and Organizations and Financial System. Equity Valuation and M&A are pretty insightful, and I would recommend for those who are determined for IBD. Financial Modeling & Analysis was all about building valuation model in Excel, I found it useful but not that interesting comparing to other courses. The professor of The Financial System was the chief economist in Citi and he had deep understanding of the financial system and central banks. The content was quite hard for me because I had little macro knowledge, but I felt that I have learnt a lot. Management and Organization is one of my favorite course. Prof. Michael North had a Ted-like lecture style. Definitely take it if you want a management 101 and learn some life lessons.

I also audited The Financial Service Industry (unofficially). Prof. Murphy was a former investment banker who will teach you everything you need to know about IB, HF, PE and all other major players in finance industry. The course was mind-blowing, and he would also give useful career tips.

Teaching and Assessment Methods

I basically love almost every professor of my courses. They all have rich experiences in finance industry and are also easy to approach. Assessment methods are similar as UST with midterms, finals and projects.

Finance and Banking

I opened an account at Chase because I love the design of the card, and also Chase ATM is everywhere. Chase app is easy to use as well and you can always check your balance.

Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities

I joined an event of Finance Society once. It is the most popular IBD club in Stern, but with a focus in NY recruiting. I signed up for mail list of international student association and they would send out information about APAC recruiting every now and then. I signed up for a lot of society's mail list at the beginning of the semester, but failed to participate in many of them because I was always busy travelling with my friends. But the club fair was definitely worth checking out.

Health and Safety

Health insurance is compulsory, but one can opt to down grade the plan and save lots of money. Some of my friends waived the requirements by registering for basic plans themselves, but I just kept my premium plan which made me feel more secured.

Food

Food would not be a concern since New York is one of the best cities for foodies. There are plenty of good places around NYU. Bowling, Mala Project and Saigon Shack are our go-tos. BCD Tofu House, Sze Chuan Mountain House, Shabu-Tatsu are good for cold winter days. There are plenty of good brunch places in SOHO for you to explore too. Yelp is useful for searching restaurants and Seamless is good for delivery. If you want cheap-eats, do check out on Mealpal.

Transportation

Subway is of course not as good as HK but I found it acceptable. Uber and Lyft are easy to use and cheaper than taking taxi. Walking is also a New Yorker thing, and we would always walk back to school from K-town after dinner in BCD Tofu House.

Communication

I signed up for a promotion program of CTEExcel and T-Mobile before I headed to US. If you use Wechat, do follow NYUCSSA. It has lots of useful information.

PART 3. Items to Bring

- ✓ Visa documents (including I-90 and DS-2019)
- ✓ Winter clothes since it would be freezing cold in Nov and Dec. No need for many summer clothes unless you intend to travel to west coast
- ✓ Sunglasses (bring it if you want to pretend to be New Yorker XD)
- ✓ Lenses and Japanese or Korean make-ups (hard to buy in New York)

PART 4. Useful Links and Contacts

- ✓ Rate My Professor
- ✓ IBEX Team
- ✓ OGS office