

Exchange program impressions review – University of Chicago Booth, School of Business

Autumn semester, 2015 (Sep. 2015 – Dec. 2015)

1. Main impression & general overview

- When I decided to go for exchange program the added values of this step for my CAREER path weren't completely clear for me (beyond the experience part of it). However, since everyone around me highly recommended to go for it, I had the feeling that I'll realize the benefits in depth during the time there. Fortunately, it didn't take long to understand it. Today I can tell each one of us – despite the natural doubts and comfortabilities you might have regarding your current job / family – DO NOT MISS this experience. It has a huge POTENTIAL to contribute your path.
- Although it is a very short period, I have gained a few extremely important takeaways from this experience. The most important one is the impact on my perception and my point of view. The exposure to the highly demanding, challenging and interesting environment simply developed and sharpen my skills.

2. Academic, Course bid, Out of class educational activities

- Choosing your courses – 70-90% of your time there (individual) you will be studying (5-8 hours a day on avg. except the time in class). Taking the BID process and be at the more recommended classes is one thing you WANT to do. Do yourself a big favor, SPEND TIME on it. In some point you will get an access to the university website and much like TAU there is comprehensive database for each course, including syllabus, teacher review, students class evaluation, etc. READ IT. Make sure to understand bidding history for each of the courses you want (amount of bidding point required).
- As exchangers you'll get 10K points to bid with.

- Some classes with same teachers are taking place few times a week and some of them required less bidding points. You shouldn't have any time constraints like the local students so take advantage of it and manage your points wisely.

- Courses I have taken –
 - Managerial decision modeling - Prof. Kipp Martin.
Highly recommended to whom who interest in improving OPTIMIZATION practical tools. The entire course is taken in excel (much more interesting and challenging than it might sound).
 - Marketing Strategy – Prof. Pradeep Chintangua.
Highly recommended to improve general business sense and understanding the process of strategic planning.
 - Building the New Venture – Prof. Waverly Dutch.
It was the least favorable one for me although it's a very popular one. I would say that this course tends to be more practical in case you are CURRENTLY working on your own startup or at list have an idea.
- For information about the courses simply visit syllabus.
- Out of Class activities – there are plenty of group's activities and EXTERNAL lectures on campus almost every day. Make sure to track the following sources, preferably on weekly basis:
 - GROUPS CALENDAR, BOOTH MAIL, CIE, POLSKY CENTER (in this order)

3. Housing

- There is a clear tradeoff for choosing a place to live. The main options are Hyde Park (HP) - Main campus VS. Downtown (DT) - another campus.
- HP advantages – cheaper (DT is double the price) and closer to main campus.
- DT advantages – closer to all students and places to see and hang out.
- If you are driven by taking advantage on the academic and out of class activities I would recommend HP since you will be in walking distance from campus and won't be constrain by transportation.

- Around 90% of Booth students live DT (remember you are here only for 3 months, not for 2 Y)
- The decision is really depends on your goals and expectations for the period.
- Bus / train is 45 min – 1 h between the two.
- When choosing your exact place use google map to verify the walking distance to campus and other places you might visit on regular basis.
- On HP – Gym located on 55th St. & Ellis, Supermarket on 55th & Blackstone, CIE on 53rd & Blackstone.
- I was located at 5532 South Kenwood and the location was super comfortable (5-7 min walk for each of the above and campus).
- In HP - A lot of past years TAU students were located at the “I-house”. I would recommend your own apt. in case you get a prime location or I-house in case you don’t. The big disadvantage in the I-house is no private bathroom and kitchen probably.
- Try to send your housing request ASAP – there is a waiting list. There is a possibility you will not get an apartment arrangement. In that case you will use other sources similar to “Yad 2” that are listed at the welcome package online.

4. Expenses – Fixed

- Rent for HP – about 1.100 USD for furnished apt / month.
- Student fees & insurance – about 1.500 USD for the all period
- Other expenses will depend on your habits.

5. Equipment

- The university housing provides only basic furniture. You probably will need to buy few stuff.
- As student you’ll have free “Prime” for Amazon – that’s probably the cheapest and easiest way to order some of the stuff.
- Stores to find some of the places in Hyde Park – visit “Jeffery Dollar” and “Target” for the rest.

- When you leave and also you can give / sell some of the equipment on “Market Place” – it is an on campus second hand market for students.

6. Others

- Arrival & leaving – I would suggest at least 3-4 days before semester starts and 2-3 days after semester ends. You will need the time for some arrangements and bureaucracies.
- My contact details -
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Pls. feel free to contact me with any clarifications you might have.
- Enjoy this empowering experience. EXPLORE and take advantage of the wide variety of activities proactively since not all activities are published upfront.

Best of luck and time,

Amir