



**Reut Yehuda**

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## **Fall 1 2016 Duke University – Fuqua business school**

### **Durham North Carolina**

Durham is a small city in North Carolina, a typical southern city in the east coast. You can feel the southern culture only if you take the time to go to the areas outside the "Duke bubble".

### **The University**

Duke is a huge university, with one of the best Medical programs, therefore the campus is mainly divided to "hospital" and the rest of the university.

Fuqua School of Business is one of the top MBA programs, with excellent professors and very diverse classes.

Approximately a month before arrival you will receive the list of courses available in your term, and you can read about the courses and professors in these websites:

[https://cebeapps.fuqua.duke.edu/elective\\_eval/?jsessionid=5102F59F4735103B7CCBE7EFFE4F05B2;jsessionid=22FBDA30F651C612296738608E2F3481](https://cebeapps.fuqua.duke.edu/elective_eval/?jsessionid=5102F59F4735103B7CCBE7EFFE4F05B2;jsessionid=22FBDA30F651C612296738608E2F3481)

The school use a "first come first get" system, and usually the exchange students get to pick their courses after the Full-time MBA, so for instance one of me chosen courses had a 35 people in the waiting list, so you should have a backup. With that if you see 10 people in the waiting list you still might get the course, so keep that in mind.

Each course is studied twice a week, Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday, and for most classes attendance and participation in class is graded. For most courses, you will have to read an article a submit an assignment (mostly with your team) for each class, and it could take a good few hours.

I took 3 classes.

1. Financial Statement Analysis
2. Private Equity -Venture Capital
3. Derivatives

## **Accommodations**

I sublet a room in the Station nine ([www.stationnine.com](http://www.stationnine.com)) in a fully furnished apartment. The complex has pool and Gym and has a very big supermarket and restaurants close by. The complex is full with MBA students and many of the social events are all around. The cost for the stay was c. USD 1000 per one month.

## **Transportation**

Renting a car is not necessary. The 2 main transportation ways are: (1) UBER or Lyft – it is not so expensive and if you take the UBER with friend you can always split the costs. (2) campus transportation (Duke Vans by night) – it's free of charge for students, in the day time there is few lines going around the campus and hospital, and by night there is DUKE VAN service that is very similar to UBER share. The DUKE VAN service is available from 17:00 to 05:00 every day within the specified service area (which included Station nine and University apartments) and you can order the van via DUKE app.

## **Living Expenses**

The living expenses is mostly depended on the apartment you get which can be very volatile.

- Visa c. \$1,000
- Accommodations C. 1,000 per month
- Health insurance C. \$750 for 2 months.
- Books and packs C.\$100 for course.
- Food – you can find lunch in the Fuqua cafeteria for C.\$8 – the food is not very expensive, especially if you make your own food. I spent C. \$400 per month (roughly).
- Transportation can be for free – but if you choose to take an UBER it will cost more

## **Visa Process**

If you don't have a USA passport you will need to have a J-1 Visa (even if you have a tourist visa). All the Visa process is managed by Duke Visa office. They will send you all the requirements, and they are very helpful by phone if you need them. If you don't have a tourist visa you have an additional 30 days to stay in the US.

## **Social Activities**

Fuqua has a lot of clubs, for career (Investment Banking, consulting, Marketing etc.), social clubs (hiking, Wine etc.) and club such as, Latin club, Jewish club. I didn't actively participate in any, and I didn't miss it, but the social clubs usually doing fun events you can participate without being signed to the club (like wine tasting). If you are seeking for a job you should be a member of one of the career clubs they have a lot of events with different companies, and it is very helpful.

In addition, every Friday after classes end there is the 'Fuqua Friday'. All the student invited with their families to come. The school provide "theme dinner" and drinks. It is a very fun way to finish your week and start the weekend.

Games- there are a lot of different sports games you can go to – I went to DUKE football and it was for free, and local baseball that cost c.\$12. It is a fun experience if you go with your friends.

The night life in the city is quite dull, but the MBA students have few places they go to.

- **Tavern**- all the MBA students go there on Tuesday. This is a nice pub, with food, karaoke, different games such as pool and Darts.
- **Shooters**- the MBA students go there on Friday. Students all around DUKE (Undergrads to) came there to dance. (I went there once and never came back)

Usually different events are being conducted in additional places (Oktoberfest, house parties etc.), I am strongly recommend to go to those.

In addition, there were many social gathering of the exchange students for dinner, beer or pool party.

**Please feel free to call me for any questions.**

Reut Yehuda