



EMORY

GOIZUETA
BUSINESS
SCHOOL



Recanati
Business School
Tel Aviv University

Goizueta business school, Emory University

Exchange summary, fall 2014





Introduction

The exchange program is an amazing experience I studied and grow outside the classroom at least as much as I did inside the classroom. This was definitely an experience I'll take with me for the rest of my life. I highly recommend it to anyone that is able to take it.

Emory is an amazing university and Goizueta is an amazing business school. It is in the top 20 business schools in the world and it has a strong emphasis on networking. You feel that emphasis from day one when all the second year MBA's and exchange students go on a two day field trip. Another important event is the weekly "KEGS". Every Thursday afternoon all the class meets in a common area for pizzas beer and games.

And lastly, Atlanta is an amazing city, I traveled all over the US before and after the semester and the people of Atlanta are my favored. They have Southern mentality, they are warm and polite.

Visa

In order to participate in an exchange program in the US you'll have to obtain a J1 visa, having the regular tourist visa (B1/B2) doesn't allow you to study in the US. In order to obtain this visa you need to get a DS-2019 form from Harriet (She is in charge of the MBA exchange program at GBS). After you get this form you can fill the visa request form DS-160 at the US embassy website and set up an appointment at the embassy for getting the visa.

You'll need to pay two fees at this point, the visa fee and the SEVIS fee.

The J1 visa gives you grace periods of 30 days before and after the semester where you're allowed to stay in the US. You can use this time to setup in Atlanta before the semester starts and to wrap up after the semester. You can also use this time to travel. I met two exchange students from Germany and France before the semester for a trip in Florida.

Housing

The recommended housing complex for the exchange students is Highland lake apartments (<http://www.highlandlake-aps.com/>). This complex is in a 10 minute walking distance from the university's Clairmont campus. There you can take a Shuttle to the business school (Lines "C" or "The loop") it takes another 10 minutes to get to the business school. The apartments are fully furnished, and there are apartments with 1-3 bedrooms. This is the where most of the exchange students will stay so it is recommended to stay there as well in order to truly enjoy the student life. It is also recommended to contact other exchange students that come to Emory from all over the world in order to find roommates. Harriet will probably make acquaintances between you. The complex has a pool a gym and study rooms.



When you arrive you'll need to make some arrangements like opening an account with the power company called "Georgia power" calling the cable company "Comcast" to connect you with a TV and internet bundle and to get a renter's insurance at erenterplan. Highland lake employees will help you with that.

I think Highland lake apartments accept credit cards now, but when I stayed there they didn't so I had to open a local bank account in order to pay the monthly rent.

Transportation

Atlanta has a pretty bad public transportation. There is a subway called MARTA but it doesn't cover the city well, there is no station at Emory and the closest MARTA station to Highland lake apartments is almost 2 miles away.

Inside the University there is a pretty efficient shuttle system. A bus comes every few minutes and there is also a shuttle running during the weekend (Saturday and Sunday) that goes in a loop. It stops in front the entrance to highland lake and has another stop near a big supermarket called "Kroger" at a nearby neighborhood called "Toco Hills" so it is recommended to use it for grocery shopping.

Because the public transportation is so bad we mostly used the taxi app "Uber" this app calls a nearby driver to pick you up and has cheaper rates than regular Taxi. It is very convenient. There are also the options of renting or buying a car. Buying a car isn't recommended because of the hassle of it and because you'll need to obtain a Georgia drivers' license for that, which mean you'll have to pass a written and driving tests. Renting is also not recommended because you'll have to add insurance that will double the renting cost to about 1000\$ a month.

Academics

The classes at Emory are very different from what we know from TAU. First thing you'll notice from the courses syllabi is that not all courses even have tests. From 5 courses I took, only two had final tests and one class didn't have tests at all. At Emory you'll have to work hard during semester with many quizzes mid-terms and papers you'll have to hand in. Every class I took also had a group project. You're also expected to participate in class and sometimes you are "cold called" by the professor to answer a question so you have to come prepared (Not knowing the answer sometimes is also fine).

Courses

You'll have to choose 4-6 second year elective courses. Each course has two 1 1/4 hour lessons each week and you'll receive a list of courses and syllabi from Harriet. I took these courses:



Negotiations (Prof. Rodney Lacey)

I heard that this course is recommended from two Emory students that came to TAU to take a course here. Their recommendation was justified. This was my favored course at Emory. It is very interesting course and the professor is great. Each week you have one lesson where you study negotiation principals and one lesson where you negotiate with another student.

Real-Estate Finance (Prof. Roy Black)

This is a pretty basic finance course, I think it is an important course because it deals about the biggest deal most of us will do, buying a house. The professor is very good and has many life advices.

Real-Estate Development (Prof. Lyle Fogarty)

This course deals with developing real-estate from financing the project to building it. I would recommend this course only to someone that is interested in getting into Real Estate. It is an evening class and most of the students that take it are already in the real estate business.

Multinational firms and strategy (Prof. L G Thomas)

This course deals about strategy you look at firms and counties and try to understand why they did well or bad and then you try to give recommendations about what their next step should be. The course is pretty interesting and has no tests only 3 papers to hand in. But it isn't an easy course.

Information and Global Capital Markets (Prof. Grace Pownall)

This course deals with global firms with a focus on oil companies, with their annual reports and with global stock markets. The course has a very high workload. It has many quizzes and papers to hand in. I wouldn't recommend this course mainly because of the high workload and hard tests.

Expenses

Here is a rough estimate of expenses I had during my stay at Emory.

Visa + SEVIS fee – about 300\$

Housing - 1250\$/mo for a one bedroom apartment or 800\$/mo for a room in a 3 bedroom apartment.

Groceries – 300\$/mo (I used to cook a lot).

Plane ticket – 1200\$

Academics – There is a fee to Emory of about 200\$ and you'll need to buy cases from Harvard Business school's site. The cases usually cost a few dollars.



Insurance – I took ISO health insurance, it's about 50\$/mo. Emory's insurance is much more expensive so you'll need to get this insurance and waive Emory's insurance. Harriet will tell you all about it.

Transportation – Depends on how and how much you want to travel. I used "Uber" for about 200\$/mo.

Traveling – Depends on your traveling plans.

Additional Tips

- KEGS – Every Thursday afternoon the students meet at "The commons" for free pizza and beer. Most of the times companies send recruiters there so if you're interested in finding a job bring your CV and best suite. This is a great place to relax from the past week and to get to know your fellow students.
- If you can use this time to travel the US. I traveled in Florida, New-Orleans, the west coast, Washington DC and New York during this trip. Some of the exchange students also used thanksgiving break to go to Puerto Rico.
- Try to experience American sports and culture when you can. I went to a great NBA game and to a great NASCAR. Baseball is considered boring so it can be skipped.
- Places to visit in Atlanta are: Six flags, The Aquarium, CNN, Coca-cola world and Stone Mountain.
- Use "Uber" for transportation, it's cheap, fast, and you get to meet a lot of nice people.

For any additional information feel free to contact me at nadavb@gmail.com

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