



**New York University**  
**Leonard N. Stern School of Business**  
**Fall 2018**  
**Leung Cheuk Hang Matthew**  
**Bsc in Quantitative Finance**

## Table of Contents

Monthly Activities Log.....	3
August to September.....	3
October .....	4
November.....	6
December.....	7
General Exchange information .....	8
1. Visa Procedures.....	8
2. Orientation Activities .....	8
3. International Services and Activities.....	8
4. Accommodations.....	8
5. Courses Registration .....	9
6. Teaching and Assessment Method.....	9
7. Sports and Recreation Facilities.....	10
8. Finance and Banking.....	10
9. Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities .....	11
10. Health and Safety.....	11
11. Food .....	11
12. Transportation.....	11
13. Climate.....	12
14. Communication.....	12
Items to Bring .....	12

## Monthly Activities Log

### August to September

#### Orientation (IBEX and OGS)



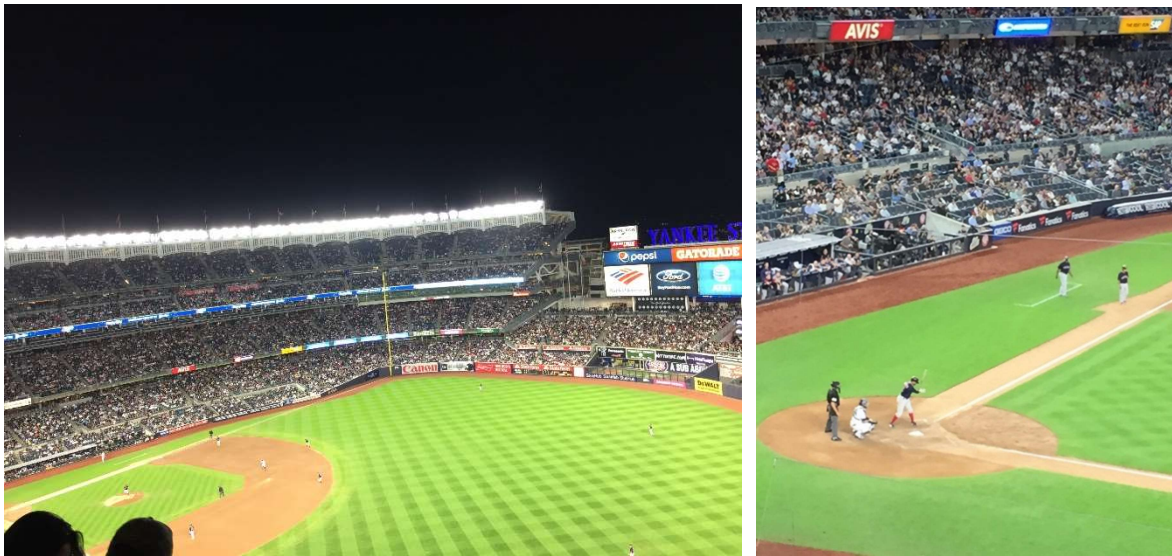
I went to the IBEX orientation and I met people from around the world. A lot of international foods were provided, and IBEX gave us a brief introduction about Stern and NYU.

#### The US Open 2018



All the IBEX students went to watch The US Open. IBEX offers free tickets and transportation (free metro card) for us to enjoy the awesome tennis match.

### Yankee Game



I went to see the baseball game (Yankee vs Red Sox). Free tickets were offered by IBEX.

### Statue of Liberty

Visited Statue of Liberty, free tickets offered by Third North. If you want to go to the ‘crown’ of statue of liberty, you should book it more than one month before.

## **October**

### UN Tour

The event was organized by IBEX, and it allowed us to visit the meeting room and learn more about the structure of UN.



Washington DC



I visited White house, Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery, Pentagon, and some museums located near National Mall

NBA Game (Nets vs Warrior)



I watched the Nets vs Warrior game. I am a Warrior fans and I felt so excited when I can watch Curry face to face in a close distance. If you want to watch a cheaper NBA game, you can choose the game held in Barclay center instead of the New York Knicks Stadium.

### Atlanta

I went to the world of coca cola, Aquarium, College football hall of fame, CNN and Emory University.



### **November**

#### Boston

I went to the freedom trail, Harvard University, museum and ate some lobsters during thanksgiving.



## Pennsylvania

I went to Pennsylvania during a Saturday. I bought the ticket online and took the megabus<sup>1</sup> to Pennsylvania. It only took me a day to travel and see the whole city. I visited University of Pennsylvania, city hall and china town.



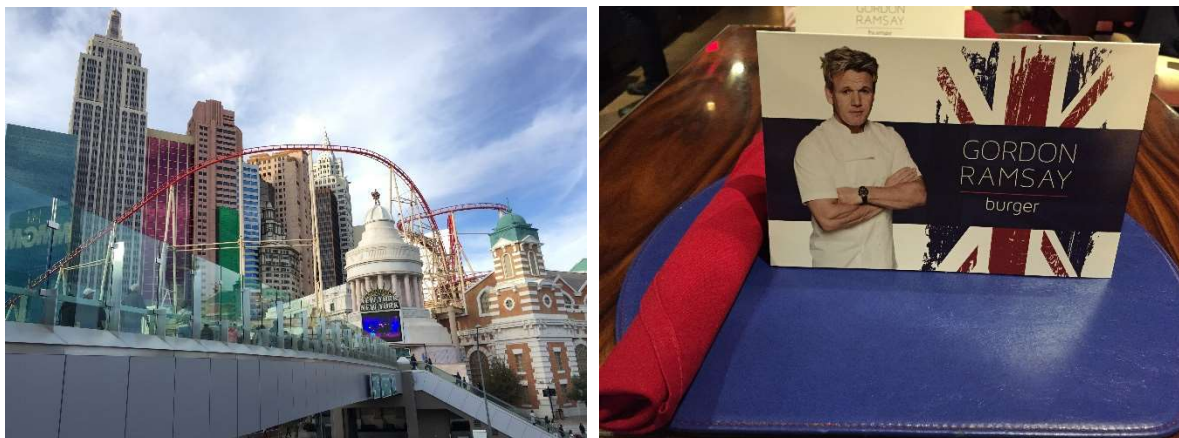
## **December**

### Federal Reserve Tour

I joined the gold vault tour, you need to reserve it online one month before your visit. The tour allows you to see the gold vault in person and learn more about the functions and history of federal reserve. You can find more information here<sup>2</sup>.

## California

I was preparing for the final examination and did not go out much. After the semester ended, I went to LA, Las Vegas, and then went back to Hong Kong.



---

<sup>1</sup> <https://us.megabus.com>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.newyorkfed.org/aboutthefed/visiting>

## General Exchange information

### 1. Visa Procedures

To apply for the U.S visa is simple, you can apply it online on the website<sup>3</sup> and request for J1 Visa. You can follow the steps and pay the fee to reserve a timeslot and go to the U.S embassy to take the interview. The interviewer will ask you a few simple questions to test your English level and why you are going to U.S. But just a kindly reminder, do not bring a bag or computer while going into the U.S embassy.

### 2. Orientation Activities

The orientation organised by IBEX team is a compulsory activity that you must attend. I had a lunch with other incoming IBEX students inside the Stern. Also, they will walk you around the campus and tell you about the facilities around NYU Stern. Other than the IBEX orientation, you also need to attend the OGS orientation. It is organised by another office, it is also compulsory. They will tell you about the visa and legal status of J-1 students and you need to register online to choose the time slot for the orientation.

### 3. International Services and Activities

If you need any help about visa or other kind of stuff, you can go to find OGS to find out more information. There is a society of international student society, they organised activities and allow you to bond with other international students as well.

### 4. Accommodations

I lived on campus, and I was given Third North as my dorm. The cost of living on campus is expensive, and a two people suite cost 8282 USD (Without the dining dollar). It only takes me 15 mins to walk to Stern, and it is close to supermarket and has a dining hall below the dorm. However, one of the cons is that you must pay the reservation fee and accommodations fee before they give the result of dorm to you. So basically, you don't know which dorm they are giving you before you pay. Meal plan is not compulsory for living on campus, but they will combine the accommodations fee and the dining fee. If you choose not to enrol in the meal plan you should not pay for the meal plan at the first place. You can choose different meal plans, but keep in mind that meal plan are not refundable even if you have many dining credit left. Also, NYU has many dining halls which provide buffet for breakfast, lunch and dinner only for one dinning credit which is quite cheap. I did not enrol in the meal plan as I want to try out more foods in New York City.

---

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ustraveldocs.com/hk/hk-steps.asp>



## 5. Courses Registration

Below are the courses that I took during my exchange study:

Catalog Number	Title	Instructor	Credits
FINC-UB - 43	Futures & Options	Brenner	3
FINC-UB - 49	Principles of Securities Trad	Hasbrouck	3
FINC-UB - 41	Equity Valuation	Segram	3
MULT-UB - 27	The Financial System	Schoenholtz	3
STAT-UB - 14	Intro Theory of Probability	Melnick	3
STAT-UB - 18	Forecast Time Series Dat	Hurvich	3

The IBEX team will contact you through email and they will help you enrol in courses once you give them your preference. Although you can only take up two finance courses and 5 courses at maximum, you can contact IBEX team and ask them to see if they allow you to take additional courses. Also, most students in Stern only enrol for 5 courses in one semester, it is because the workload for one course is like 1.5 workload in HKUST. If you want to focus on your study and get a good result, I strongly recommend you to take 5 courses maximum at Stern.

## 6. Teaching and Assessment Method

Equity Valuation, The Financial System, and Principles of Securities Trad are the courses that I recommend you to take if you are going to study at Stern.

Equity Valuation are taught by famous professor (Aswath Damodaran) if you are going to Spring semester, and this course is the most famous course that Stern students will take. You will learn about financial modelling and learn DCF in depth. The professor taught me very well and very interactive. You could also gain access to Capiq and crystal ball to do what they taught you.

The financial system course is equivalent to a common core FINA 1303 in HKUST. But the financial system in Stern is taught by Schoenholtz who was the chief economist of Citi Bank. He taught very well and

provided comprehensive course materials. He taught about the U.S financial system in depth such as financial crisis, regulation, U.S Fed and ECB.

For Principles of Securities trading, you can learn about trading knowledge in depth. If you are interested in sales and trading, this is the course that you should take. This course doesn't have written assignment, but you need to download RIT and conduct trading in class and after class hours to complete certain objective that the professor assigned for you. There were 5-6 trading exercises in total, it is very interesting as you can really try out the feeling of being a trader.

For forecasting timeseries, you need to learn some basic coding of R in order to do the homework to calculate the maximum likelihood for ARCH and GARCH model, you also need to use MINITAB to do the rest of the homework.

For future and options, the professor is actually the founder of the VIX, and there were two professors teaching this course together. The course seems to be very theoretical instead of practical. Six homework in total, and three homework need to use excel macro (VBA) which will be provided by the professor.

For probability, the professor taught us very bad and he did not prepare the course material for us. He wrote on the board all the time, and most of the exam questions is irrelevant on his teaching or the homework he assigned. 11 homeworks in total, and average 10 questions for one homework. The workload for this course is insane. If I were you, I would not take it.

Almost all courses have homework and projects. The style of teaching and exam is similar to HKUST. But some courses may allow open book and laptop, depends on what professor teach you.

## **7. Sports and Recreation Facilities**

There are two gym facilities near NYU. The 404 fitness and the palladium gym. For palladium gym, there are swimming pool and basketball court.

## **8. Finance and Banking**

You can open a bank account in Chase, and you can get \$100 USD for free. It is a college offer, and you can go to student link center to get those documents in order to open a bank account in Chase. You can use the debit card to pay almost everywhere in NYC. If you choose to use cash, then you may encounter some difficulties when you are dinning outside the campus. For example, some restaurants became cashless and

you cannot order by paying cash. Also, if you lack money, you can use the Union pay (銀聯) to get money from NYU campus ATM machine with only one-dollar transaction fee.

ITEM	AMOUNT (USD)
Housing	\$8282
Travelling	\$3500
Dining	\$2000
Others	\$2000

### **9. Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities**

In NYU Stern, you can participate different social clubs. Most of the clubs has specific concentration such as finance, real estate, marketing and management etc. Most of the clubs held events or meetings during the Stern common hour (12:15pm to 14:00 pm) They provide free foods all the time, so if you really want to join the event, you do not need to prepare your lunch. I joined the finance club and quantitate finance club. They had presentation every week and financial news update every week. They also invite some firms to had recruitment talks, such as Point72, JPM etc.

### **10. Health and Safety**

NYU requires every student to have their own insurance. However, the NYU insurance is very expensive, thus I bought my insurance with the ISO. ISO had cheaper insurance that meet the same requirement of NYU. You can waive the NYU insurance after you bought the ISO insurance. You can go to the ISO website to view for more information or you can stop by the ISO insurance booth during the welcoming day and ask the staff. I bought the ISO insurance for 4 months and waived the NYU insurance.

### **11. Food**

You can buy a meal plan and eat at NYU dining hall as I mentioned above, or you can eat outside the campus. There are a lot of restaurants near Stern or the Greenwich village. You can explore on your own. If you want to reheat your food, there is a microwave located in third food in Stern building.

### **12. Transportation**

The public transportation is comprehensive in New York. You can take the subway and go anywhere you want. But I don't usually take the subway, it is because the subway is old and dirty. If you are lucky, you may even encounter some homeless people inside the train. But if you live on campus, you can just walk and go to school. Also, if you choose to live in New Jersey, you can also take the PATH to get to Manhattan. You can also walk around Manhattan. Just a warm reminder, people in New York don't follow the traffic light, they usually "J-Walk".

### 13. Climate

The Weather in New York is warm during AUG to OCT. But during NOV to DEC, the weather is freezing. The weather is so cold outdoor, so you should bring more clothes if you are going during the spring semester.

### 14. Communication

All NYU students and professor speak in English, and they are caring and helpful. You can also speak Mandarin as some mainland students may understand. If you do not know something just ask people and people around you are willing to answer.

## Items to Bring

USD Cash
Adaptor
Financial Calculator
US Visa
NYU health form / vaccine record (true copy)
Phone card bought in HK <sup>4</sup>

---

<sup>4</sup> you should buy it in HK instead of having a data plan in US, cuz it is costly to have a data plan in US.