



Exchange Program Summary

FALL Semester (Sep- Dec) 2015

Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management

-Inspiring Growth

Congratulations! If you are currently reading this report, I am assuming, you are selected to participate in Northwestern Kellogg MBA Exchange Program. You should be really excited, proud and extremely happy. Have no second doubts regarding your time at Kellogg, because it will be one of the best experiences that you will ever have in your entire academic life! If you haven't been selected yet and either you are thinking of applying or trying to decide between schools, I hope this report will motivate you to do the right thing. If you are after a world-class education in the US with top-notch faculty as well as a social, engaging, warm and welcoming environment Kellogg must be your #1 choice on your list. And I will tell you why.

Why Kellogg?

It is not me only saying it. Let's look at rankings. I am sure you have gone through this process during your school picking period. If not, you should. Even though, I don't believe these rankings 100%, it gives a perspective towards its brand name. And let's face it; one of the things that you are after is the program's global reputation. Poets & Quants, a leading news website devoted to the coverage of business schools, along with Business week, Forbes, US News, Financial Times and Economist has been consistently ranking Kellogg in Top 10 MBA programs in the world (Exhibit 1). This is a good indicator that at least I am not delusional, so please keep on reading...

The people & The Program

Besides its top-level academics and reputation, the student body is extremely welcoming. I say this again, because it is very important. Since you won't have a lot of time adjusting the school culture, classes and a new country, you would want to be in a welcoming environment where you won't feel a total stranger. I never felt that I was an "exchange student" during my time at Kellogg. You won't have any problems blending in to the 2nd years within no-time, since you will be taking classes mostly with them. In every year

about 650 to 750 students enroll Kellogg. Majority of them around 70% are 2-year students (2Ys). Around 20% enrolls in the 1-Year Program (1Ys). Around 70 students join the MMM Program (Triple Ms) to earn their MBA and an M.S in Design Innovation. And finally you will come across to JD/MBA students aka JDs. There are around 30 of them so you might not bump into one as well. The Fall semester lasts 11 weeks, including one week of Thanksgiving break. There is an additional one week for finals. So it starts at mid-September and ends at the beginning of December.

Class of 2015 was very diverse. International Students made up of 40% of the class size, which is huge. So it is very likely that you will meet someone from your home town. 43% is women and the average age is around 28. Work experience range is between 4-7 years. You will definitely feel your classmates' work experience during class discussions, but don't let this to intimidate you. A fresh perspective, a new way of thinking is always appreciated and acknowledged by your peers and your professors. Average GMAT score is 724. This is a no brainer, mostly very bright and hard-working people will be around you. Obviously you will bump into a few and ask yourself "how on earth they got into Kellogg?" – but remember I mentioned above that there is diversity. Final word, they love having fun. Lots and lots of parties and events.

Kellogg MBA Rankings

Business school rankings for the past 5 years



Exhibit 1: Poets & Quants Kellogg MBA Rankings
<http://poetsandquants.com/school-profile/kellogg-school-of-management-at-northwestern-university/>

Anyone Like Me?

When I attended the 2015 fall semester, we were 52 exchange students from around the world. Almost every day I was spending time with most of them. They are at the same boat as you are. So its good to figure out "how the system works" with like-minded people. Most likely majority of your close friends will also be from the exchange class. I am not saying that's how you should be doing it but these are the people that you will see the most. As an exchange student you will be studying with the 2Ys, attend the orientation / CIM week with 1Ys. Unfortunately you won't be seeing any of the 1Ys that you met during orientation, so it makes it harder to meet and keep in touch during the year. On the other hand 2Ys already know each other and especially during Fall term almost all of them will be trying to recruit for full-time positions so they will busy and stressed. Exchange students like you will want to see the city and network as much as you do. You will spend a lot of time with them so start getting comfortable.

Where is Kellogg?

Ok so far everything sounds great, but is Kellogg in the middle of nowhere? Of course not! The main campus is located in Evanston, a nice campus town just north to Chicago, and there is also a smaller campus in downtown Chicago. Evanston is beautifully located near Michigan Lake and 11 miles north to Chicago. There are nice restaurants, bars, pubs and shops around the campus. It is a small town, so don't expect much, but since you will be busy with classes, group works, club events, meet-ups so much that you won't have time to go crazy during the week. Also all your friends and classmates will be around the campus. You will constantly see familiar faces. To get around the city, you might consider biking as an option but this depends on where you will live. If you will be lucky enough to stay in McManus (I will talk about it later) then I wouldn't recommend it because it is a very short distance and you simply don't need it.

Whenever you need a break Chicago is 45 minutes with away with "Metra". "El" (Elevated Train) which has a continual service into town every 15 minutes but is slow. I have taken it once, so I wouldn't recommend it much. You can do Uber/taxi which will take you around 25 minutes. It should cost around 25\$-30\$ to the city. I believe my largest expense during these 4 months was UBER! Please don't do the same mistake while heading back to Evanston late at night and share the fee with your friends. During the day there is a free shuttle bus that leaves from the Jacobs Center and brings you to the Law School (downtown, in front of the Hancock tower): you just need to show your Wildcard (student ID) to the driver. Super convenient, but unfortunately it is not running on the weekends.

Chicago

I wanted to open a new paragraph for Chicago. I know there are people out there that are dying to live in New York. I lived in NYC for 5 years (both as a student and while working) before my MBA in Israel and I can tell you from experience that I would choose Chicago anytime of the day as a student. NYC is hectic! Unnecessary expensive. Super fragmented. Lots of distractions. Cut throat environment. It is great to get to work, build your career and get experience in NYC but you will be student for 4 months. And you can easily go to NYC whichever weekend you want. Its an hour flight, costs around \$250 if you book in advance. You will go crazy for 2 days and leave. Believe me you will thank me for this!

Ok, Chicago... The windy city. One of the most beautiful cities I have ever seen in the US (including west coast). Think about NYC but much cleaner, neater and organized version. Restaurants; you can find the best hot dog place for only \$5 to a 3-star Michelin Restaurant. Bars, you have tons of them. Best Jazz and Blues places in the US are located in Chicago. Nightclubs? House music was originated in Chicago; I think that sums it up. Shopping – The Magnificent Mile has almost every shop that you can find on 5th Avenue. Culture, Museums? A lot! Art Institute of Chicago is only one of the world-famous ones. You can check my recommendations at the end of the report or just Google it!

Yes, there is a small price to it. It gets cold. It gets really cold! If you are going to Exchange during Fall term, you should be fine. January and February are the worst months for Chicago. We had snow once in a while started around November. Other than that it was cold, but manageable with a very thick coat!

Visa Information (taken from previous years report – not much to change)

All 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 and Forms: Northwestern University has determined that all incoming international students will be automatically enrolled in the University's Aetna health insurance plan. The cost is \$~800. 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.

Main Sites on Campus (list taken from previous years - updated)

1. Jacobs Center (2001 Sheridan Ave, Evanston).

Home of the Kellogg School of Management. All administration, faculty and almost all classes are located here, and this is where you, as an exchange student, will spend most of your time studying.



2. Allen Center (2169 Campus Drive, Evanston).

Headquarters for Executive Education at Kellogg. Occasional visits for lunch with professors, company presentations and conferences. Here you will meet all exchange students during the first day (orientation day).

3. McManus Living & Learning Center (1725 Orrington Ave, Evanston).

Even if you chose not to live here during your exchange, McManus is where most exchange students and international students spend their time off campus.

4. Norris Center (on campus).

Northwestern's student center, where you can find the main canteen (lots of different food types and a lousy coffee of course); the bookshop (where you can buy your course case packets and books and NU & Kellogg memorabilia); recreation rooms and a branch of US Bank. You can also get your Wildcard (NU student ID) there in the basement.

5. International Students Office (in the Jacobs Center).

This office handles the administrative matters of all international students at Kellogg. Don't forget to visit within the first few days of your arrival with your passport and DS-2019 form to sign in. Also don't forget to get your DS-2019 endorsed if you need to leave the US during your exchange or else it will be a major hassle to come back.

6. SPAC (Sports Pavilion and Aquatics Center).

On campus, this well-equipped sports center has a spectacular lakeside location and is totally FREE (with your Wildcard). There is a well-equipped gym, an indoor running track, a large swimming pool, 2 basketball courts, 4 tennis courts and several racket ball courts. There is also a sauna to relax in after your exercise. You can get a nice clean towel when you go in.

7. 27 Live, Bat 17, Tommy Nevins, World of Beer and Bar Louie.

Tuesday's 27 Live! Every other day Bat 17! The traditional Kellogg student "hang-out" spots, designed to unwind. Alternatively, you may choose to make the 30 minutes venture down to Chicago (major places to go to at night: Lincoln Park (packed with bars and restaurants) and, of course, downtown Chicago (with upscale restaurants and beautiful bars and clubs).

Housing

I really hope you will be lucky enough to get an apartment in McManus Living-Learning Center. Not because the apartment itself is great, but its very convenient. 10 minute walk from Jacobs Center, where almost all of your classes will be taking place. There is a Whole Foods Market literally 3 minutes away. Chipotle 2 minutes away. All apartments have kitchen. You can either apply for a studio, one or two-bedrooms options. There is a very high demand to get a room in the building so the housing office holds a lottery. You can sign up to lottery for free. It also has numerous study rooms, computer facilities with printers and copiers, laundry rooms, a small gym and a large lounge with a big TV, a pool table, a ping pong table and even a piano. 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. You can even find cheaper options than McManus, but they might be a bit far from campus. Housing department will send you a link with off-campus housing listings.

Living Expenses

It is hard to put a price tag on the expenses since it all varies. But in a nut-shell you are looking at something like below.

Housing - \$3000 - \$4500 (in McManus)

Equipment for the apartment - \$100-\$300 (you need only very basic things like pillow, sheets, tapper ware, etc.)

Health Insurance - \$800

Books and course packs – \$250 (wait till you finalize your decision. Return policy is a huge hassle and sometimes you can't return the course packets)

Transportation (Taxis & trains) - \$200 (If you won't use Uber a lot you should be fine)

Food - \$1500-\$3000

Drinks & Going out - ??? (Depends)

Travel – ??? (Depends)

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.

Courses

You will get an email from the International Office regarding the classes available for exchange students. Way before the semester starts, you will go thorough list of open courses for exchange students and a very detailed courses and professors' evaluation chart from the previous year. This will help you to better understand the course rating and will give key metrics such as course workload, difficulty etc.

There are so many options and it is very easy to be overwhelmed with the selection since you can select between 3 – 5 credits. During add/drop period, don't be afraid to ask around to get more information and student's opinions regarding the class. It is the best way to get informed. Kellogg uses a bidding system to allocate seats in their courses, and there can be significant difficulties in getting a place on some popular courses. The bidding system does not apply to Exchange students which makes your life much easier. Bidding statistics of the previous year and Teacher Course Evaluations (TCE) are good indicators during the course selection process.

You have to bid for 3 classes minimum, 5 maximum. Bidding usually takes place in July for Fall exchange. The first week of the term is quite hectic. People sign up for 5 courses and may only attend the first two or three lectures. Then, depending on whether or not they like a course, students may elect to drop it. I advise you to do the same.

The classes are very engaging. Each student has his/her own nameplate and Professors tend to 'cold-call' students and get everybody engaged during class. So you have to do your reading otherwise you look like an irresponsible, useless, piece of s.... You got the point. So please do your reading. And also you are representing TAU, it is good to keep our glory at its best!

You are not any different than a regular Kellogg student since the professors are usually not aware of you being an exchange student (unless they asked around). So don't expect any special treatment from them, you will not get. Grading is different than at TAU, and if there is an exam it usually determines only a small portion of the final grade. The rest is based on attendance and class participation, submitted assignments and group work. The grading is A, B or C, and it is usually very difficult to fail. I mean you really need to try hard to fail. But 10% of the class will get a C – just so you know.

In some of the classes laptops are not allowed but tablets are ok. But you need a laptop regardless. To access the course material, you will be using Canvas. You will submit your assignments through Canvas as well. It is very easy to use, you won't have any problems with it.

Serial

This link will be your best friend at Kellogg. You can access to Canvas, your webmail, CAESAR (all the student profile, payment info etc. will be here), Career Management System (CMS), Study Buddy (to reserve rooms for study groups) and Kellogg Marketplace (craigslist for Kellogg).

They call it Serial. Kellogg. Serial. Get it?

<http://www.kellogg.northwestern.edu/Serial/>

Career Management System

If you are thinking about recruiting, you should do your exchange during Fall. All the career fairs will be held during this time. Recruiting is almost like a full-time job. And if you have a visa issue for the US, its even harder. But you can recruit for any office location. Almost every day, there are several companies that coming to recruiting events. You need to attend these events and network very hard, because you will be competing against Kellogg students. Almost all career center and recruiting activities are open for the exchange students. Having said that, don't expect to see job offers thrown at you. It only depends on you. And it takes huge effort to get recruited on campus.

The exchange can use all the resources beside the access for the alumni network and bidding for interviews (you can still get invited, which is more important). The career center provides workshops for CV and cover letters writing, mock interviews, resources usage and more – and they all can be very helpful if you search for a new job and specially a career change.

Companies are coming to interview students on campus, and exchange students can be invited to these interviews as well, but can't bid for an interview. Still, many companies are not interested in students without permanent US work permit, and even less than that in exchange students without temporary work visa. So recruiting is possible, but mostly if you have a work permit or looking for international opportunities outside the US.

Must DOs!

1. Attend CIM

CIM week is an orientation week for the new full time students. The students are divided into 8 sections of around 70 students and the whole week is about being part of the section and getting to know your section buddies through many contests and other activities (something like Harry Potter...) That wasn't my comment but it is on point. As I mentioned earlier the downside is you won't see the new students in any of your classes but you will see them on Jacobs building. It won't hurt to know more people. You definitely should attend since the first question people will ask you is that which section are you in. It will broaden your personal and professional network and make you a part of a close group for the rest

of the semester. Even if you don't choose to participate, you will still be assigned to a section. This will put you on the section's mailing list, so you can get invitations to their parties or any other relevant events.

2. KWEST Ski Trip

Sadly I couldn't attend, but heard amazing things about it! It is pure madness. Last December, it was Salt Lake City. Imagine the whole mountain full of Kellogg students. Around 800 people joined last year. I have seen videos of it and was depressed after for a while. It costs around \$1200. Open for exchange students but you have to be right in front of your computer and register the moment tickets go live. They sell out in the first 5 minutes. Then there is a waitlist but the chances of getting a ticket are very slim.

3. Participate TG

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. Must attend. Beer is not so great but it is an amazing opportunity for networking. Do not miss it.

4. Contact Professors

You will be in the same building the whole day with the most influential academicians in the world. Use them. Reach out to them with any questions that you have. They are super nice and very helpful. And of course, they are extremely smart.

5. Be active in Clubs

There are 130 clubs to choose from. From consulting club and investment club to Food and wine club, soccer club. 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.