



Personal Information

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Degree Program at TAU: MBA

Host University: Duke University's Fuqua School of Business

Exchange term (including the duration): Fall 1, 2017 (two months)

Exchange Experience

Durham North Carolina

Durham is a small town in North Carolina. Its region is known as research triangle region which is anchored by NC State University, Duke University and UNC and by the cities of Raleigh – Durham – Chapel Hill. The population is ~300k and the university and its facilities are the main attractions.

North Carolina is part of the southern states, and as such Durham is very "southern"- the people are warm, the food is delicious and weather is great. The main campus at Duke is very impressive with its gothic architecture design and the famous Duke Chapel. Fuqua's campus is a 5 min walk from the main campus. It is very modern with high tech classrooms and state of the art facilities. As an exchange student you

can enjoy all of the services the school offers to its full time students, such as career management and coaching (CMC), student clubs, recruiting events (important: you can participate but you are not allowed to submit your CV on campus as an exchange student), career field trips, notable speaker series, gym, etc .

The IPO (International Programs Office) arranges a two-day orientation for the exchange students; this is a great opportunity to meet fellow exchange students and gain a smooth entrance into this amazing experience.

Culture, Travel and Food

If you are looking to taste some local food I would recommend going to **Heavenly Buffaloes** for wings and **Maverick's Smokehouse and Taproom** for the best grill in town. When the night falls, go downtown for nice bars and good vibes. You can go to **Ponysaurus** bar for artisanal beer and to **Alley Twenty Six** for great cocktails. The atmosphere at Fuqua is amazing. Every Friday everyone gathers for **Fuqua Friday**, which marks the ending of another fascinating week with free dinner and drinks for students, faculty, family and friends. Students usually go drinking together on Tuesday at **The Tavern**, a small bar on Ninth Street, and after Fuqua Friday they go dancing at **Shooters**.

College sports, especially basketball (Go Duke Blue Devils!), are a big issue at Duke. Make time to go to one of the games and see one of the best college teams in the US. If you prefer football, arrive an hour or so before the game to enjoy free drinks and food at the tailgate, the traditional pre-game party. Hardcore football fan? enjoy a weekend roadtrip to South Carolina and go see the Clemson Tigers play. After the game, rent a speed boat at **Lake Hartwell** to enjoy the American outdoors.

During my stay I managed to travel almost every weekend. If you like hiking and want to stay close by, there are some really nice trails around Durham. You can also hike around **Pilot Mountain State Park** or **Hanging Rock State Park** (both are about two-hours from Durham by car). Visit **Asheville** to see the beautiful city and explore

Chimney Rock State Park and **Gorges State Park**. I also recommend traveling to **Charleston**, South Carolina, an historical city with super cool and trendy nightlife and food culture. During your stay at Charleston, go to one of the plantations nearby (I visited **Boone Hall**), where you can see, feel and learn about one of the darkest eras in American history.

Living Arrangements and Transportation

Keep in mind that it's hard to find a place for a short period of two or four months. Therefore, start looking for a place as soon as you are accepted to the program. Most of Fuqua's students live around Ninth Street in Station Nine (S 9), or Berkshire Ninth Street (BK 9). It's a very nice area with convenient transportation to Fuqua, filled with restaurants, bars and supermarkets. I stayed at the student exchange house on 3204 Sprunt Ave. with roommates from the exchange program. The house is run by the Green family, who has three different houses which they rent around Durham. All houses are near the Fuqua campus, they are fully furnished and have easy access to transportation and groceries. The houses are also equipped with free bicycles which make it easy to travel around Durham or to commute to Fuqua. The rent was \$660 a month in comparison to \$1,000-\$1,500 in the Ninth Street complexes. To find a place you can either go to the student exchange house website, Craigslist, the Facebook page of the full time students for your year (e.g. The Duke MBA – Daytime Class of 2018). It's also worth reaching out to Annie Floyd (Fuqua IPO) for some help - she manages outgoing Fuqua students' exchange so you might be able to get a sublease.

The easiest way to commute in Durham is by Uber or Lyft, it costs \$6-\$10 and you'll get anywhere you need. Getting to campus is easy with the Duke Bus, and after 6 PM Duke offers Duke Van which is a free shuttle service to your house.

Courses

The semester is comprised of two bi-monthly semesters (Fall 1 and 2), so you can choose either to attend a fall semester or just one term. As an exchange student you can take elective courses and you'll probably study mostly with second year students and other exchange students. Check Fuqua's Day Time website to learn which classes are available during your stay. You'll be able to sign-up to classes a month before the semester starts. Since exchange students choose their classes a week after Fuqua's students, it's sometimes hard to get all the classes you wanted and you might find yourself in the waiting list (usually the first 10 people in the waiting list are eventually able to join the class), so try to decide on backup classes in case you'll need them.

Most of the classes are worth three Fuqua credits (27 hours) or 1.5 Collier credits. For each class you'll meet twice a week for 135 minutes. You'll also have to spend between 3-6 hours a week on assignments and preparing for class. I took three classes, it was fine but during peak times it got pretty busy. The teaching method in Fuqua is through case studies, so be prepared to read a lot and participate in class - grading is heavily based on your participation in class.

I took the following courses:

- **Business Strategies for Sustainability** with prof. Daniel Vermeer – this class focuses on sustainability issues in global corporations. Dan is super knowledgeable and has interesting insights from his past position in Coca Cola's sustainability team. This class gives you the opportunity to get exposure to a very important issue that will be an integral part from every company in the future.
- **Project Finance** with prof. John Buely and Prof Viswanathan (Vish) – although this class sounds like a full-on finance class, it actually focuses more on exposing you to the strategy, politics and risks involved in project finance. Both professors are great and try to convey the class material in a creative way. In one of the classes they managed to bring the key person from the case we studied. I

strongly recommend this class for finance oriented students and to anyone who wants to learn how big projects are financially executed.

- **Venture Capital & Private Equity** with David Robinson – in this class you'll learn from the bottom up all aspects of PE and VC investing: fund managers investing considerations and investing techniques, limited partners and pension funds managers considerations and more. David is one of the best professors in this field and he is truly the one to study it from.

Visa

The visa process is pretty straight forward. You'll get all the things you need including instructions from Duke, just follow their guidelines and it will be a smooth ride.

Vaccines

Duke requires all exchange students to comply with North Carolina's vaccination requirements. I suggest you try to comply with their requirements while here in Israel, it's easier here and you won't be charged extra fees at Duke.

My Costs

<u>Variable Costs</u>	<u>Costs Per Month</u>
Housing	\$660
Food (including groceries, restaurants, bars etc.)	\$400-\$500
Transportation (Uber and Lyft)	\$30-\$50
Phone	\$40
Travel and leisure	\$200-\$300
Total monthly costs	\$1,350-\$1,550

Fixed Costs**One Time Charge**

Visa

\$340

Flight – Tel Aviv to Raleigh through Paris

\$1,200

Fuqua's charges (insurance, recreation, health
fee, transcript fee, etc.) – all prorated to may stay

\$1,375

Course pack – three classes

\$225

Total Fixed costs**\$2,800****Total Costs – two month stay****\$5,500-\$5,900**