

Emory – Exchange program summary

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General Experience

My exchange at Emory University in Atlanta was one of the best times of my life. I learned a lot about American culture and met friends from all over the world. It is a great experience that I highly recommend to everyone.

The Visa Process

The visa process can be long and stressful. I did mine during a tense time (the 12 day war), so everything was finished at the last minute.

- **Start Early:** You should begin as soon as possible.
- **The Form:** You need to fill out a very long application form.
- **The Interview:** Finding a spot for an interview at the embassy is hard. You should check the website every day to see if a new spot opens up.

Academics and Classes

Studying at Emory is different from Tel Aviv University (TAU). The professors will know your name and talk to you directly. Most classes focus more on discussions and participation rather than just listening to a lecture.

The classes I took:

- **Real Estate Finance:** I chose this because it fit my schedule. Unlike other classes, this one was based more on exams. It was technical and I learned about U.S. real estate laws, which was all new to me.
- **Data Visualization (Data Viz):** This was a "hands-on" class. We used a software called Tableau to build charts and then presented them to the class. It helped me improve both my technical skills and my public speaking.
- **Entrepreneurship:** A very interesting class. We learned the basic steps for starting a new business, common mistakes to avoid, and how to make a new company successful.
- **Negotiations:** This was my favorite class. Every week, we practiced negotiating on different topics. It was a great way to practice English and meet new people.

Housing

I went with my girlfriend, so we looked for a private apartment.

- **Short-term rentals:** It is not easy to find a place for only 4 months.
- **Resources:** The university has a housing website. A coordinator named Harriet will send you links and information before the semester starts.
- **Midtown:** I lived near Midtown. It is a very cool area with many bars and restaurants. It is about 25 minutes ride from school during rush hour. Not Many apartment buildings there offer short-term leases.

Transportation

- **University Shuttles:** Public buses to the university are not very good, but Emory has free shuttles. They run about once every hour from Midtown and other areas near the school.
- **MARTA (The Train):** The train has only a few lines. It is good for going to the airport, Midtown, Lenox Mall, or the sports arenas (Mercedes Benz and State Farm Arena).
- **Safety Tip:** Be careful at the airport train station at night because it is near some poor neighborhoods.
- **Uber/Lyft:** These are the best ways to get around. Check online for free trials subscriptions.

Living Costs

- **Rent & Food:** Rent is a bit cheaper than Tel Aviv. Grocery stores and restaurants are also generally cheaper. There is a huge variety of food, from very cheap to very expensive.
- **Travel:** I traveled a lot. Domestic flights inside the U.S. are not too expensive if you plan ahead.

Social Life

You will study with full-time students who are very friendly. They will invite you to dinners and to go out at night. The community is very welcoming, and it was very hard to say goodbye to the new friends I made there.