



Welcome to Kenan-Flagler Business School, North Carolina.



Chapel Hill is a nice, small college town in North Carolina. Unlike other U.S. cities you might be familiar with, the university is in the center of the attention and therefore gives the tone; the bus schedule is affected by the hours of sports games, Carolina blue is the predominant color, school shirts are the latest fashion, and Franklin Street, the street where most of the activity is concentrated, gets busy according to student school year.

While studying, MBA students have traditionally three major priorities: socializing (or networking), recruiting and academics.

Socializing- The overall impression is that students come to UNC to get a Full MBA experience, and they allocate time and energy to socializing and attending social activities. As exchange students, we are welcomed to all activities organized by the Social committee, and could easily become part of the experience. In general there

are tons of parties, social events, potlucks and tailgates before sports events. The school also recognizes the importance of socializing and allocates resources to support the activities.



Recruiting- Students are deeply engaged in their jobsearch. The school is well prepared to support their needs in that area and helps them getting job interviews and networking with the relevant people. Well-known companies create recruiting events on campus, and sometimes there are positions open for international students. These events are all open for us as exchange, you can easily get there,

network and learn more about the challenges and opportunities the organization is facing.

If you are interested in working in the US, this is an amazing opportunity to go through min-socialization process, and get support and a little more inside info. Students in your area of interest can be extremely helpful and create an accurate picture of the recruiting process to get you ready. As a student at the university you will be exposed to job offers through the CMC system based on your visa privileges.

Academics - First year is very busy and first years are fully invested, studying for exams with their legacy mates. In the second year, the stress is over and students are much less concerned about academic project. (especially those who got a job offer over the summer).



In order to get F1 visa and be considered a full time student, we need to take six courses during the period(3 in each mod).

These are the courses I took:

Global Communication

Students will complete a cultural-communication assessment, collate high-level research documents on a handful of countries-of-interest, act and react within several culturally-based situations and scenarios, and work in teams creating specific national dossiers.

Applied Improvisation for Communication

Applied Improv is a communications course focusing on improving soft skills such as presenting, expressiveness, and interviewing by using the principles and techniques of improvisational theater. The course is much more than just communications though.

Launching the Venture: Feasibility

Launching the Venture (LAUNCH) is a series of courses designed to teach, empower and inspire entrepreneurial teams at UNC to launch commercial businesses and social ventures. Teams may comprise any mixture of faculty, staff, post-doc, graduate and/or undergraduate students. Courses combine lectures, workshops, guest speakers and hands-on expert coaching and mentoring. The program has helped launch more than 60 commercial and nonprofit ventures since inception.

Leading from the middle

Leading from the middle is about “getting things done” (i.e., implementing decisions and initiatives) within the broader organizational context. In order to do this, it is critical to understand how organizations do “their work” so that you know how to effectively engage various systems and people to accomplish “your work.” This course is about how things get done within organizations and how you can improve *your* ability to get things done as a middle manager.

Communication for Developing Leaders

In this course, you’ll focus intently on refining your own leadership communication skills, including the following:

- Effectively and efficiently plan and facilitate meetings
- Heighten your sense of self-awareness in relationship to others
- Manage audience perception of your professionalism and credibility
- Explore virtual meeting technologies
- Build consensus and apply advocacy techniques
- Negotiate diversity issues from a communication perspective
- Hone skills to deliver and receive quality feedback

Marketing Strategy

The course will be based on lectures, cases, and a computer simulation (MARKSTRAT). Lectures will be used to introduce relevant marketing strategy concepts and frameworks; cases will be discussed to apply such frameworks to the analysis of real business contexts. The computer simulation will provide the

opportunity to understand and practice the strategic decision-making process in a dynamic competitive environment.

Visa

Patricia, the program director and an amazing woman, has created a special websites for the exchange students, where you can find a lot of useful info, timeline, check list and visa application:

<http://specials.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/inexchange/apply/visa/Pages/default.aspx>

Housing

Here you can read more about the issue of housing

<http://specials.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/inexchange/housing/Pages/default.aspx>

From my experience, most of the exchange students choose to live at on-campus housing; fully equipped kitchen, living room, two bedrooms and two bathrooms. This solution is quite convenient, walking distance from the university and easy access to everything.

10-20 minute drive from the university are luxurious complexes, which are home to many MBA students – if you like this option better you would have to consider renting a car, taking the free city bus, or joining a car pool.



If you want to live off campus, you should ask Patricia about UNC students that will

be away for the semester and will be looking to sublet their apartments.

Public Transportation

Chapel Hill's public transportation is free!

The buses are full of educational posters and the drivers are friendly and helpful.

The public transportation finishes its service relatively early (around 7pm or so).

In case you want to go out later, you can definitely call P2P, a free bus service that will pick you up from any point around campus and drive you back home. The P2P is a great spot to meet drunk undergrads, be sure to keep safety distance from them ...

There is no public transportation Saturday and Sunday.

Sports games

The Tar Heels is a major source of pride for the Chapel Hill community (Legendary Michel Jordan started his sports career there). Sports is part of socializing, it's about being part of the community and it's about respect (don't ask me why...). Try to stay as involved as possible, attend tailgates and understand the basic rivalries (Ahm..Duke).



It's hard to sum up this rich and flavorful experience.. Hope you got a little of the spirit...

You are more than welcome to contact me for any thoughts or questions☺

Gal

