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Degree Program at TAU: MBA

Host University: Kellogg School of Management

Exchange term: Spring 2019 (10 weeks)

*****Note:** This summary is focused to provide new information with tips and not to reiterate previous exchange summaries. Before reading this memo, you should read at least the two summaries below which I think are the most useful and accurate to the time writing these lines:

[Spring 2018](#), [Fall 2018](#)

Intro

Deciding to take a three month leave from work was not an easy decision for me. It came along with mixed feeling whether the experience was worth it. At retrospective, put all worries aside, and just decide to go. Kellogg will be one of your most influential experiences in life, both from the academic perspective and foremost from the personal evolvment process you are about to undergo.

The ecosystem which resides in Evanston, unlike the one in other options such New York, LA or Hong Kong, is of a pure academic town. Think of Beer-Sheva style kind of studying compared with the style of TAU. You meet people not only on campus, but everywhere- the grocery store, the gym etc.

Housing and Logistics

McManus is absolutely the place where you should stay. Although old and not luxuries, the advantages are far more than the downsides, to name a few: all the exchange students live in the same building; no need to sign on a contract with a landlord; cheaper; has a nice public space and a lot of Kellogg students live there.

Tips:

- 1-bedroom apartment is the biggest (too big in my opinion) and the most expensive. The chances to get it are high during the spring term.
- Even if you did not get your first pick (usually a single studio), don't be shy and ask the housing team (Janet Olsen) to switch upon your arrival. I managed to get a single studio that way.
- You can get packages every day at the reception.
- The room is empty. Stores closes at 22:00 so be prepared for the first night/ask some friend in your exchange group to buy you stuff if you meet before.
- The cheapest local SIM card is from 'mint mobile'- you do it online only and it costs \$45 for 3 months (compared with the competitors whose ball park price is around \$120 for 3 months)
- Student discounts: You get Amazon prime for free for 6 months using your EDU Kellogg mail, and almost every big brand has its own student discounts, just look it up.
- Don't miss the orientation day. Apart from meeting the exchange party in person, there are a lot of lectures you don't want to miss.
- If you are using Android phone, consider changing your Appstore to the U.S one. The major caveat is that it will remain for 1 year without the option to change it back. You will get a lot of advantages: the option to use Venmo which is the way Kellogg people share expenses (Sharing a bill, ride or concert tickets) or download apps for shopping (Uniqlo app has great deals)

Transportation to/from downtown:

| Method | Cost – one way | Duration |
|-------------------------|----------------|---|
| Metro | \$2.5 | 60 min/ 40min express during rush hours |
| UberX/Lyft | \$30 | Minimum 30 min |
| Uber shared/Lyft shared | \$10 | Minimum 30 min |
| Inter campus shuttle | free | Minimum 30 min |

Transportation to/from the Airport:

When you land/depart take a ride share. If you are arriving without a data plan than make sure to read on Lyft/Uber website on how to get to the pickup zone (it can be in a different terminal). For other journeys, when you travel light, take a bus from the train station which costs \$2.5. For comparison, ride sharing to the airport is minimum \$30 for the shared option.

Car rental:

I found using the Enterprise branch in Evanston very useful. When you search online sometimes it lacks the option of showing you deals if you want to return the car during non-operating hours. If you go to the branch in person, you will get the option to use the drop deposit box when you return a car, and there is a Kellogg 10% discount.

Expenses (in \$US, excluding plane tickets, weekend vacations, shopping, car rentals):

| | |
|---|---|
| Housing | 3900 (McManus single studio) |
| Northwestern's Mandatory health insurance | 1000 |
| Health insurance from Israel | 300 |
| Course pack | On average \$40 per course |
| Transportation | 200 |
| Food/Restaurants/going out | 2500 |
| Kellogg events | 110 (mandatory for student body) + 0-600 (varies if you want to go) |
| Retreats | 200-400 |
| Cellular | 45 |
| TOTAL FOR ME | ~ 9000 |

Social life:

Kellogg is packed with stuff to do. Clubs are one of the more familiar ways. Join them and go to events you are interested in. The events calendar can be found in the campus groups application (you will be informed of all technicalities during the orientation day).

Kellogg is using the Slack platform – all students are automatically part of it, this is how you connect- WhatsApp is hardly used.

Upon your arrival, you will be divided into sections- each exchange student will get a section, which is basically a group of 70 Full time students. It is like the organized constructed plan some of us are doing at TAU. Each section has its own slack channel, they organize dinners, events and retreats. Don't miss them.

Kellogg (the clubs) has a calendar of events during spring term, to name a few- 90's party, Tuesday's parties at Evanston pub, Bollywood bash, Dinner en blanc, Taste of Kellogg, Memorial Day retreats, River boat party and more...Some of them cost money but its worth it. Networking is important at Kellogg, reach out to people. Chit chatting will be a major part of your day.

Academic life:

Classes are very different than at TAU, they are more engaging and not only the professor talks. Each class requires home preparation and case analysis (could be group assignments). Some courses are more demanding than others, but I would not recommend doing more than 4 Kellogg credits – I took 3.5 which are equal to 5 YAS.

Each class has a professor lunch – lunch with 10 more students in the Kellogg faculty restaurant. It is recommended to go and meet your peers and professor in person. This is a great way to network.

I took a combination of classes- Analytics, Strategy, Marketing and Organizational behavior. It is up to you and your subjects you connect the most. Before selecting courses, you will get an excel sheet from the admission staff and a description according to the following attributes: global impact, personal impact, challenging or not and the effort needed. The reports are accurate as students get to fill it out during the class time.

Customer analytics

<https://www4.kellogg.northwestern.edu/.../MKTG-482-0-81...>

Negotiation fundamentals

<https://www4.kellogg.northwestern.edu/.../MORS-472-5-61...>

Social Dynamics a Analysis

<https://www4.kellogg.northwestern.edu/.../MORS-457-0-61...>

Managing Organizations Growth

<https://www4.kellogg.northwestern.edu/.../MORS-946-5-70..>

Adding to that, Kellogg's career center offers English lessons, career coaching, workshops: CV, LinkedIn, interview preps. A free subscription to VMock and newspapers. Take advantage of it. The photography club holds a Linked in profile pictures taking session as well.