

Exchange Report



MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY



THE HONG KONG
UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY

Michigan State University, the U.S.

LI Zixuan
Spring 2023

Overall Experience

I spent 4 months at Michigan State University and took several excellent courses there: Introduction to Investments, Reasoning and Argumentation, the Art of Starting, and Introduction to Finance. Among those courses, I enjoyed the Art of Starting the most. Basically, my group mates and I established a startup working on a social-interactive app that uses a variety of alternative programs to build and promote healthy lifestyles in hopes of reducing reliance on technology and other sources of artificial dopamine. It was so much fun actually to work as an entrepreneur.

Studying abroad can expose me to a new culture, language, and ways of life. Engaging in a different culture can be thrilling and unforgettable. This provides an opportunity to acquire fresh knowledge, broadens my horizons, and makes me gain a deeper appreciation for the diversity of the world. In addition, my communication skills have improved during my interaction with people from all over the world. What's more, studying abroad requires me to navigate unfamiliar environments and take on greater responsibility for my own well-being. This can help me enhance my sense of independence and self-reliance, as well as the ability to adapt to new situations. Successfully navigating the challenges of studying abroad, such as homesickness, culture shock, and language barriers, can help students develop greater confidence and resilience. This can also lead to a greater sense of self-awareness and self-esteem.

The learning environment and teaching style here are more relaxing. Universities in the US generally offer a diverse range of academic programs and extracurricular activities to cater to the interests and goals of different students. Students have the freedom to choose their own courses and can often customize their degree programs to suit their individual needs and interests.

Michigan State University offers resources and programs to help international students adjust to life in the United States. One of the terrific programs is *International Friendship Program*. It provides a chance for the international student to get to know an American individual or family and feel welcome in the community while providing the family a unique opportunity to travel at home and learn about another country, culture and language. Typically, the American friend meets with their student about once a month by inviting them to their home for dinner. IFP participants can also enjoy other activities like going shopping, celebrating holidays, attending a concert, play, or sports event, sightseeing, picnics, and staying in touch through email or by phone. I had a wonderful time with my American family.

We got together twice a month and had lots of exciting activities. Especially, most of them are things that I have never experienced before. The hostess Gwen and the host Gary are a gracious, lovely and nice couple. Because they have experience living abroad in England, Gwen is capable of making authentic muffins and scones. They tasted really amazing and better than all I have tried before! Usually, we would have afternoon tea in their house chatting and enjoying homemade Black tea and bakeries. After that we would have a good

time playing with their Labradors, Rosie and Rowley. When Easter was coming, I was invited to decorate Easter eggs, which was an exciting first-time experience.



(Gwen and I holding Easter Eggs)



(Rosie and Rowley)

Sometimes we would go outside to enjoy the nice weather. Once we went to Mason, an old-fashioned town in Michigan. It was so neat. Besides, we went to two zoo parks in East Lansing and Lansing. They made my journey in the United States more meaningful and fabulous.

Jan - Arrival

I arrived in East Lansing on January 4, 2023. Michigan State University was such a large campus that I could hardly find my way. Fortunately, I met two MSU students who helped me with dorm check-in and getting into my next few months of life here. On January 6, there was an orientation for ASP&E students. After presenting some necessary information that we exchange students should know, there was a campus tour afterwards in the afternoon. It helped me get more familiar with MSU campus.



(Taken on Jan 6 with other exchange students during the campus tour.)

Feb – Nightmare and healing

On February 14, shots were fired on campus. It was a night of shock and horror. But everyone was supporting each other all the time. We were protected by the university and the police as much as they can. They responded to the urgent situation in no time. As exchange students, we are far from our family and friends back home. But we got support from the MSU community in any way they can from residence halls to dining places to OISS. In the following weeks, the whole campus was full of healing. And we received support from all over the states.



(Support helicopter from Ohio State University)



(Welcome back to campus after taking a break from the heartbroken moment)

Mar – Spring Break

During the nearly ten-day break, I had the opportunity to explore both New York and Boston with a group of friends. It was the perfect occasion for students like us to venture beyond the confines of the campus and discover new places.



Apr – Finals and Presentations

May - Departure

The exchange program officially ended on May 5. But the office held a graduation ceremony for all the exchange students. I missed the event because of the time conflict with my schedule, which was a pity. But I still ended up having dinner with all the friends and saying goodbye to them. Before I left the campus, I spent a whole day for a campus tour to explore all the place I haven't had a chance to take a look during the semester.



I am grateful that I attended the exchange program and came to MSU. It is such a beautiful campus especially when everything comes to life in Spring, and people here are nice and friendly. Those memories are the evidence of my short but incredible life here. I will always live with them for the rest of my life.

Spartan Strong & Spartan Will!
Go Green, Go White.

General Study Abroad Information

- Visa Procedures
- China Passport J1 visa HKD 1280
- Orientation Activities
- Jan 6 compulsory
- International Services & Activities
- First-day Lyft coupon for students to commute
- Accommodations
- On-campus hall with meal plans
- Courses Registration
- <https://student.msu.edu/splash.html>
- Teaching & Assessment Methods
- In-person or online
- Finance & Banking
- Create a checking account
- Climate
- It is really a cold and long winter, and spring won't come until April. But still, you need some summer clothing because in April and May, there could be extremely hot days.
- Health & Safety
- Compulsory health insurance
- Food
- You can cook in your hall kitchen. But there are dining places in most of the halls.
- There are tons of restaurants near the campus.
- Transportation
- There are CATA buses on campus. Those started with 3 are free for MSU students to take.
- For traveling, you need to take Michigan Flyer to Detroit Airport first, which is also convenient because the MF pickup/dropoff point is just across the street from campus.
- Communication
- It would be so convenient for you to buy an American SIM card before you arrive.
- Sports & Recreation Facilities
- MSU has lots of stadiums, you will receive the email when there is an event about to go on.
- Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities
- There are so many choices for you to join the student societies.