

Exchange Report

New York University Leonard N. Stern School of Business



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Part I – Monthly Activity Log

September

I was settling into the start of the semester and getting used to living in New York. Therefore, I mostly explored the city and nearby areas. I went apple picking in New Jersey with my friends. It is a popular activity for families in the United States and I had a lot of fun that day. I also went to see the Broadway show 'Wicked'. The performance was spectacular and I really enjoyed the show.



October

In October, I was quite busy as I had to prepare for exams. However, I still spent some times to explore the city. One of the highlights of this month was to visit the United Nations Headquarter. It was an activity organized by NYU. During the tour, I learnt more about the background and functions of the United Nations. I also had the chance to see the conference rooms where meetings were held. It was an eye-opening experience to me.

November

I visited Seattle for a weekend since midterm exams were over. On the first night, I visited Kerry Park to see the famous Seattle skyline. I also visited Pike Place Market to experience local culture. It was a relaxing trip and I really enjoyed it. Other than that, I also visited Central Park in New York. It had nice sceneries and the fall view of the park was beautiful.

December

It was really festive in New York City for Christmas and there were a lot of activities to do. I visited the Christmas market at Bryant Park and enjoyed some local food. It was a great way to get into the festive mood. I also visited the famous Christmas tree outside Rockefeller Center. It was a magnificent tree and I highly recommend to visit there during the Christmas season. The stores in New York also had great displays for Christmas. I enjoyed looking at the displays at Macy's and Saks Fifth Avenue. The city has a lot of awesome activities to do for Christmas.



Part II – General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

I could not provide any useful information as I do not need to apply for a US visa.

Orientation Activities

I attended a mandatory orientation activity where I got to know other exchange students and familiarized myself with the campus. Other than that, students can sign up for different orientation activities from the school based on their interests.

International Services and Activities

Telephone services

Telephone services are a bit expensive in the United States. One of the ways to save cost is to purchase prepaid SIM cards in Hong Kong in advance. It is much cheaper and the speed of the internet is quite good.

Accommodations

Students can apply for dormitories online but accommodation is not guaranteed. The dormitories are located mostly in Manhattan and they are within reasonable distances from the school.

Courses Registration

NYU provides a link to register for courses. They will also provide a guide that provides information such as course listings and rules for registration.

Teaching and Assessment Methods

The teaching method in NYU is pretty similar to HKUST. The lectures are interactive and the professors always make sure that students understand the key concepts. There are different assessment methods, including group projects, homework and exams.

Sports and Recreation Facilities

There are gyms and swimming pools near the campus that students can visit.

Finance and Banking

In the United States, it is common for people to pay with debit card or credit card. Some restaurants even have a 'no cash' policy. From my personal experience, I also found that it was very convenient to pay with a debit card. Therefore, I would recommend opening a college account and get a debit card.

Social Clubs and Networking opportunities

Some of the student clubs focus more on career development. They provide workshops and seminars that can enhance students' skills sets and meet professionals from different disciplines. There are also social clubs that focus more on interests. There are more information about the clubs on the school website.

Health and Safety

It is mandatory to purchase health insurance. Students can either purchase it through the school or through third parties. New York City, in general, is quite safe. However, I would still recommend staying alert at all times. It would also be a good idea to use ridesharing services if students are returning to their accommodations late at night.

Food

New York City has a lot to offer in terms of food. One of the most useful ways to find new restaurants is to use the app 'Yelp'. Users can search for specific cuisines and see the reviews of the restaurants. I often used this app to find restaurants near the campus. Tipping is also common in the United States. For table service restaurants, it is a norm to tip at least 15% of the bill.

Transportation

New York City subway is a good way to get around the city. It uses a flat fee system so I would recommend people to walk if the distance of the ride is short. NYU also provides buses to students to get to different areas.

Climate

New York City has a very different climate compared to Hong Kong. It is drier and much colder in fall and winter. It may also snow in November or December so I would recommend bringing winter hat and gloves if students are visiting in the fall semester.

Communications

English is the language that is widely used in New York City so communication should not be a problem for HKUST students.

Cautionary Measures

International SOS

This App notifies users any emergency or alerts related to the area they are staying in. It was pretty useful to know what and where to be cautious of.

Part III – Items to Bring

Items:

- Clothing
- Adapters for charger
- Chargers
- Travel documents
- Water bottle
- Sunglasses
- Camera
- Hand cream
- Medicine
- Laptop

For winter:

- Gloves
- Hat
- Scarf
- Earmuff
- Rain boots (For raining and snowing)
- Winter Coat

Part IV – Useful Links and Contacts

<https://www.nycgo.com>

This website provides information on upcoming promotions and activities to do in New York.

<https://www.yelp.com>

This website provides information about restaurants and users' reviews.

<https://www.ticketmaster.com>

This is a place to buy verified tickets of Broadway shows and other performances.