



GOIZUETA Fall 2013 exchange summary

1. General

First of all, I would like to mention that I consider myself fortunate to have taken part in such a prestige program. From my point of view, the exchange program is one of the best experiences of my life. Many of my friends (me included) are considering relocation and various career opportunities abroad. Being able to visit the US as full time student for 4 month gives you a very good estimate of how your life could be like abroad. Therefore, I am recommending that anyone tries it out.

Studying in Goizueta was a wonderful experience. Emory itself is a very beautiful school, and you can spend hours visiting in all the facilities that university has to offer.

Prior and during my staying there, I have received a very warm welcoming from Ms. Harriet Ruskin, director and coordinator of the MBA exchange program. The first 2 weeks of my stay were very intensive and included a lot of orientation sessions, which covered the following fields: immigration, computers and academics. The school had also organized a “Keystone” week, which included community service and many other activities. Those opportunities provided me with a “cushion” and the ability to catch up with all other full time students.

2. Housing

Most of the full time MBA students stay at [Post Briarcliff](#). The cons are that the apartments are unfurnished and the transportation to school during evenings and weekends is not as convenient. Most highly recommended option for international and exchange students (both MBA and BBA) are the [Highland Lake Apartments](#), it is across from the University. The management team assists you with the utilities, internet, etc. All apartments are fully furnished with bedroom furniture, living room furniture, dining table and chairs, TV, washer & dryer, dishwasher, microwave and refrigerator.

Both of the options above are not cheap, but you can try to find out an apartment using the “House Finder” craigslist. I chose to stay at Highland lake in a two bed apartment with a Swiss student from the exchange program. Most of our group stayed in complex, so it was really convenient to work on homework and to hang out together.

3. Transportation

Getting to school was very convenient, Emory offers a good shuttle bus system. Backed with a smart phone app called “transloc”, you can navigate quiet easily in the university and also get to malls and downtown. On the other side, Atlanta has a very bad mass transit system called Marta. The busses are neither frequent nor reliable. The city also has a subway which is OK, but is not comparable to other cities in US. It is very popular to cooperate with other students that own a car to get downtown or just share a cab. I would recommended you to consider buying a car (especially if you planning to stay over 4 months). Some of the exchange students cooperate with each other and buy a car, which they sell later.



4. Academics

Studying in Goizueta as full time student is a completely different experience than being in an evening part time program. The intimacy which you achieve in class, where the professor knows you by name and even by background is really unique. So unique that in fact it could even make you feel like you are back in high school. Most of the classes require mandatory attendance and participation, which are graded. Having said that you must come prepared to your classes. The academic staff is always welcoming you to visit them during the office hours, for any assistance required. Starting from 2013, the school moved to “blackboard” system (corresponding to our “moodle” system) where you can find all the related information regarding your class.

Prior to the beginning of the semester Harriet will send you a list of courses that are scheduled to be open. Unfortunately, the faculty is not required to have syllabi ready until the first day of their class, therefore my recommendation for you is to choose classes by lecturers and surveys of previous years. I took 4 elective courses in Goizueta, this is my impression from each:

Consumer Behavior (with Ryan Hamilton)

Probably the best class I took during my MBA degree. Ryan Hamilton is considered one of the best professors under 40 and is highly regarded at Goizueta – his classes are always full. He is a great presenter with a background in stand-up comedy. Even though the course was really challenging (with 4 assignments and 4 mid-term tests) I really enjoyed his classes and learnt a lot during the course.

Negotiation (with Earl Hill)

What I really loved about the course is it being very practical. In every class you will have a negotiation practice either as part of team or one on one (versus other students in your class, some of the negotiation are graded). Professor Hill is charismatic and funny. I found his classes really enjoyable also could be really helpful in day life. The course had a low workload.

Decision Modeling (with Stephen Stuk)

The course has very practical approach. As a person with a background in engineering I was surprised how complex problem in decision modeling could be simply solved using some add-ins in Excel (called Risk). For me the course was very interesting and gave me some additional tools in linear and non-linear programming, decision trees etc. The course had a medium workload.

Digital & Social Media Strategy (with David Schweidel)

The course had a very promising syllabus, even it was running for the first time. It included a lot of guest speakers from different industries, who develop and research tools to analyze online behavior. I was quiet disappointed from the lecturer and the course itself. The assignments weren't clear and not helpful. The course had a medium workload.



5. Traveling

Those 4 months are over fast, so don't wait for last minute call, start planning and traveling as soon as you arrive. Besides the holidays you will have during the semester (Labor Day, midterm and thanksgiving) I would also recommend you to try to schedule your classes for having Monday or Thursday free, that way you will be able to have long weekends for traveling. Most of the exchange students are eager to travel, so you can cooperate and rent a car together.

Here is a list of great places worth visiting:

- a. Smokey mountains
- b. Savannah
- c. New Orleans
- d. Nashville
- e. Florida
- f. South Carolina

Atlanta also has a massive international and domestic airport. So you can find easily direct flights to almost any state for a cheap price.

Another very good idea, some of exchange students in my program invited their friends from home university to come and visit them. Try to get to know students from TAU so that you can arrange that too. This is a very good opportunity to share and enrich your experience with your co-students.

6. Expenses

Here is an evaluation of how much I spend during my stay in US:

	Price \$	Comments
Visa	340	DS-2019 – 180\$ J1 Visa – 160\$
Flight	1150	
Housing	~3100	Highland Lake: Registration Fee: 250\$ Rent per month: 800\$ Expenses: 100\$
Academics	~420	You will need to pay fees to Emory. The fees are: MentalHlth&CounselingFeeAtlF/S 58\$ Activity Fee-Business Grad 89\$ Rec & Athletic Fee-Atl-F/S 120\$ Also: Books etc.~150\$
Insuranse	250	ISO student health insurance – Gold plan
Food	~1200	For 4 months
Traveling etc	~4000	Depends on you.



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7. Additional information and tips

- Goizueta has a very popular career center. Every week the school hosts many companies that come to lecture about career opportunities. Also, the center can help you out with preparing your CV and interviews.
- Don't miss Thursday's Kegs and Pizza, happens every week at 4:30 pm. All students both MBA and BBA gather and at the "commons" and share their experiences.
- Check your school email everyday so you could follow up all the events that are happening. Also, try to catch up with the full time students, for Facebook or other social media app they using to share events.
- On the orientation day you will be introduced with various clubs that are organized by school students. Make sure you enroll in at least 2 of them.
- Places worth visiting in Atlanta: CNN, Coca Cola World, Stone Mountains. Don't forget to experience the American sports such as baseball, football and basketball. Atlanta's baseball team, Braves, considered being one of the best teams in the nation. Sometimes, the school offers cheap tickets for those games.
- If you planning to use taxis in Atlanta I advise you to install the "Lyft" app, could save you a lot of money.
- If you are looking for a mobile plan try to check out Net10 or StraightTalk (equivalent to "Golan", "012 smile") providers.

For additional questions feel free to contact me via e-mail: volcheke@gmail.com , Evgeny Volchek