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MBA

Duke's Fuqua School of Business

Fall 2025 – Full Semester

- **About the country and city** – Durham is a nice quiet city. It is very green and clean and built mostly around the University. Most MBA students stay in apartment buildings by 9th street where you can find some nice restaurants and a few small bars. In Downtown you have more options as well as theaters and other things to see. There is also a food market on some Fridays. Although, you might find out like me that there are so many social events organized by student clubs and the school that you won't feel like you have a lot of time to explore, but that depends on you. On some weekends and longer breaks we organized trips to places like Outer Banks, Washington DC and NYC.
- **About the host university** – The Business school consists beautiful modern buildings surrounded by green forest, the rest of the campus is mostly beautiful old brick buildings and looks amazing. You should explore the campus as early as possible. Things to look for are the Duke Chapel area where you will see places like the Duke Store, Brodhead Center for a variety of restaurants and of course the Duke Chapel (at some point you will get a tour inside and climb it). Nearby checkout Wilson Recreation Center where you will find a huge gym, courts swimming pool and even a climbing wall and EVERYTHING IS FREE for you. Check out Duke Gardens when you have some time, if you come with your dog like me, you can take them to the park after certain hours. The school staff is very kind I even got to do Rosh Hashana at the Dean's mom's house with the rest of the JBA (Jewish Business Association).
- **Courses and professors** – I will list the courses that I took, I recommend all of them and all the professors. If you plan to spend time traveling on weekends you should probably avoid classes on Friday afternoon.
 - **Courses** –
 - MANAGERIAL ACCOUNTING – Elia Ferracuti – Very interesting course great professor, I think it's a very useful course for any manager.
 - NEW VENTURES DISCOVER – Amy Wyron Robinson – It was a good course teaches you about ways to ideate and validate your startup, you work in teams so it's important to

choose people in advance and also try to think of a problem to work on before.

VALUATION/FUNDAMEN ANALY – Mohan Venkatachalam – Great professor and interesting course, it's not really my field but I really enjoyed the course like it's name teaches you how to value companies using different methods to understand whether you should Buy (Invest) or Sell.

DETECTING EARNINGS MANAGEMENT – Bill Mayew – very interesting course it was really hard for me since I had no experience in accounting, the professor also talks really fast, having said that I still managed to get a good grade in the course and I liked learning the different ways that managers manipulate financial statements.

PRIVATE CAPITAL MARKETS – David Robinson – A lot of case studies the professor is great and there is a good atmosphere in class, it was a little harder for me to keep up since I didn't have a lot of background in finance.

STRATEGIC MODELING/BUS DYNAMIC – Scott Rockart – This course is very technical teaches you about dynamic modeling and a software that you can use to implement it, the course is not hard at all.

TRANSFORMING TECH ANALYTICS – Jiaming Xu – I was in the first time this course was available, there were a lot of assignments, and the level was really advanced but started from the basics. Since I'm a software engineer it was not so difficult, but you should consider that if you are not too techy.

- **Professors** – All of my professor were great and interesting the ones I especially liked were Prof. Elia Ferracuti and Prof. Mohan Venkatachalam which kept class fun and exciting.
- **Extra curricula** –
 - **Note** – I'm not religious, but since a lot of the Jewish holidays are in the beginning of Fall 1 I went to a lot of Jewish events in Chabad, Freeman Center and JBA which was a nice way to meet more people from all over the world whether from the business school, other faculties and more.
 - **Chabad Chapel Hill** – Rabbie Zalman hosts Shabbat dinners almost every week as well as other events for men and women during the week, you can enjoy community and food and it's also an opportunity to see Chapel Hill and to go to the bars and restaurants on Franklin Street that is right next to the Rabbie's House.
 - **JBA** – Jewish Business Association, join the many events that the Jewish club organizes, especially around the holidays. It's good way for you to meet internationals as well since a lot of the Jewish students are not from the US originally.
 - **Other Clubs** – Join any club event that interests you. There is a club fair in Fall 1 and maybe in the Spring go to the club fair see what you like. Look in Fuqua Connect for events and on slack announcements.
 - **Fuqua Friday's** – On some Friday's after school hours (17:30) there is free food and drinks for everyone on campus. Some Fridays are themed for certain holidays or events you should go at least once. If you have a dog, you can bring it too, but you need to stay outside of the building.
 - **Fuqua Vision** – Every end of term the Fuqua Vision club screens funny videos/sketches that they made. All the students gather in the auditorium to watch it's funny and highly recommended to go.
- **Career center (if applicable)** – As far as I know the career center is mostly available for enrolled students and not for exchange students with some exceptions like interview preparation. I think you can get your professional pictures for LinkedIn taken somewhere for free, ask the exchange coordinator.
- **Business and Network Development** – There should be a club fair sometime during the semester, at least in the Fall semester. You can get to know the clubs and sign up to get notified about events. Use Fuqua Connect

website to look at upcoming events and RSVP, you may also download the CORQ app that links to Fuqua Connect. What helped me meet more people is meeting people through the Israeli students at Fuqua and other Jewish students that are international since they are part of other clubs like the Latin/Brazilian/Armed Forces. Be friendly and talk to others and you will make great connections. It could also be helpful to introduce yourself to your professors in the beginning of the term and to also participate and keep your name tent up during class (you will get one).

- **Accommodation** – I stayed in Berkshire Main Apartments, in the 9th street area. It is very recommended to stay in this area since most of the MBA students live there, most of the events are in the area or in one of the main apartment buildings. I stayed in a 1 bedroom apartment with my Golden Retriever and paid around 1700\$ a month. You can look for subleases with roommates and pay anywhere between 800-1200\$ and you may even end up in those apartments by yourself for that price. You should look in the spreadsheet that will be shared with you and on the Facebook group [Fuqualist: Buy/Sale/Lease](#). Try to reach out to the rest of the exchange students as soon as possible - you might be able to find apartments together. Look for Berkshire Main (b main), Berkshire 9th (b9), Station 9 (s9), Avalone, 810 Ninth Apartments.
- **Visa** – Visa process is straight forward the only tips I can give is to have your social media accounts privacy set to public before the interview in the embassy it might shorten the process. Also, it is recommended to only sign your lease contract after you have the visa since you might be obligated to a lease contract same goes for purchasing a flight ticket unless it's flexible.
- **Transportation** – I had a car which was convenient, but I was the only exchange student with a car. Public transportation should be free for students, and you will get all the information about that in the orientation. I did use Uber when going out, try looking for student discounts for Uber One.
- **Insurance and health services** – You need pay for health insurance I only needed to use it once to get a flu vaccine, but I think you get good service there and if you go to the Duke Wellness Center you either don't need to pay anything or pay much less. As far as I know the insurance also covers your travels from and to Israel but check it with the insurance company.
- **Living expenses** – I think my living expenses were a bit high compared to others. Rent for a one-bedroom apartment was 1700\$ per month and the rest of the monthly expenses were around 1500\$, flight about 1200\$ and insurance and school fees 3000\$. If you decide to get a car, parking in the school will cost around 28\$ a month. I had my father's car so I didn't have to lease a car. Coming with a dog from Israel is also expensive. I did have to get furniture since my apartment was empty, I decided to buy furniture instead of leasing and was able to buy a sofa, bed and bedframe for around 500\$ and sell them for 300\$ on Facebook Marketplace which was much cheaper than leasing furniture.
- **Food** – Surprisingly there are many good restaurants and cafes in Durham, but beware ☺ there is often free food in the University especially on Fuqua Fridays.

This is a small list of places I went to and liked, but there are many more and

I'm not a big foodie. During fall there was an event called [RecFest](#) outside of the Wilson Recreation Center with free food stands from many restaurants and cafes in the area I highly recommend going there and coming with an empty stomach.

Restaurants I liked - Szechuan Mansion Hotpot, Vin Rouge, Juju

- **Night life –**

- **Tav Tuesdays (Tavern)** – On most Tuesdays MBA students hang in this bar (Tavern) by 9th street and some nights there are events and parties organized there.
- **Shooters** – You should go there once on a weekend talk with other students to see what's a good weekend to go there. It's a typical American bar/club and has a mechanic bull. It's more of a younger undergrad crowd, but on some weekends MBA students will go there too and I think they have organized shuttles from the main apartment buildings.
- **JBA, Chabad events and JDL** – Join the many events hosted by the Jewish community.
- **Wine Around The World** – You should definitely experience this event at least once, it's organized every term by the Wine Club. Usually costs around 25\$ and **tickets sell fast**. In the event you are assigned a team and you and your team go from apartment to apartment in one of the apartment buildings. In each apartment you taste a different wine and play games and at the end everyone goes to Tavern for an after party. Don't expect the wine to be amazing but prepare to drink a lot.
- **LASA parties** – fun parties and events organized by the Latin Club. **Tickets sell fast**.
- **Go bar hopping in the bars downtown** – High Dive, Velvet Hippo, Surf Club and more.
- **Diwali** – Hindu Festival of light – look out for when the Indian club is throwing this event, I really enjoyed it. When I was there the party was in Tavern, there was free Indian food buffet, free drinks good music and a lot of dancing it was one of the most memorable and fun events for me.
- **Thanksgiving Putlocks** – around Thanksgiving there are a lot of putlocks, feel free to go and bring something if you can.

- **Tips**

- **Course Teams** – Most of the course assignments are in teams, so it is important to find good teams early sometimes even before the first class.
- **UNIDAYS, Amazon Prime, Uber One** – You can use your EDU email to get free students discounts like 6 months of Amazon Prime or 3 months of Uber One or many other things in UNIDAYS.

- **Free Software** – Duke gives you access to free software like SP Global Capital IQ, ChatGPT, LSEG.
 - **Football games** – Go to at least one football game and watch out for the weather on sunny days or cold days since it's outside. You get free football tickets a student at [goduke](http://goduke.com)
 - **Basketball games and CAMPOUT!!! (Ask the Fuqua Students) – Before the beginning of the basketball season, students camp outside of the Wilson Recreation Center for an entire weekend for a chance to win discounted season tickets for the Duke Basketball Games. You should try camping there or at least visit there while it happens. When the season starts you can find tickets on the ticket exchange group the tickets are cheap you should go to at least one game but be prepared to stand up for a few hours.**
 - **Get a physical student card as a souvenir** – You get it at one of the libraries ask the exchange coordinator, should be in DukeCard Office located in the lower level of Perkins Library.
- **How did this exchange experience add value to your studies at Collier?**

Besides being a really fun experience, the exchange allowed me to meet many new friends from different places in the world, as well as see what it's like to live in the US as an adult (I lived in the US as a kid). I also got to experience American academic life and feel like I learned many things about the US business world that I would not necessarily learn in Israel.

Since I was there during the war in Israel, it was also interesting to see people's perspectives on what's happening. Finally, as an undergrad and graduate student, I did not live near the campus in a typical student environment. During the exchange, I got to experience what it's like to live by my fellow classmates and felt a strong sense of community at Fuqua. Living close to all fellow students and in proximity to the University made my exchange experience very different in a good way

- **Photos**



1 Duke Chapel Climb



2 Duke Chapel



3 Me at a Duke Football Game



4 My dog and I at Duke Gardens