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Degree Program at TAU: MSc Technology and Information System
Host University: Kellogg school of Business Northwestern University
Exchange term (including the duration): Spring 2018

Exchange Experience

- The country and city
  The US is a great place to go for exchange, there are many places to visit when you have time to travel, amazing culture, the most updated technologies all around, excellent food and the best universities the world has to offer these days.
  Evanston is a nice town near Chicago that its best attraction is Northwestern university. The down town is nice and has shops and restaurants, the train station is not too far and overall it’s a nice place to spend the semester.
  Chicago is an amazing city and has a lot to offer. Attractions like millennium park and the skyscrapers is just part of the fun and I’m sure who’s ever will go to Kellogg will find him/herself in this city.

- Host University
  Northwestern University – One of the best universities to go to! The university has excellent faculties (engineering, laws and more). The campus looks amazing and you just enjoying go to class. Kellogg classes are normally take place in the global hub which is a new facility and convenient building with study rooms, phone rooms, cafeteria, gym and everything you need to succeed.
  The quarter is short! 10 weeks, it will be over before you will notice.
  Students are relatively mixed – about 60% Americans 40% international. Everyone is nice and the best tip I can give you – talk to everyone, add them to your LinkedIn page and make connections, Kellogg students are super smart and you can learn a lot from them as they can learn from you.
  The experience as a full time program is different than what we know at TAU, you get to live Kellogg and the campus life while we hurrying to class from work at 17:15.
  They have a career center that supports a lot in the students, they can train you and give you some useful tips (I didn’t use them, my friends did, and they didn’t find them useful, but you might do)

- Courses and professors
  As an exchange you won’t participate in the bidding as we have in TAU. Kellogg allocate between 1-3 slots in a list they will send you before the semester starts.
  After you chose your courses, the Kellogg’s fulltime students start the bidding and
you will be able to choose more courses if there are seats available and you can also enter to the waiting list.

You should research the list of courses that is offered before assigning yourself. There are really good courses and there are some which are just a waste of time in this amazing experience and may change your perspective entirely. The average credit points Kellogg students take is 4 and it's a lot of workload. I took 4.5 and I should have taken the remaining 0.5 as well! This is one-time opportunity to explore one of the best B schools out there, the courses are super demanding but that is why you get the added value you are looking for. The quarter passes by fast; you read a lot and submit assignments like you wouldn’t believe, but it ends eventually and you'll be proud of yourself. The courses are not hard as you may think, yet the workload in Kellogg is CRAZY. If you manage your time well it shouldn’t be a problem, you can always cancel up to 5 weeks after the beginning of the quarter.

The courses I took:

Marketing Strategy/ Timothy Calkins (1 credit) - One of Kellogg's best courses, the course carries the MarkStrat simulation which may be a bit demanding but the course itself is enjoyable, the cases are very interesting and the professor is funny what makes the lecture so fun and interesting. There is another course carried by Prof. Julie Hennessey which considers as good as Calkins class and even better.

Selling yourself and your ideas/ Craig Wartman (1 credit) - Prof. Wartman is a talented performer and the course is basically so good because of him. This is a selling course that teach how to brand yourself/networking approach presentations/storytelling etc.

Product Management for technology companies/Mohanbir sawhney (1 credit)- The professor is a big name in tech industry, really nice and knowledgeable. The workload for this course is high, the course also includes with an actual costumer project which is really time consuming (we had ours with Bosch) and in the end of the quarter the client come to see the groups presentations - there's a money prize to the winners. It's a nice to have - not too important if you’re not a PM Manager.

New ventures discovery/ David Schonthal (1 credit) - the professor is one of the best in Kellogg and I liked his lectures the most , very clear and passionate about what he's doing and tries to help the students succeed in their projects. This course is more to the ones interested to know about the entrepreneurial world but not only. This course is relatively time consuming (depends on your peers as well). Overall recommended and I found it very interesting and helpful.

Creativity as a business tool /David Schonthal and Leigh Thompson (0.5 credit)- the course is more of a workshop, I enjoyed it - you may acquire important insights of how you can be distinguished in your workplace. You can learn a lot because this course is mostly groups driven.
• **Accommodation – dorms and other solutions**

  **McManus** - definitely the best option as an exchange student. The building is 15 minutes from the Global Hub (where most of Kellogg courses are taking place), it is the best place to meet students from Kellogg and live among the rest of the exchange group. The fact you have a reception makes live much easier in terms of things you getting by mail and packages.

  The apartments are relatively old and the mattresses are terrible (at least from my experience), but the apartments are furnished and you have everything you need including free laundry service.

  The prices go for 3150$-4900$ depends what apartment you get. I recommend to ask for either a single studio (about 3770$ for the semester) or a twin studio (about 3160$ for the semester) the rooms are big enough.

  **Airbnb** - A good option if you won't be able to get into McManus, in most cases may be even cheaper than McManus (around 800-1000$ a month), however, it usually would be far from campus (relatively) and you lose the experience of being with everyone else.

  **Short term rental** - Quite of a challenge, it's hard to find someone agrees to rent for 3 months and you also need to get furniture's. Prices won't be cheaper than Airbnb, if you can find a proper sublet it's much better but again not easy to be aligned with the dates you need. I would recommend trying the other two options first.

• **Visa**

  J1 visa, easy process for individual students, cost is 190$+160$.

  If you come with Dependents, you should consult the university international office.

• **Transportation**

  Transportation in Chicago area and in Evanston is relatively easy.

  The train is convenient although it takes about 45-60 minutes to get to Chicago downtown from Evanston. You can also take the Northwestern shuttle to get to Chicago campus and you might have courses there any way.

  I highly recommend using Lyft and Uber in any place you go in the US.

  If you live in McManus it's about 15 minutes' walk and there is also a free bus line (201) which takes you for free.

  **O'Hare Airport** - One of the most active airports in the U.S, it's good for you if you like to travel because you have flights for almost everywhere in the US and the prices are relatively cheap (I flew to New Orleans for 120$ round trip).

  Taxi from the airport is about 35$, bus is 2.5$ but it's a terrible ride (1.5-2 hours with many stops), best option is shared Lyft (25-35$).

• **Insurance and Health Services**

  The university charge for a specific insurance plan that covers the students in the university - they have a clinic (looks like a small hospital) which is convenient in case you need it. The cost of the insurance varies in each quarter, I paid about 900$ in the spring quarter.

  The university insurance covers the dates of the quarter, so if you want to arrive a bit earlier and leave later (if you want to travel), you need to acquire travel
insurance as well, so in my case. I traveled 3 weeks after the semester and needed to get a travel insurance for the entire 4 months which is about **300$**.

- **Living expenses**
  This part is up to you. I think it's important to experience Kellogg as much as you can and tag along with the activities offered almost every week.
  
  I would say that roughly the basic breakdown goes like this:
  
  - Food/Coffee/groceries = 1800$
  - Living expense (accommodations) = 3800$
  - Flight ticket = 1000$ (average)
  - Insurances 1200$ (average)
  - Transportation 50-70$ a month
  - Phone 40$ a month

- **Food**
  
  **Evanston downtown** - There are many food options. Two main options for grocery shopping: Target - fair prices and close to McManus, Wholefoods - expensive but high quality and close to McManus. There are also Trader Joe's and Jewel Osco branches not too far from McManus. In Evanston there are many restaurants as well. Recommendations: Farmhouse and Kinship.
  
  **Global Hub** - The cafeteria as an excellent food choice, fresh and offer many food options with decent prices. Kellogg offers lunch and learn sessions every day between 12:15-13:15 - it's a lecture about a subject usually carries by one of the clubs (innovation club/consulting club etc.) and free food is offered during those sessions (registration is required).
  
  **Downtown Chicago** - Obviously many food options, excellent deep dish restaurants (kind of an icon Pizza dish in Chicago) and many other cuisines to explore. I recommend to research a bit more if you want to go to a really good restaurant. My favorite was Eataly.

- **Night life**
  
  Evanston is pretty mild in terms of night life, yet Kellogg has many events that you can attend to, many parties and most of the time you will find other students hanging in McManus lounge at night and it’s a good way to meet people and have fun.
  
  Chicago has really nice places to go out - the city is famous the most for its Jazz and Blues clubs (Green Mill/house of blues/Buddy Guy’s Legends - highly recommended!) Good restaurants, Sports and many other night attractions.

- **Tips**
  
  - Think carefully what you want to achieve in this experience, try to do as much as you can and don’t waste your time for nothing - the days FLY and it will be over faster than you think.
  - Get to know others and don’t be shy.
  - Take a really good Jacket with you, Chicago doesn’t call the Windy city for nothing, the lake winds could get brutal.
• **General experience**  
For me it was an amazing experience, I got to be a full time student in Kellogg and I was treated as one, I did like the fact the university is close enough to Chicago but not in the city - Evanston is a suburb which is all about Northwestern and you have the sense of the academic culture in one dimension and the big city advantages in the other.  
The students are mixed from all around the world and you learn things of many cultures and how they approach a problem.