



Exchange Semester: Fall 2015

Before Going

Let's just start with a few facts. Kellogg School of Management is in the top part of the US, next to Lake Michigan. The school is located at Evanston, which is a college town of 75K people, out of which 25K either work or study in the university. So everything is about Northwestern University. Kellogg is a truly an international school where you meet people from literally everywhere.

Learning Experience

Jacobs Center (2001 Sheridan Ave, Evanston) is the home of the Kellogg School of Management. All administration, faculty and almost all classes are located there, and this is where you, as an exchange student, will spend most of your time studying.

I personally took 5 courses (4 credit points): New Venture Discovery, Customer Analytics, Introduction to Software Development, Cross-Cultural Negotiation, and Strategic Franchising.

I highly recommend these courses in the order they are listed above. Before choosing the courses you will get a access to all the Syllabuses and can make your choices according to your preferences.

Housing

The McManus Living-Learning Center is Kellogg's on-campus residence hall. It's an apartment building located a 10 minute walk from Kellogg where most Kellogg students chose to live. All apartments are en-suite with kitchen in studio, one or two-bedrooms configurations. It also houses numerous study rooms, computer facilities with printers and copiers, laundry rooms, a small (and smelly) gym and a large lounge with a big TV, a pool table, a ping pong table and even a piano. Unfortunately, during the fall semester, there's usually not enough space left in McManus for all visiting students. As such, students are randomly selected for rooms in order to keep the selection fair. Other alternatives are usually available and include subletting an apartment in Evanston, sharing a room with Northwestern students and also other on-campus residence halls and apartments. I got an apartment at Garrett building at Maple Avenue. The apartments do not come with a wifi connection, sheets, towels, pillows or blankets; nor pots, pans, dishes or flatware. The rent was \$1,191 per month including gas and electricity.

Public Transportation

The major mode of transportation around Evanston is walking or biking. Distances are short (if you walk from Jacobs to your apartment for 15 minutes you're very far away). A great option is borrowing or buying a bicycle. Second-hand bicycles are available or even new mountain bikes for as little as \$100 (e.g. in Walmart). Notice that in November temperatures go down and do so quickly, so this option is not always the best (especially when it snows). Travel to Chicago is normally done by train - either by the

“El” (Elevated Train) which has a continual service into town every 15 minutes but is slow (45 minutes at night) or by using the Metra which is quicker (30 minutes. but runs not so often). Taking an Uber is a reasonable option if you are in a group of 3 or 4 people. It costs approx. \$25 and is a great way to come home late on Saturday evening after an evening of wild doings. Moreover, during the day, there is a free shuttle bus that leaves from the Jacobs Center and brings you to the Law School (downtown Evanston, in front of the Hancock tower): you just need to show your Wildcard (student ID) to the driver. Renting a car can be useful for any trips that you want to make. Making friends with Kellogg students who have a car is also a good strategy.

Entertainment and Recommendations

Participate in **TGs** and **Balls**. Every Friday at 5pm there is TG (Thanks God is Friday) at Jacobs. The party usually has a topic and is organized by one of the Kellogg numerous clubs. Be there, not only because it's a fun place to relax after a busy week with free beer and snacks, but because it is a great opportunity to meet your fellow Kellogg classmates and friends in an informal setting. Also, every quarter there is at least one Ball for all students organized at Kellogg. First, it's once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet your school friends in a classy atmosphere and so nicely dressed up. Second, the Balls have great food, drinks, music and you would become much closer with your friends after.

Before you come, I would ask - What do you want to achieve from your exchange?

There are many ways you can define what you want to achieve from the exchange experience. I would advise to think about it before the busy days on campus start.

I also recommend meeting with professors. Kellogg is such a high caliber school in part because of all the great professors the school has. Every professor at Kellogg is a fountain of wisdom and many world-recognized experts in his/her field. Kellogg professors could be a great source of valuable information and knowledge and they are very open to meet with students. You just need to set up a meeting in advance and be prepared for the conversation. Professors love it!

Living Expenses

Living expenses are really depend on your own needs and limitations, however, it is a quite expensive experience. Accommodations will cost approx. \$3,500, health insurance around \$900, books and packs related costs depend on the courses you choose and your ability to get materials from friends but may sum-up to above \$1,000, and food requirements will call for another \$2,000 (roughly). Books are quite expensive, but there are some second-hand ones available with about 75% original price at the beginning of term in the Norris Center, and Amazon is always a great option. Case packets costs range from \$30 to \$300. This seems inflated, but there is not always a way around it. The typical Norris Center bill at the beginning of the quarter is around \$200-\$500. Other than that, since this is a truly unique experience, you will probably want to travel through a few states, go shopping, and just indulge yourself with anything the US can offer, which is a lot! So, be prepared to spend money.

Bank account - You may need a letter from Student Affairs stating that you are here on exchange and confirming that you have a local address. Once you have opened your account, you will be supplied with an ATM/credit card and temporary checks. Otherwise, there is a branch of US bank in the Norris Center and there are other banks scattered in the Evanston area. Your Wildcard can be used as a debit card to

withdrawal money from ATM if you have an account with US Bank. Citi Bank is the only bank that provides a credit card to non-US citizens; all the other banks will provide debit cards only.

Visa information

International students are required by U.S. federal immigration regulation to get in to the US on a student visa, so even if you have a tourist visa already you will need to get a new one. The international office at Kellogg will send you all the relevant info and will assist with the needed papers in, however, it is best to follow their instructions carefully – there are no second chances. Upon completion of your exchange (i.e. your **J-1** activity), you may remain in the U.S. for an additional 30 days.

Health Insurance

Northwestern University has determined that all incoming international students will be automatically enrolled in the University's Aetna health insurance plan. The cost is about \$900. Separate from the health insurance is an Admission Health record that is required of all enrolling students. You must complete a specific form and drop it off at the Health Service upon your arrival in Evanston. Notice that some portions of it require information from your doctor and some vaccinations.

General Experience and Tips

Chicago is the third largest city in the US and has many world-class art galleries and museums, one of the best orchestras in the world and also home to some of the best jazz and blues places in the US. There are many sites worth seeing, take advantage of your free time there.

- KWEST and/or the Ski trip (fall quarter exchange only). KWEST (Kellogg Worldwide Experiences and Services Trips) are also organized by 2nd year students for the incoming students. The ski trip can be a substitute or a complement to your social program at Kellogg depending on your budget and goals. It is 1 week long and costs around \$1000 (include flights). It's cheaper than KWEST and takes place at the end of the Fall quarter after the exams. Any Kellogg student can participate. Ski trips are very popular and demand exceeds supply every year. You need to sign up immediately when Signup opens to secure a spot. The trip is a great fun and includes thematic parties every day, many competitions and gatherings. Don't worry if you are not a skier or snowboarder as many people only started learning winter sports at the ski trip, while others never ski or snowboard at all on the trip. Sign up early.
- Take part and be active at Kellogg clubs. Kellogg has more than 130 student clubs and organizations across the full time, part time and EMBA programs that appeal to diverse interests and issues. There are academic, professional and industry-specific organizations, as well as clubs focused on sports, hobbies, the arts, and ethnic and cultural interests. It is a great way to get to know fellow students, industry leaders, companies, and just have fun with a group of great people with same interests. This is truly a unique experience that may also help you develop professionally

Good Luck!