

Personal Information

Full Name: **Gregori Rozenshtein**
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Degree Program at TAU **MBA**
Host University **Indiana University- Kelley School of Business**
Exchange term (including the duration): **January – May 2025**
Phone number (optional): **054 – 4604 – 558**

Exchange Experience

Please use the outline below to write your report:

About the country and city:

Bloomington is a city in Indiana and is best known as the home of Indiana University. The university's presence deeply influences Bloomington's culture, economy, and demographics, giving it a vibrant, youthful atmosphere with a strong emphasis on arts, education, and research.

Indiana University and Life in Bloomington

Indiana University (IU) in Bloomington made a strong impression on me. The campus is huge and impressive, serving as the pulsating heart of the city. When the university is active during semesters, the city's population swells to about 100,000 residents, bringing with it a young and vibrant atmosphere. In contrast, during the summer months when classes are out, the city is calmer, and its population drops to around 40,000.

Nightlife and Culinary Scene

The main entertainment street is Kirkwood, where all the top bars and clubs are concentrated, including Kilroy's Sports, Brothers, Ocean, Upstairs, and more. I recommend checking their Instagram pages and connecting with local students for the most up-to-date information.

Food

The city offers a wide variety of restaurants of all types (Thai, Israeli, Italian, and more), at accessible and affordable prices. It's important to note that, unlike in Israel, portion sizes in the U.S. are very large – often referred to as "American Size." In addition to restaurants, the university's dining halls provide an enormous range of options at great prices, and you can even purchase a meal plan for good value.

Social Engagement and Community Support

There are numerous student organizations and specific clubs for MBA students, which are excellent ways to meet other students and integrate into campus life. The week before classes begin, an "orientation week" is organized, followed by social events and parties throughout the semester. I highly recommend following these organizations' updates via Instagram and email.

Furthermore, Bloomington is home to two large and strong **Jewish organizations** – Hillel and Chabad House. These are great avenues for meeting people, especially other Jewish students. Their welcome was incredibly warm and helpful, and they greatly assisted me in forming social connections.

Courses and professors:

- During the semester, I took six courses, divided into two seven-week modules, with three courses in each module. The courses were incredibly enriching and engaging. Here's a list of the courses I took:
 - **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION** with Nancy Evans
 - **INTL MONETARY SYS & HEDGING** with Andreas Hauskrecht
 - **FED RESERVE SYS: POLICY & PRAC** also with Andreas Hauskrecht
 - **INTRO TO SPREADSHEET MODELING** with Asa Palley
 - **PWR PERS INFLUENCE NEGOTIATION** with Tatiana Kolovou
 - **VENTURE STRATEGY** with Greg Fisher

Course registration is handled through the university's website, One.IU, and the online learning management system used instead of **Moodle is Canvas**. The administrative staff was very responsive and helpful, and the instructors were supportive and assisted me throughout.

It's important for me to mention that I received **academic accommodations** (such as extended time on exams). I submitted my relevant documents to the university in Hebrew, and they were accepted without requiring translation. This was a significant consideration on the university's part, as professional translation costs can be very high. I received all the accommodations I was entitled to, which greatly eased my study period.

Accommodation – dorms and other solutions

There are two main housing options in Bloomington: renting an apartment independently or renting a university-owned house with other exchange students. I chose the latter, and it cost me **\$850 per month, all-inclusive** – covering rent, water, electricity, gas, heating, and more.

Whenever there was an issue, I'd contact the university's maintenance service, and they would arrive to fix the problem that same day or the next. The service was excellent. The university houses are conveniently located close to campus, which makes getting around easy and comfortable.

Insurance and health services

Indiana University requires all students to have health insurance, and the university's plan cost me **approximately \$1,000 for the entire duration of my studies**. A significant benefit of this insurance is its **coverage across the entire USA**. This was incredibly useful, as I embarked on a road trip after my studies and remained covered throughout. You receive a digital insurance card, which you can then use to access medical care. While private insurance options are available, for me, the university's plan proved to be more affordable and cost-effective.

Required Vaccinations at Indiana University

Indiana University mandates that all students receive specific vaccinations and provide a signed immunization record. Some of these vaccinations require several weeks between doses, so I **highly recommend starting the vaccination process about three months before your arrival date** to ensure you complete all requirements on time.

Transportation

Getting around Bloomington is quite easy. I primarily used **Google Maps for bus routes**. As a student, you can ride the buses for **free with your student ID**. Without a student ID, the fare is \$1 per ride, so I recommend carrying some small bills just in case you don't have your ID on hand.

Uber and Lyft are readily available and affordable. Most rides typically don't cost more than \$10. I suggest comparing prices between both apps, and even on different devices, to get the best possible fare.

Living expenses

The cost of living (excluding housing costs) is approximately the cost of expenses: Food ranges from \$10 to \$30 per meal (dining hall around \$14, all-you-can-eat and restaurant around \$20).

Visa

Check with GPT/Gemini, the embassy, and the host university.

Terms may change depending on political situation.

Tips

Get involved with campus life – clubs, sports, anything that interests you. Don't just stick with people from your home country; make local friends too! Make sure you stay on top of your studies but also save time for exploring your city or even taking weekend trips. Be prepared for some culture shock but embrace it!

Photos





Please note that the Coller School of Management may publish your report on its website.

For any further information, please contact the Global Engagement Lead – Outgoing,

coordinator@tauex.tau.ac.il