



JOHNSON
Cornell University



Tel Aviv University
TAU Recanati
The Leon Recanati Graduate School of Business Administration

General:

Participating in an exchange program is one of the best experiences you may have in life, but it is not an easy one as you move to a whole new environment. Coming with courage and an open mind is a must, you will meet, study and hang out with people from many countries, visit many new places, adopt new opinions on many subjects, see international companies from the inside and meet with their top executives, rest from the “adult life” in Israel and experience some real collage life in one of the top universities in the world in a small city taken out of a “Harry Potter” story.

Difficult ? well.. mainly on your bank account balance.. honestly speaking – I can not find a reason to avoid participating in an exchange program – it is a once in a life time experience and now I have a place to sleep in 36 countries in the world, all I need to earn money again..

In a more serious note- if you quit your job for the experience take into consideration the cost of an additional few months in which you will be searching for a new one.

Before...

1. You got accepted- great!!!
2. Leave this letter and log on to the housing website and apply for on campus housing (even if you do not have a net id yet)- Maplewood park- 4 bedrooms apartment. Don't get me wrong the apartments themselves are \$%&#%\$ but- a) it is the easiest way to receive housing close to school (you walk down hill to school- bid advantage). B) probably the cheapest option in the neighborhood. C) most of the exchange students will leave there, it will be easier to have fun together. D) all the expenses and utilities are included in the monthly price. E) the community center will receive all the packages you order on line .f) the most beautiful recreation paths start here! Downsides- you live in a tiny room with a single bad with 3 roommates.
3. Pray! Good energies might contribute to the option that Mrs. Missy Ricker will accept your request for housing. It is very difficult to find housing on your own since it is a small city and the lords demand a full year contract- it will be very difficult to find someone to take your apartment in the winter. In order to find housing for Sharon we literally had to walk down the streets and call landlords- not a pleasant experience.
4. Contact Donna or who is currently in charge on the exchange program and ask for the email address of all the other students. Then, send a group email, introduce yourself and ask for the Facebook page they created – most of the students know that they were accepted long before you- they already created a Facebook page and shared their knowledge. Try to look for an apartment with them.

5. Check your email and your Cornell email daily- even if they tell you not to. I received a notice about the housing to my Cornell email.
6. Contact the Tel Aviv law school- they are also sending students to Cornell.
7. Book a ticket- flying in August is tricky – book a flight in advanced. A few considerations you should take into account: a) if you have friends in the US it will be nicer to visit them in the summer than the winter. B) you should be in Ithaca 2 days before school to settle down if you have housing, or a few more days if you don't. c) JOE- a very nice activity organized for the first years-it is lots of fun and a great opportunity to meet with the first years. Usually takes place in the weekend before school starts. D)the 2nd hand market- a market in which all the goods left by last year students are sold- great stuff in great condition, usually takes place in Helen Newman hall during the weekend before school- you can purchase everything there from microwaves to blankets to panicles in very cheap prices.
8. Contact Israeli currently studying in Johnson through Linkdin , they can help you with lots of information.
9. Try to meet the Cornellians when they are in Israel- every year during March the students come to Israel with the Israeli trek- a great way to meet with them and make some friends before you come to Ithaca
10. Meet with the exchange student from Cornell in Tel Aviv.
11. You got housing! Great – stop praying. If not- try to contact the local Israelis/ friends you made and try to contact land lords. A short explanation about Ithaca- the school is on the hill top. The neighborhoods surrounding the school are called collage town (surrounding collage avenue) – this is your top priority when looking for housing. But- you can also live in the downtown area (preferably close to the commons). Most of the second years leave there, lots of night life (in comparison to Ithaca.... then – you want to make sure that the bus goes a few times an hour near your house (you will travel the bus for free once you receive your student card). This is it- do not live anywhere else. I walk everywhere in Ithaca –from Maplewood to Walmart (45 minutes) to school, to target- it is a small city, so leaving a bit far from school is not a major issue in my opinion.
12. If you are planning to search for a job- I suggest you prepare your resume in English, let the career center take a look and contact the career center in Johnson and the relevant club before you travel in order for you to star working in Israel, remember that the locals have a year advantage on you- start closing the gap (especially networking wise- you know where you want to work? Start speaking with Israelis from these companies- yep! Linkedin will be one of your best friend for the coming months).
13. Courses- if you though the bidding method in TAU is bad.. welcome to Johnson. I tried to squeeze everything in 3 day, so I could travel. Also, you have a 3 weeks cancelation period- so register to more courses than you need and go to the lessons you didn't get but you want to participate in, since you will probably get in – but you will not be able to participate if you missed the first lesson.
 - a. Review the list of courses – write down the lessons number not the course! The specific lesson.
 - b. If you want to take courses with less the 20 students – bid for them first. The places are running out very quickly.

I participated in the following courses:

1. **Oral communication** – take it with Angela. You will learn how to present like a professional. It is a course without a grade all you need to do is to participate and make presentations. Very helpful.
2. **Creative design for affordable-** great course – a joint course with design schools in Cornell and an MBA school in India. The purpose of your team is to create a proto type of a business sustainable product for bottom of the pyramid populations. The teacher's methods are original and the process is very productive and more importantly – you meet many new students and locals- since not many people take this course it is a very good opportunity to group with the locals.
3. **Management writing-** if your English is good it is a waste of time for you- if not go for t. you will write a lot and receive feedback from the professor. Again take with ANGELA.
4. **Managerial decision making** – great course with a great professor about decision making processes (he is teaching from his own book). I found it very interesting. Lots of work – 8 assignments of I remember right.
5. **Power and politics-** I found it boring but I had a nice group so I didn't leave it. An easy course 1-2 assignments.
6. **Negotiation** – great course, lots of work but very interesting.
7. **Leaders in Sustainable Global Enterprise-** 1 hour class, many speakers from different industries. You can hang out with them after. Interesting if you find sustainable interesting and as the professor said" it is the easiest point in Johnson". 1 writing assignment
8. **Additional points-** may be gained by participating in leadership courses in the weekend (Fri- Sun). Check it when you come to school the wineries tour will close in days.

I know that people loved: management cases (mandatory to those who want to engage consulting), and macro – the professor is Israeli and he is very popular- so bid for it early)

14. Insurance- you are required to purchase the one offered to you by Cornell- bye bye 1000 \$. Make sure you fill in all the documents properly.
15. Visa- the university will help you with the process (I20 and then a trip to the American embassy). The major pain here is, again, the cost. Bye bye – 360 \$.
16. Packing-
 - a. You need summer+ winter clothing. Most days you will wear casual clothing only on presentations, company briefings and visits you will need more official clothing. Take (if you have) a business suit – if not purchase one before school starts.
 - b. I would also suggest taking with you basic utilities which you can leave in Ithaca – plait, glass, knife, fork and utilities for a single bad. A little bit home feeling and you save money.
 - c. If you love sport and travelling – Ithaca is the place – take your gear with you.
17. Smile! Now, all that is left is to enjoy the experience.

Getting there-

Flight- you can book a flight from Israel to Ithaca- you will stop in NY on your way. If it is cheaper go for it.

Bus- you have the following options-

<http://www.johnson.cornell.edu/Search/Visit/By-Bus-or-Train.aspx>

If you live in Maplewood park be prepared to get of the bus at Stella's and climb up. if you have a lot of things- call a cab.

My advice... Stay a few days in the big city and then travel to Ithaca. Purchase a local sim-card from one of the mobile companies (bring your own device; all your whatsApp groups will continue working after you will switch he cards, and the same with your contacts). If you have Samsung bring an extra battery with you, they don't sell that kind in the US.

In addition you can purchase a local Israeli no – so your family and friend will be able to call you whenever they want with a local cost)

Once you are in Ithaca- go to the school and take your student card, this way you can travel for free on the local buses, walk around and get yourself familiar with the local bars, supermarkets and markets (the farmers markets are very nice- try them). The bars, Walmart, tarket, the local mall, cinema and the commons are a great way to start. Ask for the campus map when you arrive.

Contact the local Hillel representative- he will guide you how to contact other Israelis, holidays gathering etc.

Living expenses

Living in Ithaca is expensive. Travelling is expensive. A new laptop is expensive. Prepare 50,000-60,000 NIS for 5 months stay.

The more important advice is to transfer to your Cornell account a little more than needed and visit your account again once a month and before you leave.

Travelling

You can travel a lot during your stay in Ithaca it depends on you. If you are a nature lover you can travel close to Ithaca and engage many sports activities. I travelled all over the USA with my friends from school and family- MOST of the times to the big city.

School -

Try not to limit yourself just to the exchange student get acquainted with the locals as much as you can.

The most important thing is to remember that this is a once in a life time experience and enjoy yourself! And seriously you will have to work hard not to have fun!

Questions?!?

Feel free to send me an email – lachmanm.maya@gmail.com