

# Exchange Report

Fall 2023

New York University

United States

LIU Chengcheng

## Monthly Activity Log

Write a log of one paragraph for each month highlighting some of your interesting exchange experiences, activities, impressions & places of interest. Please describe your study, learning and life experience. This section should be at least 600 words long.

### August

I flight from Beijing to New York and transferred in Doha, Qatar, where I also had a travel in. When I was in Doha, I experienced the traditional food of Qatar and visited the history museum there. Everything in Qatar was great but the only problem was that the weather was too hot. Therefore, be cautious and prepare enough water when you want to travel in Qatar. After visiting Qatar, I arrived at NYC on 26th August. After my arrival in NYC, I quickly got adopted there as NYC is in fact quite similar to HK. And I traveled within NYC in August, covering the most famous spots in the city, including Wall Street, Time Square and so on. The school also organized lots of orientation activities for us and I really enjoyed the show there. As a museum fan, I also visited the American Museum of Natural History

### September

Classes began on 5th September in NYU and September was not quite busy as everything was just beginning. However, fall semester is in fact a recruiting semester for me, where I applied the internship positions for different bulge bracket banks and had lots of interviews. However, interviews didn't interrupt my travel plan. I traveled to Philadelphia and also visited the MET in September. I also cooked almost every night at my house and attended the whale watching cruise.

### October

Things began to get busy in October, as some of the exams happened in October. However, the exam in NYU was relatively easier than the one in HKUST thus the exams didn't use much of my energy. However, the really annoying one was those interviews, as this year the job market was bad. I visited Washington and Boston in October, and also Yale in New Heaven.

### November

More exam and deadlines came in November, as well as interviews. However, November was relatively good for me as the Thanksgiving break could give me enough time for interviews and prepare the exam. My best friend also came and visited me in November from UIUC. We spent a good time together, traveled to MoMA and highland together. We also watched Broadway together.

### December

Times fly and I began to lay back in December. December was the exam period for me and after the exam, I didn't do any travel but just relaxed in my house, as the weather was just too cold for me. I flight back through Kuwait Airline, a very cheap airline but providing great service. The lamb offered by the airline was the best air food that I have ever tried. I really recommended you to choose it.

Please briefly describe the visa application procedures, including

- 1) Type of passport/travel document you are holding
- 2) Type of visa you are required
- 3) Required documents

#### 4) Visa fees

I am holding a PRC passport but the visa application process should be generally similar no matter which passport you are holding. NYU acts quite quick in terms of handling visa and it provides very clear instructions on visa applications. What student needs to do is to follow the instructions and handle that as quickly as possible. The material required for visa is relatively simple, just a DS-2019 form and deposit proof would be enough for handling visa. Visa fee is USD 160 but another 220 USD SEVIS fee is also required.

#### What are the course(s) that you have enrolled at the host institution?

1. Financial Modeling
2. Money and Banking
3. Real Estate Capital Markets
4. Intro to Econometrics
5. Financial Service Industry

#### Please briefly describe the course registration procedures, such as

- 1) When did you receive the course registration details
- 2) What is the course registration procedures
- 3) Where can you access information related to course registration (e.g. websites)

I received course registration details around March. Thus, NYU in fact provides a relative sufficient time for course registration and handle everything in a quite early manner. NYU allows students to choose two finance and two economy courses and students can only choose one non-econ course outside Stern. Exchange students can't choose honor courses. When it comes to course registration, NYU will send a form to you for you to put your preference (minimum 10, can put more as you like) and after the registration, you can also contact the officer to change courses. Course information will be available at Albert.

#### Where did you live during the program?

Private apartment

#### Please briefly describe the accommodation at the host destination, including

- 1) What type of accommodation
- 2) What is the application procedures (If you are staying at accommodation offered by the host institution)
- 3) How did you search for the accommodation and where did you book your accommodation (If you need to arrange your own accommodation)
- 4) Facilities in the accommodation

I used to plan have an on-campus housing and set \$10000 budget for that. However, NYU told me that it was highly possible that I didn't have an on-campus housing thus I decided to find an off-campus housing. However, it's hard to find an off-campus housing in NYC as the majority of them only offers 1 year lease. I had no choice but to choose Vrbo and I managed to find four roommates to live together. Finally, I find a house in New Jersey and it's very cheap, just \$1400 per month per person. By the way, NYU in fact offers on-campus housing to all exchange students at the end of August. Therefore, no need to be as worry as me and find an off-campus housing.

#### Please briefly describe the health and safety support provided at the host institution, including

- 1) Whether there is health centers or clinics available on campus
- 2) Any safety matters that you are concerned about

Health centers are available on campus and there are sufficient hospitals in NYC. And the safety conditions are much better than my expectations. No need to worry too much about safety in NYC.

### Finances

How much did you spend (in HKD) on the following items? (Please input "0" if not applicable to you)

#### **Air ticket between the place of departure and destination (round trip)**

HKD 13,000

#### **Accommodation (for the entire study abroad period)**

HKD 47,000

#### **Program fee (if applicable)**

N/A

#### **Personal expenses**

HKD 30,000

#### **Others, please specify**

Insurance: HKD 7,000

### My Top 3s

Please share with students some of your top 3s. If it is best to provide the information in the language of the host destination, please do so, but provide an explanation in English.

#### **Courses at the host institution**

Financial Modeling

Financial Service Industry

Real Estate Capital Markets

#### **Favourite Food**

Korea food

Subway

Jollibee

#### **Hang-outs places on campus**

No

No

No

#### **Must-dos in the city**

Visiting museum

Broadway

City Walk

#### **Not-to-dos in the city**

Drink too late

N/A

N/A

#### **Useful local apps or websites**

Zelle

Chase

Amtrak

#### **Words to describe my study abroad experience**

Excellent

Life-changing  
Fruitful