



Wharton Business School

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Congratulation!! You've been elected to participate in a semester in one of the top business schools in the world! This experience will be incredible interesting and fulfilling for you. At the beginning, before even dive to the administrative tasks and educational targets, think why you going to this place, why you chose to do an exchange program and what you want to gain from it. This time could be rocky and shaky, and if you'll be focus on your targets, I believe you will gain more.

Administration:

Once selected, you will receive an email from Natalia (or other international coordinator) with information for your arrival. The email will include University registration, opening an account, how to select courses and what are the visa procedures. Natalia is not that organized, so the information will probably will reach to you in couple of emails, don't be afraid to reach out to her, she's generally responsive and helpful. Don't take your time with the **visa** procedure, try to do it in advance so you'll get it on time. There are two options to choose from: J-1 or F-1, look for the differences and pick the one right for you. Another item you will need to complete is **insurance**. The university offer somehow comprehensive insurance but extremely expensive. It also provides two others alternative you can choose that are dramatically cheaper. The insurance is covered activities within the university, I added a travel insurance from Israel just to make sure I'm covered in a reasonable manner when traveling to other places.

I will ask about the Wharton academic calendar and how to add to your email account, it gives you presentation of all the activities happening in each day. Also, you should



download the 'GroupMe' app and 'Slack'. Those are the social communication apps the students use to inform of specific topics, selling tickets, invite to parties and events etc.

Accommodation:

There are two main spots you should consider for accommodation, one is **University city**, which is the area of couple academic institute including University of Pennsylvania. Its west Philadelphia and mainly accommodate with undergrad students, rental cost is relatively lower around \$1,000 and less. The second area is **Center city**, Most Wharton grad students are living in this area. It's the area of all the high rises offices and apartments building but also regular buildings. The rental fees are higher and can varied from \$1,000 to more than \$2,000.

In Natalia email, she provides several accommodation options for you. Those are usually dorms or website with apartments. Occasionally she will send an email we apartments or rooms in apartments for subleasing. Wharton students who often go to exchange program themselves or to other in Boston or San Francisco posting their places to rental. You can also use craigslist and Airbnb in case you have found a place. You can also try to look through **Hillel** agents in Philly. My preference was not to live by myself but to have a Wharton's roommate, it will be easy at the beginning to understand what going on and a way to meet new people. My roommate was a perfect match, we end up being close friends, she offers me to join travelling after the semester was over and a place to crash if I'll be back to Philly.

Philadelphia and University of Pennsylvania:

Philadelphia city is the 5th largest city in its population in United States, it has a reach history and sites to explore. Center city is area with all the facilities you will expect to have in big cities, many good restaurants, fast and street food, shopping centers, beautiful plazas, dance clubs and bar, convenient and groceries stores. Some recommendation: There is a Trader Joe's in north part of center city, it has great supply of products in low prices than other places. Close to it you will find Wine and alcohol stores like 'Wine and Spirit' (Pennsylvania laws prohibit to sell regular food products and alcohol at the same place). For a nice Philly cheese-steak place you can check 'Cleaver' as a good start. If you look for fine dining, please look for Michael Solomonov restaurants, the Israeli Chef has the best places in the city (including one Michelin star restaurant called – 'Zahav').



University of Pennsylvania located in university city, just across the river, is one of the oldest and most prestige university in united states. The campus is huge and deployed over great area and many buildings, it is worse spend half a day just wondering around the campus and observed the atmosphere. Look for the 'Fine art' library, you will enjoy the inside architecture of it. There is the Grad Center, located just across 'Steinberg Hall' building (one of Wharton's buildings), you can spend your time there studying, relaxing and drinking coffee for free 😊

Reaching Wharton is easy to do, you can use the bus line 42 and 21 on Walnut street. A ride will cost you \$2.5 (and it don't spare changes). You can buy a Septa card at the train station and refill it, each ride with Septa cost \$2. There is Trolley as well, I never used it but its efficient and can be used with the Septa card as well. I used to walk to the campus, it was a 35-min walk. **Please remember:** There is 2401 Wharton building locate on Walnut 2401 in center city. It is a place for student to have meeting, study and other activities. You can have a chip to enter at the administration offices at the campus.

Courses and extra curriculum:

The amount and Verity of courses you can choose is vast. You can choose between managerial courses, finance, social based, technical, marketing, strategy, Technology and entrepreneurial and many others. Courses are usually differing between Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday.

I've taken 4 classes, 3 of them were 1 Academic unit and the fourth was 0.5 unit.

- Corporate Development – M&A. It was excellent course with amazing professor. Please note the course requirements are high, the professor is cold calling on a regular base and you need to read case for every class.
- Influence – The best course I've taken. The professor is someone to look up to him and even if the topic doesn't interest you, it worse just to listen to Professor Massey. The course has many aspects and generally aim to help you improve you interpersonal professional skills and not to be organizational politics averse.
- Negotiation – Another great course. I've took it with Professor Green. He constantly makes the courses practices interesting and challenging.
- Technology Strategy – A good course who try to capture specific technology business model and analyses it in academic research and strategic manner.



Other courses I haven't took but heard helpful reviews: Any course Nicolaj Siggelkow is offering you should consider taking, as many call him the Porter of Wharton. Legal aspects of Entrepreneurship also consider by many as an amazing course that not necessarily deal legal issues per se. Prof. Gad Allon, has some interesting operation courses as well.

Wharton offer **leading ventures** programs. It's extra activities that happen within and outside of school premises. It has many workshops, ventures and activities that are very interesting and worse considered. Some are free and others cost money (varied from \$500 - \$4,500).

Wharton Grad program has many **clubs** you should considered to join. From ethnic and nations clubs (Jewish, French, Asian, Korean, German, African-American, etc.), hobbies (Food, Whiskey, Sky, Sailing, Basketball, Soccer, etc.) to Professionals (Consulting, Banking, Technology, Fintech etc.). Pick couple that you want to explore and enjoy the activities.

Costs:

In general, you should take into consideration \$3,000 per month for your entire expenses (including accommodation and insurance). This budget can be change based on your preferences and resources. If you want to travel to remote places in the US or outside your budget should be bigger. Wharton students love to travel, they travel outside the country once a month, and its contagious. I've tried to travel as much as I could also to have some time and get

to know new people. If you want to save some you can buy groceries and cook to yourself, buy alcohol and drink at home before parties and go easy on your Uber account 😊.

I would suggest opening American bank account, I took Sharon (2015 program) suggestion and open an account at PNC bank. When you have an American account open 'Venmo' account. It's an app Americans use to transfer money from one to the other.

One last suggestion: This is YOUR TIME. Have fun. Use it wisely and be grateful for this opportunity you are going to have!

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