

Full name: Jonathan Sherman

Email: jonsherman6@gmail.com

Degree Program at TAU: Sofaer Global MBA

Host University: University of Chicago Booth School of Business

Exchange term: Fall (September – December) 2019

Exchange Experience

About the country and city

The city of Chicago covers an area of 60,000 hectares and sits 176 meters (578 feet) above sea level on the southwestern shore of Lake Michigan. At 190 km wide and 495 km long, it's the 5th largest body of fresh water in the world. The city is traversed by the Chicago and Calumet rivers. Chicago's extensive parklands, including 3,000 hectares of city parks attract an estimated 86 million visitors annually.

As a multicultural city that thrives on the harmony and diversity of its neighborhoods, Chicago today embodies the values of America's heartland-integrity, hard work and community and reflects the ideals in the social fabric of its 77 distinct neighborhoods.

Chicago is recognized across the United States as a very passionate sports town.

Chicago is a leader in reforming public schools, enhancing public safety and security initiatives, providing affordable housing in attractive and economically sound communities, ensuring accessibility for all and fostering, social, economic and environmental sustainability.

<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/about.html>

About the Host University

Chicago Booth is located in South Chicago at University of Chicago's main campus. Regarding atmosphere, Booth follows something called "The Booth Approach" - Rooted in the fundamental scientific disciplines at the heart of business—economics, accounting, psychology, sociology, and statistics—this approach grounds all Booth students in theoretical frameworks that help them define problems, ask better questions, and develop better solutions.

They offered a buddy system where they pair you up with a second year Booth student to answer any questions and make you feel comfortable. Also, there is a Booth Slack group which I highly recommend joining ASAP as it has a lot of awesome information on social activities, career help and more.

I joined the "Jewthies" slack group and was able to connect with fellow Jews for some shabbats, high holidays and more. Also, I played intramural flag football and volleyball which is located on campus.

In terms of social activities, there are certain events that you can't be part of due to only being an exchange student, but there is something called TNDC (Thursday Night Drinking Club) where the Booth students' union rents out a different bar every Thursday night and all students can hang out and get reduced prices on drinks.

Courses and professors

I would recommend Lindsay Lyman's Building a New Venture course, if you're interested in entrepreneurship and building a business. Also, Scott Meadow's class on Investing is a cool case-based course. A LOT of work but worth it. I also heard Managing in Organizations is good, in addition to Tech Strategy. All depends on what you're interested in, because there are a lot of great finance related courses too.

Accommodation

The three common "size categories" are: studio apartment, 1 bedroom, and 2 bedroom options. Below are helpful hints and suggestions related to each category:

- Studio apartment: these are one room apartments with kitchen facilities. There is no separate living room. The kitchen may or may not be a separate room. Typically rents range from \$800 to \$1200.
- 1 Bedroom: these are two room apartments (1 bedroom and 1 separate living room). It includes kitchen which may or may not be a separate room. Typically rents for \$1100 - \$2000+.

- 2 Bedroom: these are three room apartments (2 bedrooms (master and guest) and 1 separate living room). It includes kitchen, which is typically a separate room. Typically rents for \$1300 - \$2200+.

<p>Downtown</p> <p>Approximately 75% of students (including South Loop)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer commute to campus (best public transportation option is to take the Metra; 15-30 min. by car) • More expensive apartments and parking • Easy to find apartments. Millennium Park Plaza and Columbus Plaza are two most popular buildings. • No need for car; many transportation options are available • Good restaurant/bar selection and entertainment options (theaters etc.) • Proximity to students; most of the students, particularly • International students, choose to live in downtown
---	--

Visa

As a Canadian citizen I was under the impression that I do not need to obtain a VISA to study in an exchange program in the U.S, but still need to obtain a DS-2019 or I-20. More information here: <https://ca.usembassy.gov/visas/canadian-students/>

Transportation

If living off campus, there is a slack channel that coordinates rides / Ubers which is very helpful. Also including some helpful tips here from Booth welcome package:

The main public transportation choices in Chicago are bus, El (city train), Metra (suburban train) and taxi. Public buses and the El cost US\$2.25 for each trip, while Metra fares depend on the distance traveled. Hyde Park is served by the Metra Electric District Line (Chicago to University Park). The closest station to the campus is

the 59th Street station. Another option almost as close is the 55-56-57th Street station.

Trains from Hyde Park run to the Randolph/South Water St. station downtown which is across the street from Millennium Park Plaza. For those living in Regents or the surrounding area, the Hyde Park/53rd St. station is the closest. Tickets for the Metra trains can be purchased at the stations.

Besides the Metra, students also take bus or El to get around. It is often convenient to purchase a stored-value VENTRA card so that you don't have to look for change every time you board the bus or El. The Chicago Transit Authority (which manages the bus and El) has a very convenient trip planner that helps you plan your trips. It is strongly advised to refrain from taking the RED and GREEN Metra line. Below are useful links related to public transportation and parking on campus:

- Transportation and Parking: <http://safety-security.uchicago.edu/transportation/>
- Bus & Subway: www.transitchicago.com/
- Train: www.metrarail.com/

Taxis are plentiful in Chicago. One-way trips between Hyde Park and downtown Chicago cost \$20-\$25, while rides between Hyde Park and Lincoln Park cost \$25-\$30. It is customary to tip taxi drivers up to 15% of the fare, but this is entirely voluntary.

Various taxi cab companies provide service to the Harper Center and are follows:

- Yellow Cab: 312-829-4222
- Checker Cab: 312-243-2537
- American United Cab: 773-248-7600
- Abernathy Cab: 773-487-9000
- Flash Cab: 773-561-1444

Insurance and Health Services

I would recommend looking at a 3rd party insurance / health service. The one that Booth offered for exchange students was expensive and I was able to decline and find a much cheaper and more reasonable option since I was only there for a few months.

Food

- Carnivale, Crosby's Kitchen, Tac Quick, Chicago pizza and oven grinder
- Duck Duck Goat
- Everything is better outside of the Loop. Monteverde for pasta; Momotaro for sushi; Arami for sushi in Ukrainian Village; Little Goat in West Loop for trendy/delicious diner food; Piccolo Sogno for fancy Italian; Summer House Santa Monica in Lincoln Park for when you need California/summer vibes; The Gundis in Lincoln Park to check out Kurdish food; Mindy's Hot Chocolate in Wicker Park; Fat Rice in Logan Square; Hopleaf for Belgian food and an awesome selection of Belgian beers; Farm Bar Lakeview for burgers, Mia Francesca for more delicious Italian food in Lakeview; Big G's for pizza with any of the toppings, Cheesie's for mac n'cheese grilled cheese. And Happy Camper in Old Town for pizza and cool decor.
- Radio Anago, Somerset, Ella Elli
- There's only one Indonesian place and I forget its name, but it is damn good. And their deluxe tasting menu is inexpensive and stupidly huge amounts of food.
- Doves Luncheonette
- High Five Ramen, Girl and Goat, Ramen San
- Revival Food Hall

Night life

- Violet Hour
- Tapster (fully self-serve craft tasting room) in Wicker Park; Piece Brewery; Emporium Arcade Bar; Revel Room; Beermiscuous; DryHop
- Brewers; Best Intentions; check out the bars on Clark Street in Wrigleyville during a Cubs game
- Parson's Chicken and Fish
- Wilde Bar
- Delilah
- Monk's Pub

- Kingston Mines
- The Aviary
- Gilt Bar
- Lone Wolf
- Hangge Uppe
- Hotel Lincoln roof

Tips – fun things to do:

- Thorne Miniature Rooms at the Art Institute
- Architecture Boat Tour
- Hancock building lounge / bar, skydeck, riverwalk, the bean, art institute
- Second City
- Free federal reserve museum, live blues, Hancock signature room, campus tour including economics building and Friedman and Becker's
- Nobel prizes, shopping on Halsted and Armitage, experience trading floor at cbot, bbq at twin anchors Frank Sinatra's favorite
- Lincoln Park - beach, zoo, parks, restaurants (weather depending)
- Cindy's for brunch or happy hour
- Chicago Architecture Tour, Field Museum (check out the Cyrus Tang Hall of China), Museum of Science and Industry, Chinatown for food (and the Chinese-American Museum)
- Try to plan ahead for Alinea, or the Aviary, Girl & Goat, etc.

General experience

Awesome experience. Chicago is an incredible, multicultural city with a lot of culture, music, good food and great people. Try to immerse yourself with the other exchange students as much as you can, meet people, and do fun things! Take advantage of all the programs and guest speakers.

Photos





