

# Exchange Report

## Rutgers University, USA



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**Fall 2018 Exchange**

## Part 1 Monthly Activity Log

### September

There were a lot of things that you had to settle down in the first month. I arrived Newark Airport on 26<sup>th</sup> August and checked in my dorm at the same day. Stuff gave me the room key and temporary resident card which we had to return it after we got the student ID. After from that, I re-arranged my time-table by the help of the Global Exchange Office (GEO) in Rutgers before the semester actually started which was on 4<sup>th</sup> September and took the vaccine to meet the immunization requirement. The GEO organized a series of orientation events for exchange and international students including lunch gathering, campus tour, opening ceremony etc. to let us familiar with the new environment and get along with the exchange students. Don't forget to join the RU Dining in the Dining Hall at the end of September because the college would hold a lobster dinner night!



### October

After I settled down and started to familiar with the community, I started to explore outside Rutgers. Travelling to New York City with my exchange buddy and other exchange students, we visited Time Square, Central Park, 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn etc. It was the first time when I felt like I was a New Yorker, grabbing a cup of coffee and walking with sunglasses on the main street in NYC. I also visited Philadelphia, including Independence Hall and UPenn. In fact, the most amazing event was in the end of October, Halloween. The whole Rutgers community was surrounded by thrill where there was a lot of Halloween parties that you could join. On the Halloween day,

I joined the 45th NYC Village Halloween Parade with some of my Chinese exchange friends.



## November

It was the craziest month during the exchange because of the Thanksgiving holidays. After I finished all the midterms before the holidays, guess what was next? TRAVEL! Because of my schedule, I was able to have 2 weeks of holidays. My friends and I went to Toronto for 4 days and 9 days in Florida, including Orlando, Miami and Key West. In Florida, we visited Disneyland in Orlando, it was the first time I recognized how important it was to have a driving license with me as I would save up a lot of money and time in transportation. We did check out Miami Beach where we saw the perfect coastline and Wynwood, the famous art district in Miami. To sum up my trips, it was an exhausted yet fruitful adventure.



## December

The last month of the semester was not as easier as I thought, because it was the time for me to catch up with all the finals. In fact, studying in Rutgers was unique. One of

my courses in Rutgers where professor could let the students vote whether to have final exam or not. Well, as we could expect, no final for that course. General speaking, the finals were quite straight-forward and the materials of courses was not that difficult. If you put some effort in it, I guarantee you would pay off. Another special thing was that, the materials that taught in class were extremely practical. For example, Labs in Econometrics let us have a chance to learn Python and create our own research topic at the end of the semester. After my finals, it was another round of travel with my friends to the West, including Las Vegas, Los Angeles and San Francisco. The exchange was the best time in my life.



## **Part 2 General Exchange Information**

### **1) Visa Procedures**

The J-1 Visa, DS-2019, would be provided by the SBM office and you need to pay for the application fee. At the same time, you would also need to pay the SEVIS fee online. After all these, you now could schedule and appoint interview with the US Embassy. The interview is a casual talk with the Officer to confirm your background and the intention behind of going to the US. After that, your passport will be taken away for 2 weeks.

### **2) Orientation Activities**

Rutgers will offer a series of orientation activities for the newcomers, both freshmen and exchange students. For Global Exchange Office, which mainly deal with exchange students, will organized same tea gathering and cultural sharing sessions for us to get along with each others. The Rutgers Students' Office, at the same time, will

have welcome ceremony, talks regarding transportation, working visa and club and society affairs for us to integrate into the RU community.

### **3) International Services and Activities**

The Global Exchange Office is responsible to take care of exchange students. You can reach them simply by walking in or email. As I mentioned, cultural exchange session, buddy program, tea gathering would be offered.

### **4) Accommodations**

There are a lot of accommodation in Rutgers across 4 different campuses. Imagine Rutgers University in New Brunswick is AT LEAST 5 times bigger than HKUST. I believe the Easton Avenue Apartment in College Avenue campus is the best with the perfect community where there is supermarket (with 3 minutes of walk), train station (with 2 minutes of walk), café, restaurants etc. To my own knowledge, the resident office would automatically assign a dorm for students. For exchange students like us, most of the time, we would be assigned to Easton Ave. Apartment.

### **5) Course Registration**

Course	Commentary
33:390:490:01 Fixed Income	1 QUIZ, 2 MTs, 1 Final Exam, 1 Written Report, 1 Lehman Paper  Taught by former FI portfolio manager  Learnt a lot of FI related insight from this professor
Econometrics 220:322:04	2MTs, 1 Final Exam, 7 Labs  Labs done by Python  Very practical knowledge
Laws and Economics 220:395:02	3 MTs, 1 Final Exam (final grade counted by best 3 out of 4)

	<p>Taught by business lawyer</p> <p>All tests were very straight-forward</p>
Logic, Reason, and Persuasion	12 in-class quizzes, No Final Exam

## 6) Teaching & Assessment Methods

Teaching and Assessment Methods vary between subject to subject as well as professor to professor. Indeed, one thing that I would like to figure out is that the professors in Rutgers are not as straight as the professors in HKUST. Students can always negotiate and raise their concern and difficulties to the professors. They are willing to help as well. The materials covered are general easy to learn and the exams including midterms and finals are straight forward. Some of the courses will tend to do absolute grading, for example, my Econometrics, Laws and Economics and Logic classes.

## 7) Sports and Recreation Facilities

There is fitness center everywhere in the campus for students. I lived in Easton Avenue Apartment where I could hit the gym room easily. There are also swimming pools, basketball courts (indoor and outdoor) and badminton courts for students. If you are keen to workout, there are a lots of FREE training courses that you can JUST WALK IN and join, for example, Body Pump, HIIT training, Yoga sessions taught by trainers. All these information, from the training classes to the opening hour of every gym room, you could find it simply by download RU Recreation App.

## 8) Cost Breakdown

Item	HKD
Air Tickets (round-trip)	6,924
Accommodation	34,000
Student Health Insurance	7,100
Visa and SEVIS	2,693
Travel Insurance	1,350
Grocery and Transportation	10,500
Trip	30,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>92,567</b>

## 9) Networking Opportunities

There are a lot of students' societies in fall semester. During the start of the semester, all the students' societies would gather in the main street in College Avenue to recruit new members. It is similar to the promotion period in the HKUST. I joined the Badminton Club and went to play for several times. For career development, there was a on-campus job application talk where Rutgers was trying to recruit students in helping the school.

## 10) Health and Safety

Health insurance is mandatory for all students in Rutgers, there is a health center in every campus. I brought some medicines from Hong Kong for emergence usage. Talking about safety, general speaking, Rutgers has a quite good community but bear in mind, DO NOT go into the downtown New Brunswick at night because even the local said it was a dangerous move. Apart from that, the problem of homeless is acceptable in Rutgers where they would come to you and beg for money, what you need to do is simply ignore them.

## **11) Food**

The food in the US is quite expensive and so does the meal plan. I personally do not recommend buying the meal plan offered by the school, so what you need to do is drop the meal plan payment from your term fee. As the supermarket is nearby, I highly suggest you cook your own food. There are also a lot of good restaurants near the Easton Ave. and you might take a Uber to Edison to Hmart (Korean supermarket) and there are also some Chinese restaurant you can find. My favorite is the Spicy-24 in Edison.

## **12) Transportation**

Rutgers provides shuttle buses from different campuses for FREE so you can save a lot from going to one campus to another. Simply download the Rutgers App to see the real-time schedule of the buses of each route.

Travelling to NYC and Philly are very convenient as well, 1 hour of train or bus to NYC and 2 hour of train to Philly. It costs US 35 for the round trip ticket to NYC. There is also a discounted ticket in student activity center which is only US 17.

## **13) Climate**

September – October (10-19 degree Celsius )

October – December (-5 – 15 degree Celsius)

The weather in New Brunswick, New Jersey varies a lot and is extremely DRY, so be prepared.

## **14) Communication**

English is the first language. Another language that I heard most of the time would be Spanish.

## **15) Cautionary Measures**

Homeless issue is pretty serious in the United States. You would expect to see them near Rutgers' community. Rutgers would have an email alert to inform their students



about the crime happened near its neighborhood. Also, as mentioned early, DO NOT go to downtown New Brunswick at night.

### **Part 3 Items to Bring**

- Travel related documents
- USD Cash
- Adapter
- Personal medicines
- Warm clothing (heattech, jackets)
- Business suit
- Laptop

### **Part 4 Useful links and Contacts**

#### **Course Schedule**

<https://sims.rutgers.edu/webreg/>

#### **Accommodation**

<http://ruoncampus.rutgers.edu/>

#### **Student Portal**

<https://my.rutgers.edu/portal/render.userLayoutRootNode.uP>

#### **Sakai, similar to Canvas in HKUST**

<https://sakai.rutgers.edu/portal>

#### **Blackboard, for Rutgers Business School student, similar to Canvas in HKUST**

[https://blackboard.rutgers.edu/webapps/login/?new\\_loc=%2Fwebapps%2Fblackboard%2Fexecute%2FcourseMain%3Fcourse\\_id%3D\\_91282\\_1%26task%3Dtrue%26src](https://blackboard.rutgers.edu/webapps/login/?new_loc=%2Fwebapps%2Fblackboard%2Fexecute%2FcourseMain%3Fcourse_id%3D_91282_1%26task%3Dtrue%26src)