

2019-20 SPRING

EXCHANGE REPORT

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY, USA



XINGYI YU

Operations Management & Marketing
Year3

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Monthly Activity Log

January 2020

I landed at the Detroit airport on the morning of the second day of 2020. While waiting for passing the customs, I booked a ticket for the Michigan Flyer Bus and then arrived my hall three hours after landing. Using Google Maps, I found a target and bought necessities and mineral water in that afternoon.

A welcome day was arranged for us to know more about the laws, cultures and instructions, during which we also met other exchange students and luckily, I made friends with a few of them. I also signed up for the campus tour and a one-day skiing trip organized by the MSU International Office. Apart from joining the officially-organized activities, I spent a few days walking around the school with my friends to familiarize myself with the campus. It was important to find out where the class rooms and canteens were. In late January, we took a three-day trip to Chicago, where we learned about why Chicago is called "Windy City" because of a sudden snowstorm, tasted the specialty deep dish pizza, and visited the famous museums and galleries.



February 2020

Three of the four courses I took each had three regular exams and one final exam, and exams started from the first week of February. I took two Marketing courses which were full of group discussions, case studies and group projects, and I also took an Abnormal Psychology and a Human Nutrition out of my interests, so I attended all the classes. Our spring break was from Feb.29th to Mar.7th, so I flew to New York on the last day of February and visited Times Square for the first time.



March 2020

The first half of March was a colorful journey from New York to Philadelphia and then to Washington. We saw the different pace of life and culture of different cities. I remember vividly the numerous memorials in Washington. During our trip, we predicted the outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States from news data and joked that we might have to go back to China earlier than planned. I went back to MSU on March 7th to continue my classes. Three days later, at noon on Wednesday, I suddenly received an email announcing the immediate suspension of all face-to-face class. Considering the possibility of total suspension of flights in the future, I immediately booked a flight back to China in two days and contacted my professors to promise the "remote final exams".



April 2020

Continued classes, projects and exams remotely, finished the semester by the end of April.

General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

Michigan State University (MSU) delivers visa required documents to students by mail. Students should make an interview appointment with the U.S. Consulate as soon as they get the Form DS-2019 from MSU. I would recommend students attending the pre-exchange information session held by our SBM office, important reminders are provided.

On the interview day, students need to prepare the following documents:

- Current passport and old passports
- Identification photo (passport photo size)
- Original interview appointment letter and one copy
- All documents approved and signed by MSU
- Online payment receipts
- Copy of Form DS-2019

-Evidence of financial resources

It would be better if you can arrive the U.S. Consulate 20-30 minutes earlier than their scheduled time as the security check will take quite some time. Be reminded that people are not allowed to take any belongings with size larger than a folder into the Consulate. A valid VISA would allow students to enter the U.S. 30 days before the program starts and stay until 30 days after the program ends.

Orientation Activities

A full-day information session is mandatory. The session involves important information like immigration rules, Michigan State Laws and campus rules, so please attend as required. Other official orientation activities such as skiing trip and campus tour are optional, I would recommend students attending at least one to experience the local daily activities and culture.

International Services & Activities

The Office for International Students and Scholars (OISS) provides support to exchange students. Students can make an appointment via email before arrival and OISS organizes coffee chat every Friday for students to ask questions and make friends.

Accommodations and Food

A meal plan is associated with on-campus accommodations, which allows students to have meals at any time during the dining hall operation periods and take snacks from Spartan one time per day. There are several canteens in each neighborhood, so no need to worry about the distance from the hall to the canteen.

I stayed at the Live On Campus and my building is named West Wilson, located in the South Neighborhood. Two people in a room, and two rooms share a bathroom.

****Remember to sign the housing contract to finalize the housing arrangement and receive the housing assignment.**

Courses Registration

These are the courses I took during the semester:

Course Code	Course Title	Transfer Back to UST?
MKT302	Consumer Behavior	Yes
MKT351	Retailing Management	Yes
PSY280	Abnormal Psychology	Yes
HNH150	Human Nutrition	Yes

MSU asks students to provide a list of 10 courses that you want to take, and they help to communicate with the department and enroll. Some courses have prerequisites, if you find you have taken similar courses in UST after comparing the syllabus, communicate the coordinator and provide required documents. 12-credit is a

minimum and 15-credits is a maximum. Check the course catalog as early as possible.

Teaching and Assessment Methods

Course Code	Assessments Involved
MKT302	3 paper assignments, 3 exams+1 final, group project, attendance
MKT351	2 case studies and presentations, 1 simulation, 1 midterm+1 final, attendance, in-class quiz
PSY280	1 case diagnosis, 3 exams+1 final
HNF150	Weekly assignments/quiz, 3 exams+1 optional final

(Some were adjusted because of the COVID-19 and remote study.)

Some courses require online platform purchasing and textbook code purchasing.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

Gyms in the halls are free of charge, with treadmills and basic machines such as chest press and leg press machine. I went to the gym in my neighborhood three times per week. There are also two fitness centers called IM Sports West/East, they charge membership fee, and provide more machines.

Finance & Banking

I created my bank account in the MSU Federal Union which is located on the Grand River Street, right across MSU and next to the #31 bus stop. I created the account mainly for the zero-service-fee when paying the program fee, otherwise, it would charge hundreds of extra fees.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

MSU has lots of student societies. To make friends, you can also sign up for more official activities such as skiing trips and shooting trips. There is Tempe Fair held by CSSA every year during the lunar Chinese New Year, food and games with award settings are provided.

Health & Safety

A qualified health insurance is mandatory for Non-U.S. students. You will be required to pay for a health insurance provided by MSU and a card will be delivered to your mail box. If you are unfortunately sick during your exchange, you can enjoy a few free visits to the on-campus doctor by having the insurance.

MSU is a pretty safe place to study. they have their more than 80 sworn police officers certified by the State of Michigan on campus. Additional campus safety and security services include late night transport/escort service, 24-hour emergency telephones, lighted pathways/sidewalks and controlled residence hall access. However, burglary or sexual assault can sometimes be reported by email, so be sure to lock your dorm door and try not to go out in the mid night.

Transportation

On-campus buses are free of charge, and the lines basically cover all the neighborhoods and teaching buildings. It is difficult to take the buses in the crowded noon, but it is very convenient to take the buses in other time periods because the campus is really large.

There are two airports. Lansing airport is a 15-minute drive from MSU, but airlines are quite limited. Detroit airport is 2-hour drive from MSU, Michigan Flyer Bus is recommended.

Climate

The weather is very cold, there are always heavy snow from January to March. The temperature is about negative 15 degrees. The heat is everywhere, and you can take buses to class, so the weather is not too much of a problem.

Items to Bring

Down Jackets	Gloves	Underwear	Sweaters	Boots
Umbrella	Laptop	Chargers	Camera	Quilt
Cash	Credit Cards	Documents	Medicine	

Useful Links and Contacts

MSU My Housing account: <https://liveon.msu.edu/>

MSU Course Schedule: <https://schedule.msu.edu/>

MSU Student Info: <https://stuinfo.msu.edu/>

Michigan Flyer Bus: <http://www.michiganflyer.com/>

Office of the Register: <https://reg.msu.edu/>