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Degree Program at TAU: MBA in financial management

Host University: Duke university

Exchange term: Fall 1, 2019 two months

Exchange Experience

About the Country and City

Duke University is located in Durham, North Carolina which is about a 20 minute drive from Raleigh, the capital city of North Carolina.

The city is well known for its student life, and the university itself arranges many social and professional events within the campus and around the city. There are two main spots near the campus where one can find bars, restaurants, and stores: Ninth Street and the city center (downtown Durham). Outside the City – North Carolina is located in the middle of the east coast and there are many places to travel to around this area for short weekend gateway trips: Outer Banks, Ashville, the Smokey Mountains, Charleston City in South Carolina, Virginia etc. If you have the time, it is highly recommended to travel around and visit the beautiful and spectacular places normally seen in movies.

About the Host University

Once you formally register and have an email address, you will be added to the university's mailing list and receive ongoing updates about upcoming events.

There are also many interesting student clubs and events around the campus that you can choose to join and participant in. Fuqua Business School offers many networking events in various fields such as: Technology, Finance, Consulting etc. Don't miss the weekly Fuqua Friday BBQ at the entrance to the Fuqua Business School building.

Courses and Professors

1. Managing Innovation – elective course: this course discusses the importance for companies of managing innovation using past and current case studies. On the one hand the course was quite demanding, however on the other hand it was comprehensive and easy to grasp.

2. Operation Strategy – elective course: very interesting course and highly recommended. As part of the course you will learn about managing the operational system of companies using case studies. Not a very demanding course and the professor is great and full of charisma.

3. Project Finance – finance course: this was a very interesting course mainly focusing on the financial aspects of mega infrastructure projects. Highly recommended for those who are interested in finance, infrastructure and business in general.

Accommodation – Dorms and Other Solutions

Accommodation for a short term period can be challenging to find; most of the lease contracts are for a minimum duration of 3 months. Therefore, it is highly recommended to start looking for an apartment as soon as you obtain your visa. There are three complexes located around the ninth street area: station nine, Berkshire 9th street and 810 ninth. Many students choose to live in these complexes as they are considered to be high-end luxury options. We stayed together in a 2-bedroom apartment in Berkshire 9th Street and signed a 3-month contract. There are more accommodation options such as Airbnb or student exchange apartments which are generally cheaper and worthwhile to consider.

Visa

The visa department in Duke is well organized, helpful and very efficient. Applicants will receive detailed emails outlining all the required steps and time-frames. Applicants are required to apply for their student visa application at the US embassy and prepare all required paperwork at required by the university in advanced.

Transportation

Transportation around the campus and the city center is very convenient. The campus offers free school shuttle bus services until 6pm as well as special Duke van services from 6pm until late at night. In addition, as Duke students you will receive a bus card which allows you to use the bus services in town free of charge.

Insurance and Health Services

As part of the tuition to Duke you pay for health insurance which is relatively very comprehensive but you should take into consideration that it requires bureaucracy and is not as comprehensive as the insurance from Israel. We decided to add Israeli travel insurance as well.

Living Expenses

Since we couldn't find an apartment we decided to sign a three-month lease even though we stayed only for two months which increased our living expenses.

Rent - \$1,060 per month for a room in a two-bedroom apartment

Visa - ~\$400

Flight - ~\$900

Tuition (insurance, recreation, health fee, etc.) ~\$2,000

Course pack- ~\$200

Furnishings- ~\$200

Utilities - ~\$50

Food - ~\$500 per month

Transportation - Uber/Lyft - \$7-\$8 per ride in the Fuqua - Nine street - downtown area. Duke vans and buses are free for students.

Phone – a local sim with unlimited calls and texts and 8G of data costs ~\$50 per month, at AT&T.

Food

In Durham you can find many places to eat as well as huge supermarkets. In the Ninth Street area you can find Juju (Asian food), Elmo's Diner, Cosmic Cantina (Mexican food), Alpaca (roasted chicken) and many more. In downtown Durham (which we found better than Ninth Street) you can find Pizzeria Toro, M Koko (Ramen), Viceroy (Indian food), Thai@Main St (Thai food) and many other options. Be sure you won't be hungry.

Night Life

In Fuqua there are two major traditions regarding nightlife - Tuesday Taverns and Friday Shooters, don't miss out. During Fall 1 we got to participate in the beginning of the year pool parties at in the Ninth Street area, Campout (overnight at duke campus in order to participate in a lottery to win seasonal basketball tickets - as exchange students you can't participate in the lottery but you can join all other activities), Wine Around the World (wine tasting at students' apartments) and the NC State Fair. All very fun and unique activities that will give you a taste of the students' life in the US.

Tips

Try to participate in as many school and social activities as you can, don't be stressed out from all the exams and home assignments, it's a once in a lifetime experience and you should try to explore and experience as much as you can.

General experience

It was a great experience and we highly recommend doing it. If you can do the full semester it's even better but if not, doing the half semester is better than nothing at all. It was above and beyond our expectations.

Photos





Weekend trip to Outer Bank, North Carolina



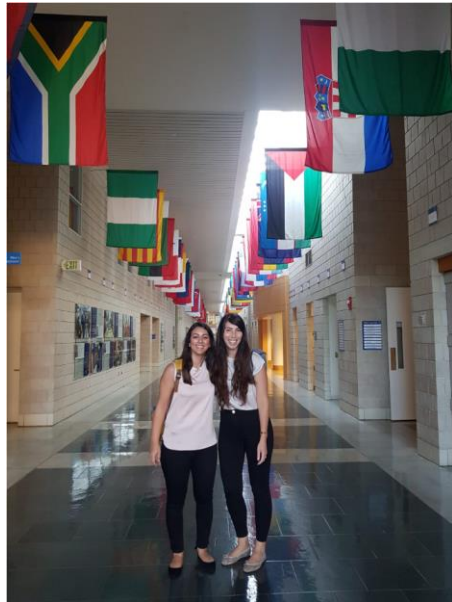
“Rise Against Hunger” campaign – volunteering event at Fuqua School of Business



North Carolina State Fair



**Group photo of the entire international student exchange program,
Fall Semester 2019**



Fuqua School of Business



The Israeli flag at Fuqua School of Business, Duke T- Shirt



Around Duke University campus