

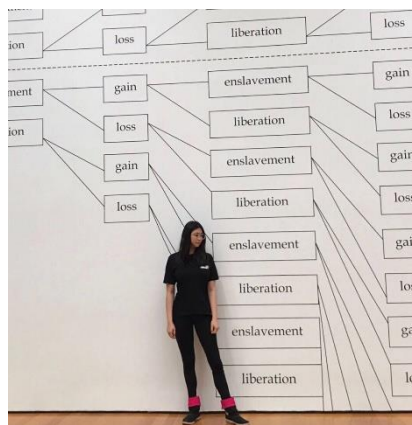
EXCHANGE REPORT

BOSTON COLLEGE, USA

CARROLL SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT

SPRING 2018

WANG, Li



PART I – MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG

January 2018

I arrived in Boston on Jan. 10. It was not as cold as I expected. The city was covered with thick snow, and the campus of BC was beautiful. I was allocated in an on-campus suite with other seven local girls. We have four double rooms, two bathrooms and a large living room to share.



My friends studying in Boston brought me to the Newbury comic shop, which might be heaven for comic/manga/game fans. We also went to the opera house and museums.



February 2018

I went to New York. I found a lot in common between this city and Hong Kong.

We made dumplings and celebrated spring festival together.

There's an event called FRESH Top 10, where each counter in the canteen provide their most popular dish on that evening.





The weather became much better in the late April, and sometimes we had outdoor classes. I became really good at getting lobster meat out since I had lobster for dinner everyday for a week when I realized I may not be able to finish my \$2500 compulsory meal plan.



May 2018

Last month of my exchange.

I slept over one of my final exams and the professor WeChat me with my friend's phone... I failed to finish the exam at last, but I felt really thankful that my friend and professor tried so hard to reach me and gave me the chance to do the first half of it. By the way American professors seems to be much friendlier on grades...

I went to New York again to attend my best friend's graduation ceremony. I also visited several museums and watched the Phantom in Broadway.

Final Exam Started 20 Minutes Ago!!!!
Today at 12:51

Hi Li,

We have started the final exam already at 12:30 and you are not here! I am not sure if this is just an oversight on your part but please note **you MUST take the final exam as scheduled otherwise you will run a serious risk of failing the course.**

Please rush to our regular classroom, Campion 303 ASAP to begin taking the final.

Best wishes,

Ranking	Letter	Remarks
1	A	
2	A	
3	A	
4	A	
5	A	
6	A	
6	A	>=MEAN+SD
8	A-	
9	A-	
9	A-	
11	A-	
12	A-	
13	A-	
13	A-	
13	A-	>=MEAN+0.5*SD
16	B+	
17	B+	
18	B+	>=MEAN
19	B	
20	B	
21	B	
21	B	
23	B	
23	B	
25	B	
26	B	
27	B	
27	B	
29	B	>=MEAN-SD
30	B-	
31	B-	
32	B-	>=MEAN-2*SD
MEAN	B+	



PART II – General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

BC provided the documentary support for visa procedures. There will be a detailed Visa application procedure sent with all the related documents provided by BC, as well as a list of required documents. As far as I remember, one of the most important thing should be the I-20 form, keep in mind to always bring it with you.

One thing I would suggest is to start your Visa application as early as you can. Though normally it will take you for around a week to get things done in the embassy, but it could be two or three times more than your expectation no reason. I had my interview done in early December, and the process just stopped there... until four days before my departure. It would be annoying, so try to start register for the interview right after you get those documents.

Orientation Activities

BC requires exchange students arrive about one week before semester starts (for spring semester) to participate orientation activities. There would be a talk to go through important information you might need to know for exchanged in students. Then were split to around 10 groups, with three BC student ambassadors in each group. It's kind of like orientation organized by societies in UST but replaced those designed activities with some random hanging around. It would be a good chance to meet new friends.

International Services & Activities

BC has Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) and Office of International Programs (OIP). Though I only went there once to submit the required documents, I think it might be a good place for you to seek help if you have encounter any related problem. The staff are nice.

Accommodations

For the seven of us went to BC in spring semester, 2018, we all were housed either in campus dorms or off-campus rental housing. There are three types of dorms: traditional, suite, and apartments. Apartments are off-campus hall with shuttle bus travel to school/MTR/groceries. Suite and traditional are on-campus hall with compulsory meal plan, which appears way too much for me... I had to eat lobster every day at the end of the semester to spend those money I was asked to charge in my card.

Course Registration

The course registration system of BC is quite old fashion. It made me feels like I'm programming rather than registering for courses. BC University pre-registers students in their courses before arrival. About one semester before exchange, we give our preference list with ten coursed we wish to take, and the school will arrange five of them for you. We can use their course registration system as their own students to modify our class schedule with total credits no more than 17.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

BC professors were so nice. They pay much attention on lectures and communication with students. Every professor remembers the name of every students in class. It was amazing. They were so responsible that I would feel guilty if I don't study hard. (Though I actually didn't...) My business law professor reached me and offer to give extra lecture after he knew am an exchange student from a place ruled by a totally different law system. I once wanted to drop this course because it appeared too difficult to me in the beginning, but in the end, it was the best course for me.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

There was a large stadium called Conte, where students play ice hockey and hold various activities. Normally we go to the fitness center call the Rec for sports facilities and classes. It was much larger than the gym in UST and offers free sports courses every day from sunrise yoga starts at 6:00 to Zumba ends at 21:30. It would cost you \$150 for a membership card, but it was covered by your insurance.

Finance and Banking

The expenses will depend on how much a student travels during exchange... and how much you go shopping. I didn't record how much I spent during the semester, I didn't travel much, because I spent most of my holiday time with friends in Boston and New York. Though I did bough a lot electronic device... and comic/manga related stuffs. The main currency used in USA is US dollar. I do recommend a bank account because it would be much more convenient to pay with a card from local bank. I heard some non-local students get their payments rejected when shopping online with non-local card. I opened an account in Bank of America, which seems to have some cooperation with Boston College that we have on shuttle bus stop in front of it and BOA ATMs on campus...But I did suffer a lot from it until now... Remember to always check your account, you'll be surprised. The bank charges me \$35 every time for overdraw from my debit card... which I don't even know can be overdrawn. I called them after the first \$35 was taken from my account to unable overdraw, they said OK and charged me again for it after a few days. Also, I don't recommend opening a credit card, because it will be very difficult for you to cancel it. I haven't got it canceled until now...(starts to cry).

Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities

There are quite a lot of clubs and societies in BC and they'll do their promotions at the beginning of the semester. Most of them are free of charge, you only need to write down your contact and they'll email you when there's activities. I registered for video game, dialogue, cycling, etc. Sad thing was they don't have film or archery club.

Health and Safety

BC has health center in at 2000 Commonwealth Ave., which is one of the off-campus apartments, two minutes' walk from the main gate of the lower campus. I only went there once for submission of my health examination report. I heard it was good, but sometimes it could take you long time to wait.

Food

I mostly got my food from the Corcoran Hall, which was called “lower”. There were no much differences among foods served in each canteen. Canteens would hold special events occasionally, like “BC Top 10” or Lobster event. I enjoyed them a lot.

There are also some good dinning places off-campus. A good chance to try out new restaurant would be an event called Dine out Boston, or Boston restaurant week. Restaurants will post out their special menu at a relatively low price on the event website (<https://www.bostonusa.com/dine-out-boston/>).

Climate

The climate made me wonder why anyone would decide to build a city there. It was extremely cold in winter and becomes extremely hot in summer. There could be really heavy snow and storm, so please remember to bring your snow boots (or you can buy it there). I felt like umbrella is a must but most of my local friends don't even have one... it seems like their hoodie can defeat any weather.

Communication

Easy. We chose a multiline plan to save money together (~\$35/month). I bought a SIM card from Taobao before departure, which was quite useful when I was busy settling down in the first few days. We can reach our professors easily through email.

Cautionary Measures

As mentioned in “Climate”, I would suggest students heading Boston to bring umbrella, winter coat, and snow boots.

Part III – Items to Bring

- Winter coat
- Umbrella
- Shoes (including snow boots and sneakers)
- Stationary
- Passport, ID, important documents
- Cash & cards
- Swimsuit and workout clothes
- Cold weather gear (gloves, hat, scarf)
- Toothbrush/ toothpaste
- Feminine products
- Makeup
- Medications
- Glasses
- Tissues
- Phone charger
- Laptop charger
- Towels
- Bed linens
- Backpack
- Water bottle
- Snacks
- Lamp
- Emergency contact list
- Headphones
- Hair ties
- Casual dresses & underwear
- Formal outfit
- Adapters