

# EXCHANGE REPORT

INDIANA UNIVERSITY, USA

2022  
FALL



KELLEY SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

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INFORMATION SYSTEMS  
& FINANCE

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## Part 1 – Monthly Activity Log

### AUG 2022

Mandatory orientation for exchange students was Aug 17-19 and the fall semester started on Aug 22. All incoming Kelley students were required to arrive no later than Aug 16. After arriving the campus, I had to get my student ID at the Simon Skjodt Assembly Hall and check in my accommodation. The residential hall I lived in was nice and just ten-minute walk to the Kelley School and sports center.

Before the semester starts, the school organized a lot of welcoming events where students could make friends and explore different teams & clubs.



*1 Student Involvement Fair where students can learn about different student organizations, campus departments and community partners. 2 Kelley School of Business Orientation - Tie Dye & Socializing 3 Herman B House Party – partying in IU’s largest library*

The first few weeks of the semester were chill so I spent some spare time trying different sports clubs, such as rugby and fencing, doing workouts in Student Recreational Sports Center (SRSC), and going on a hike at Griffy Lake.



*4 Student Recreational Sports Center 5 Griffy Lake*

### SEP 2022

The courses at Indiana University had way more assignments and quizzes than at HKUST. Therefore, it was getting busy after the semester started.

During my spare time, I joined the fencing club training and even got the chance to compete in a tournament against different universities. I also spent some time

hanging out with other exchange students, visiting Indianapolis during weekends, and even having a boat party at Monroe Lake.

Watching football games was one of the items on my to-do list in the United States. The game itself was exciting and it was also a key communal cultural experience. Before the game, students & families usually played tailgating games outside the stadium. The game I watched was against Illinois. After four-hours long fight, Indiana University won the home game!



## OCT 2022

At the beginning of October, it was the busiest period of the semester as there were mid-term exams and deadlines for assignments and projects. However, I managed to complete all of them and go travel during the fall break. I travelled to Toronto with my friend. We visited Niagara Falls, Collingwood, and famous tourist attractions in downtown, such as St. Lawrence Market, Nathan Philips Square, etc. We booked a guided tour in Niagara Falls and get the chance to view the spectacular scenery from the top of the observation deck, behind the falls, and even under the falls by taking the cruise.





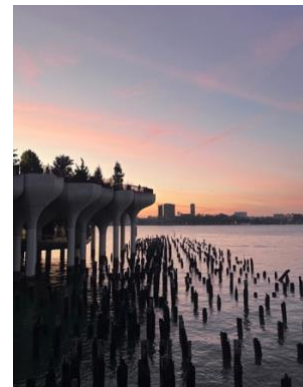
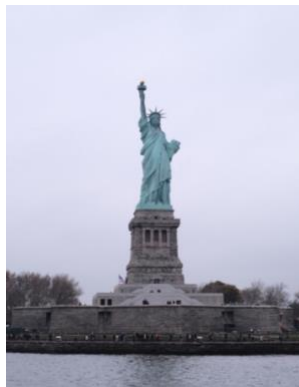
After returning from the trip, it was almost time for Halloween. My roommates and I had joined the pumpkin carving event organized by the school and carved three huge pumpkins which were then placed in our room as décor. We also went to a corn maze and joined the 5K color run and had so much fun.



## NOV 2022

After finishing another round of mid-term exams, it was time to take a break. I went to Indianapolis to support the Hong Kong swimmers in the FINA Swimming World Cup 2022 with my friends during weekends. During Thanksgiving break, local students and professors would return to their hometowns to celebrate so there was one full week of school holidays. I went to New York City and visited

the Statue of Liberty, the Museum of Modern Art, Union Station, and such. We had so much delicious food and watched Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade!



## DEC 2022

The semester finally came to an end. I got two presentations and four final exams to wrap up my exchange semester. My last final exam was on Dec 16 which was the last day of the final exam period. Most of the school facilities like dining halls were closed from Dec 17 onwards. Therefore, I left Bloomington and began my travels along the west coast of the United States. Throughout the exchange, I met so many awesome friends from different countries and gained so many unforgettable experiences.





## PART II – General Exchange Information

### **Visa Procedures**

The Office of International Services of Indiana University shipped the DS-2019 forms and guidelines to me in July. Once I received the package, I applied for the J-1 Visa by making an appointment with the US Consulate and paid the SEVIS fee before the interview. As the VISA application process takes time, you are advised to kick start the application process once you receive the DS-2019 form.

### **Orientation Activities**

There are mandatory orientations for incoming exchange students. The staff from the host university will provide useful information, like transportation, travel tips, bank account setup, etc. There are also fun events for students to make new friends and have fun together before the semester starts.

### **International Services & Activities**

The Office of International Services (OIS) offers resources and support and organizes activities for international students. The office also assists incoming exchange students with the admission process and issues documents for visa application.

If exchange students wish to travel outside the United States during the semester, students have to submit a request to OIS for a travel signature before the trip.

### **Accommodations**

You can choose from on- and off-campus housing options. I chose to live in on-campus housing as it is safe, reliable, and convenient. Students can apply for on-campus housing through Residential Programs and Services (RPS) and indicate their housing preferences. Room fees vary by location. RPS typically places exchange together hence I was living with three other exchange students.

The residential hall I lived in was Union Street Center which is a 4 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms apartment style. The room and environment are decent. Students can borrow books, board games, films, and video games from the hall centre for free.



### **Course Registration**

The school will share the course enrolment guide with the incoming exchange students few months upon arrival. Students can search for course availability and class schedule on iGPS and the course syllabus in the shared link. There is an exchange coordinator who will assist students through the process and check in with students to make sure we have no difficulties in registration.

### **Teaching & Assessment Methods**

The teaching and assessment methods in IU courses are very similar to courses in HKUST. There are more assignments, quizzes, and class discussions, yet the workload is manageable. The professors are helpful and provide lots of guidance.

### **Sports & Recreation Facilities**

Sports facilities are everywhere on the campus. There are two sports centers, Student Recreational Sports Center (SRSC) and Bill Garrett Fieldhouse with a multipurpose sports area, gym, swimming pool, etc. The IU Recreational Sports organizes different group exercise classes, such as yoga and Pilates, and intramural tournaments.

### **Finance and Banking**

School fees and on-campus housing fees are charged through an online portal called Bursar Bill. You can settle the bill with bank accounts and debit/credit cards.

You can choose to open a bank account as it is more convenient to pay with cards than cash in stores and restaurants. I opened a bank account in Chase Bank, which is located near the campus. The account opening process is easy even though we are non-local students.

### **Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities**

There are more than 750 student organizations available at IU. During the first week of the semester, there is an involvement fair where students can learn about different clubs and organizations.

The school and student organizations will organize activities regularly. You will always receive emails about upcoming events and sign up if you are interested.

### **Health and Safety**

Students must submit a COVID-19 vaccination record and are required to have health insurance. If you have purchased your own insurance and meet the specific standards set by the state of Indiana, you can apply for a waiver. Otherwise, you will be automatically enrolled in IU's student insurance.

### **Food**

There are several meal plans for students to choose from. I purchased the 7-day classic meal plan which allows unlimited entry to the dining halls. The dining hall



offers various kinds of food, including but not limited to American, Asian and Indian. Other than dining halls, you can also choose to dine in the restaurants or do grocery shopping in local supermarkets and Asian markets. I personally don't recommend dining out often as it is quite expensive.

### **Transportation**

All buses within Bloomington are free of charge with your student ID. There are some discounts for late-night rides offered by Lyft and Uber when bus services are not available. The city is bike- and scooter-friendly. You can purchase a bike or rent a scooter to travel around the campus.

You can travel from the airport to Bloomington with Go Express which cost you around USD\$29. You may also choose to take Uber or Lyft but they are way more expensive.

### **Climate**

August: 20°C - 30°C

September: 15°C - 25°C

October: 10°C - 20°C

November: 5°C - 15 °C

December: - 4°C - 10°C

### **Communication**

GroupMe and iMessage are common communication tools among IU students. To communicate with professors, students usually contact me through email or Canvas.

### **Other Reminders**

There are some important forms you have to complete before and after arrival on Atlas, do remember to complete them on time. You are suggested to check all the emails from the OIS and exchange coordinator as they usually include all details you need to know.

### PART III – Items to Bring

- Passport
- VISA
- Vaccination Record
- Cash
- Credit Card
- Seasonal clothing
- Electric Travel Converter
- Medications

### PART IV - Useful Links, Apps and Contacts

<https://one.iu.edu/>

Course Search

<https://sisjee.iu.edu/sisigps-prd/web/igps/course/search/>

On-campus housing

<https://housing.indiana.edu/housing/index.html>

On-campus dining plan

<https://dining.indiana.edu/mealplans/index.html>

Printing portal

<https://mobile.print.iu.edu/myprintcenter/>

Mobile application:

- IU Mobile
- IU Recreational Sports
- DoubleMap
- GroupMe