

Duke University, Fuqua School of Business

Time Abroad: Semester 1 2016 (Jan – May)

Degree: MBA (Masters of Business Administration)

It was my privilege to go to Duke University for four months exchange study in Fuqua School of Business. It was a great opportunity to enhance my knowledge of business, extend my international experience, and expand the network globally. Four months study in Duke was absolutely the highlight of my whole MBA experience.

Accommodation

For the majority of Fuqua students, they stay at Station 9 apartment with good facilities and convenient location with lots of restaurants, supermarkets within walking distance, there are also bus routines available to go to campus (free with a student *Go Pass card*).

I was lucky enough to find a lovely house owned by Duke Alumni on *Duke List* (a great source to search for accommodation). I have rented one room in the house located in a very nice and safe neighbourhood. It's about 35 minutes walk to campus, 10 minutes by bus. The house was fully furnished with everything included for only \$650 per month (much cheaper than Station 9 and other Apartments). I would highly recommend house-stay, I had a great experience staying at the lovely house living with locals.

Academics/workload

Compare to MBA program in Otago, I found workload in Fuqua is actually less intense, but don't underestimate it, it could get very busy in the middle of each term when group projects get started. I would suggest don't take more than three courses per term.

There are a lot of interesting subjects you can choose from in Fuqua, I took *Consumer Behaviour*, *Marketing Intelligence*, *Game Theory* in term 1; *Decision Model and Global Environment of the Firm* in term 2, in which *Game Theory* was my favourite course, professor was enthusiastic, class was lots of fun. Make sure you follow the Fuqua Horner Code, be at class on time.



Transportation

Public Transportation in Durham is well organized, I usually took bus to campus, it's free for student on any bus route in Durham, Chapel Hill and Raleigh. Make sure you download the Application – *Transloc* on your phone, which helps to track the bus schedules.

Duke also provide *Duke Van* drop off Service from campus from 5pm to 7am, which is free of charge, make sure you are living within the Duke Van drop off range. *Uber* and *Lyft* are also very convenient and inexpensive to get around the area.

Mega Bus and *Greyhound* are good options when you travel between cities and states by bus. Make sure you check out *Studentuniverse* website, which is exclusive for students, it offers student discounts on flights, hotels and vacations. Other sites like *Kayak*, *Expedia*, *Hotel.com* are also very handy when you plan long distance trips.

Weather

Winter in Durham is similar to Dunedin, but more snows. Make sure you have enough food stored in your fridge; it could be tough to drive or get the public transportation on snowy days.

Spring is amazing in Durham, flowers are blooming everywhere. Don't miss out *Sarah Garden* on campus, it's very beautiful in Spring. But be careful if you are allergic to pollen as Spring is also the Pollen season in Durham when flowers, trees are waking up.

Things to do

While at Duke, there are plenty of things you can get participated, there's one thing you shouldn't miss out is go to the *Blue Devils Basketball Game* at Cameron Stadium, especially the local rivalry game against UNC.

For me, one of the best benefits as Duke students is the access to *Duke Performance* at a price of \$10 on all tickets for Duke student. There are various performances and shows weekly from different artists around the world. Make sure you check out



the event schedule on the website in advance, tickets for popular performances could be sold out very quickly.

There are also a lot of events in Fuqua, *Fuqua Friday* providing complimentary food and drinks for Fuqua students, families and friends on every Friday afternoon at 5:30pm, which is a good way of networking. *Fuqua Version* and *Fuqua Idol* are also a lot of fun.

Check out *Duke Outdoor Adventures* if you like travel and outdoor activities, it organizes 1-2 days short trips like hiking, surfing on weekend; 5-14 days trips to popular destinations during holidays and spring break at an inexpensive price; accommodation, food and transportation are usually included. *Eno River State Park* just 30 minutes away from campus if you want a short outdoor explore in Durham.

Between term 1 and term 2, you will get two weeks spring break, it's a good time to have an adventure and explore around the United States. If you are there in Spring term, *Ultra Music Festival* in Miami is a great experience for Electronic Music lovers! The Southernmost point of continental U.S.A - Key West just 3 hours drive away from Miami. *Cherry Blossom Festival* in Washington DC is a great place to visit in Spring. The Big Apple - New York city is also a place you must visit when you are in States. Emerald city - *Seattle* on West Coast is also well worth a stop if you have time.

Advise for upcoming student

Make the most of everything that Duke offers, follow the rules of Team Fuqua, approach with Duke students as much as possible and build up your network globally.

If you consider studying abroad at Duke University and have further questions, I'll be glad to have a conversation.

