



Exchange Report

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, USA
LEONARD N. STERN SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

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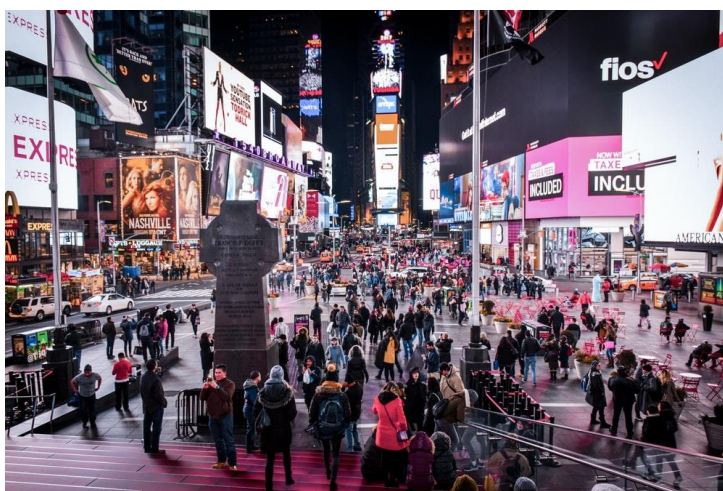
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Part I Monthly Activity Log

January 2020

I arrived New York one day before the start of the school (Jan 26) as I can only check-in my dorm that day. I managed to check all the items on the OGS Arrival Form, pick up my student card and open my bank account on the first day. My high school friend showed me around the campus, including Tisch Hall, KMEC and Silver where I had most of my classes. I attended the IBEX orientation on the other day and met IBEX exchange students from other schools. We together signed up different clubs at the NYU Club Fest at Kimmel and Stern Club Fair at third floor lounge at Tisch. And we marked the end of the month by visiting the Times Square.



February 2020

There were three-week-long festival running from Jan. 21 to Feb. 9, which includes NYC Broadway Week, NYC Restaurant Week, and NYC Must-See Week. For Broadway week, you can see the latest Broadway shows, like the Wicked, Chicago, Hamilton at two-for-one price. I watched the Phantom of the Opera with my friends. This was one of the highlights in early February. The show was incredible with the finest scenery, magical music, great actors, singing and special effects. As for the NYC Restaurant Week, this was the semi-annual celebration of fine dining throughout NYC at an accessible price (prix-fixe meals at 360+ restaurants; two-course lunch, \$26; three-course dinner, \$42). You can get to recover your food coma by booking as many times as you want. With my IBEX friends, I checked out the Lunar New Year celebration organized by the NYU Singapore Students Association to catch some Chinese New Year vibes at NYC.



One of the reasons staying in NYC is you can access a variety of nice Asian cuisines around time-to-time. There is no such thing as homesick and eating burgers and fries all day like your other US exchange counterparts. During the second week, I visited my friend living in k-town for dinner and I also got chance to refill my skincare products there.



Meanwhile, simply showing your NYU ID card, you can have free admission to some of the NYC's best cultural institutions, including MoMA, Whitney Museum of American Art, and

American Museum of Natural History. Some got special free nights for students and some require a donation of any dollar amount - you can simply pay a dollar to enter. I visited The Metropolitan Museum of Art at early February. Each may take up around one day to fully explore the collections.



For one of the weekends, I visited my friend exchanging at Wharton, University of Pennsylvania. He showed me around Philly. We visited the Philadelphia Museum of Art and had dinner at Fogo de Chão, one of the best Brazilian Steakhouses. The place is more like a university town and quite different from NYC.



On the third week, there was a long weekend (Washington's Birthday on Monday). My friend met me up at NYC and we got to visit around the city, including the area around Wall Street, Dumbo, China Town, SoHo etc. We had nice dinners around East Village.



After meeting up another friend exchanging at University of California, Berkeley, we took a four-hour bus ride to Boston. Boston as a bookish and cerebral enclave is one of the best cities in the States. Thus, we took a visit to Harvard Business School and MIT on the first day of the weekend trip. We had our dinner at Neptune Oyster to taste lobster rolls, oysters, and clam chowder.



On the second day, we walked around the freedom trail and Quincy Market. Boston is the best walking city in US where you can grab a lunch at the seafront at any time.



March 2020

There are a lot of nice brunch places around NYC, I tried out Hi-Collar, Clinton St. Baking Company, Take 31 and Il Fiorista. I also revisited the Metropolitan Museum of Art for my art history object paper.



I was fortunate enough to start my spring break trip before COVID-19 outbreak in America. Exchanging in US makes it cheaper and easier to travel South America countries that you may not do so from Hong Kong. I joined my friends and took a 11-day trip to South America, visiting Chile and Argentina. We hiked at Torres del Paine National Park, the eighth wonder of the world, trekked at Perito Moreno Glacier and visited around Santiago, El Calafate and Buenos Aires.



I planned to travel to Florida and Miami after the South America trip to visit my family with my friends. Yet, in view of the scale of the COVID-19 pandemic, we decided to cancel our trip and back Hong Kong instead. My exchange was brutally cut to an end without

proper farewell to my friends. I was still grateful for all the people I met, all the places I went and all the things I do.



Starting from March 8, NYU had moved online and I spent rest of the time having classes on zoom in April, completed my final presentations and exams around early May.

April 2020

Not much information can be provided due to COVID-19.

May 2020

Not much information can be provided due to COVID-19.

Part II: General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

The NYU International Exchanges & Special Programs Team will require you first complete the Stern International Business Exchange Program (IBEX) application first to matriculate you as NYU students. Then the Office of Global Services (OGS) will assist you to process the visa paperwork, which is DS-2019 (Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status). Once you receive the DS-2019 produced and sent by the OGS by mail and pay the SEVIS plus consulate general fees, you can proceed with your visa application in your country of citizenship or permanent residence.

Do plan your trip to enter the US as you can enter the US no earlier than 30 days before and no later than the begin date as indicated on your DS-2019.

You should contact OGS for visa approval if you plan to travel out US during spring break/weekends.

Orientation Activities

Upon arrival you will need to first complete your OGS arrival form and fulfill other requirements according to the OGS Arrival Checklist. Do remember pick up your NYU ID one the first day of class. There will be two mandatory orientations, one being the international student orientation that you can understand your legal requirements as a J-1 student at NYU. Another being the one organized by IBEX. You can meet other exchange students from other schools, IBEX E-board members and your exchange buddy there. The team will distribute a packet regarding academic items, campus and neighborhood resources and other tips like 101 things to do in NYC.

International Services & Activities

The IBEX team had been extremely helpful and organized. They will create an information portal to keep you updated of all the to-do items and upcoming events, including IBEX Mingle Enjoy dinner where you can socialize with Stern students - who have studied or are preparing to study abroad, dim sum & lower Manhattan tour and New York Islanders vs. Montreal Canadians hockey game.

Accommodations

You have two options for housing during your semester. First being off-campus housing, yet it may be time-consuming to search for a nice deal as accommodation in NYC is expensive. Second being on-campus NYU housing and that was what I applied for, which costs around USD 8,522 per semester. I applied for Carlyle Court near Union Square Park which center around a large, tree-filled courtyard and got two lounge spaces. I got a one-bedroom suites that accommodate three to four residents. The location of the hall is very

convenient as the subway station is just downstairs and next to the building is fifth avenue where you get to shop a lot.

Courses Registration

Do attend the exchange pre-departure briefing session to learn about credit transfer, SBM exchange information and other reminders in detail.

To start with, the IBEX Team will send you a course registration guide. You will then be required to fill in the IBEX course registration worksheet and submit to the team. Meanwhile, you can start cross-checking the credit transfer database of HKUST and submit course mapping if needed. The team will then follow up with you if they got any questions and then register you for classes. You will receive the confirmed class schedule around late November. Do remember that you cannot add/drop courses yourself and email the team for any changes before add/drop period.

You must enrol in 12 to 18 credits for full time enrolment and to maintain your visa status. You may only take one non-Stern (i.e. non-business) class from the College of Arts and Science (CAS). You cannot register for more than two Economics classes and two Finance classes.

I enrolled myself in five courses below:

ARTH-UA – 1: History of Western Art I

This is an introduction to and survey of the development of art from Prehistory through the Gothic period. Like humanities course in HKUST, this course got both lectures and recitations per week and attendance will be taken. There are two object papers which require you to visit the Met, one final comparison paper, one midterm exam and one final exam.

MKTG-UB – 64: Global Marketing Strategy

This is a course on market expansion. You get to learn a set of tools and frameworks, such as market, competitor analysis, product adaptations, target persona, customer journey, brand positioning, media strategy, business models etc. during lectures. You will apply such on a project (group of two) and present at the end of the course. Aside from lectures, the class got several case write-ups, guest lectures and two individual presentations.

FINC-UB – 8: Advanced Corp Finance

This course analyses the major financial decisions, including investment valuation (capital budgeting), capital structure and dividend policy, and mergers and acquisitions. Most of the time will be spend on case discussions to see how the concepts of capital structure applied in real world situations. You will need to hand in case write-ups as group

assignment (group of three). Aside from these, you will have one mid-term and one take-home final case analysis.

FINC-UB – 43: Futures & Options

This course is an introduction to derivative securities examining futures, forwards, options, swaps, and credit derivatives. You get to understand the uses (and potential misuses) of derivative securities in the management of risk and relevant valuation and hedging of derivative securities. You will have two mid-terms and one final exam.

BSPA-UB – 48: The Theory and Practice

This course will couple theory with the practice of Sustainable Investing. You will get to compare investor strategies, one midterm paper, one elevator pitch and work with another partner on creating fund pitch to be included in the class portfolio. The professor invited guest speakers from BlackRock, Morgan Stanley, NY State Common Retirement Fund, Citi and many more to share their perspectives on ESG investing.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

NYU got a similar teaching & assessment method as HKUST. Due to the school's prominent location, many professors own relevant industry experience and can invite different interesting and well-known guest speakers in class. Students are more curious in learning and they actively debate, ask questions, and participate in class. Grades are quite inflated there and courses are generally more chill when compared to HKUST.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

There are two gyms on campus, naming 404 fitness near WSQ and Palladium near Union Square, though students seldom go there as they usually have their own gym membership at gyms like Equinox, Planet Fitness. There are also many boutiques around and you can download apps like Class Pass (two-week free trial) to join a variety of classes.

Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)

Do not carry or store large amount of cash. I brought around USD 5000 with me to NYC. You can open a student bank account with Chase that provides you with free USD 100 offer and there are many Chase branch around NYC. Bring your passport, money to deposit, and an 'enrolment certificate' letter from the NYU Registrar to the branch to open the account. You can pay anything by debit card, and it would be more convenient if you got Apple Pay. Do remember bring a credit card and a debit card with union pay with you as back-up.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

You can join the NYU Club Fest (over 300 clubs) and Stern Club Fair (14 clubs) during the first week of school. Club meetings are very casual and you can hop in any time you want during the common hour to grab a free lunch.

Health & Safety

We will be automatically enrolled in and billed for the NYU-sponsored student health insurance comprehensive plan upon registration each semester. We may elect to instead take the basic coverage, which provides more limited coverage, or waive coverage if they are able to secure coverage that meets the University's criteria. New York is generally safe, just do try to move in groups and stay in Manhattan after mid-night.

Food

As you sign up for NYU Housing, they usually will require you enrol in a meal plan (i.e. meal plans are mandatory for some residence halls, do check before application). Yet, I recommend not to purchase the NYU meal plan because there are many restaurants, cafes, and other food options available around the university and residence halls. NYU also got Asian supermarkets around (H-mart, Sunrise mart).

Recommended apps: Yelp, OpenTable, DoorDash, Postmates, Chowbus and Resy.

Transportation

Once you have arrived at the local airport and have picked up your luggage, follow the signs that read "Ground Transportation" and proceed to the ground transportation information counters, bus stops, or taxi dispatchers. For your own safety, only use uniformed taxi dispatchers to get a taxi (yellow or lime green cabs) and ignore offers of transportation from solicitors in the terminal. Ignore non-uniformed persons offering to assist with baggage. Usually, it would be cheaper to hail a yellow cab from airport than Uber/ Lyft to your place.

For the rest of the time, I usually walk and take metro. You can take Flixbus if travelling to Boston, DC, and Pennsylvania.

Climate

The weather is fine since it was way dryer than Hong Kong and got heater indoors. It would be quite like Japan's and Korea's winter weather. Do check weather forecasts time-to-time as the weather condition fluctuates a lot.

Communication

I bought data cards in Hong Kong which are generally cheaper than plans in the States. If you want to get a local number, you can download google voice at US Apps Store.

Cautionary measures

There are a lot of homeless people around the city and just try to stay away from districts like upper Manhattan and Brooklyn at night.

Part III: Items to Bring

Carry-On Luggage:

- Passport with DS-2019
- Money
- Wallet
- Laptop, phone, and other electronics
- Travel outlet adapter
- Any medicine you may be using

Luggage:

- Clothes you most like to wear (from lightweight to warm, casual to dressy)
- DON'T PACK TOO MUCH, there are plenty of shops (e.g. CVS, Walgreens, Trader Joes at every corner) in New York and you shop on Amazon (students can sign up for six-month Amazon Prime trial) easily
- 1 set of nicer clothes (for shows, dinner, night out)
- Insulated down jacket for winter
- Lightweight jacket
- A few sweaters/cardigans/fleeces
- Umbrella
- Undergarments
- Socks
- Sleepwear
- Gloves/mittens
- Woolen hat
- Scarf

- Sunglasses
- 2 pairs of shoes (sneakers and dress)
- Waterproof pair of boots
- Backpack/messenger bag

Part IV: Useful Links and Contacts

- <https://www.usembassy.gov/>
- <http://uc.international@stern.nyu.edu/>
- <https://www.stern.nyu.edu/portal-partners/current-students/undergraduate/study-away/incoming-exchange-students/application-process>
- <http://bit.ly/ebook2019nyuogs>
- <https://www.studentuniverse.com>
- <https://www.ratemyprofessors.com/>
- <https://www.nyu.edu/students/student-information-and-resources/student-visa-and-immigration/newly-admitted/when-you-arrive/mandatory-check-in.html>
- http://d31hzlzk6dizh5.cloudfront.net/20191022/2b/b6/oe/3f/f8bid4667041e0edd12c9748/Off_Campus_Housing_Resources_Spring_2020.pdf
- <https://www.stern.nyu.edu/portal-partners/current-students/undergraduate/academics/course-syllabi>