Report on my exchange

Preparation for exchange & During exchange

Since I chose Tsinghua University as the partner university, there was no need for me to worry about the exchange so much----I’m a Chinese, so no need to prepare for Chinese visa. I just take part and finished workshop and fill exchange application form, then submit to school is fine. Then just wait the outcome.

Wherever you went, people in your first sight would be familiar faces. For a foreign student in SFU, to be given a chance learning in China always make me motivated. The exchange, though, seems like journey to home somehow, I still fully prepared for it.

There are a large amount of information useful for students who chose Tsinghua University. When you plan to apply for THU, you can acquire almost all the information about it through its website. A multilingual website has been provided for exchange student, which is able to solve most of your question. No restriction, no limits. You have easy access to what you want to know.

My semester begun from 15 Feb, when the temperature was quite low in Beijing. The capital of PRC locates in the same latitude with Vancouver, nevertheless, its winter is far colder than Vancouver. Thus, the first suggestion I offer is: “Bring more warm clothes”----trust me, you won't regret. However, one still troubles to weigh the costs. More warm cloths means less room for summer preparation----miniskirt, sandals, and so on. This tends to become fatal problem for girls unless you go out of the way to buy in China. As for other items, I chose to prepare personal things here and buy daily necessities in China (Actually lots of domestic necessities are made in China).

Flight is also a vital factor deserving much more concern. I booked the ticket the day I received my offer, which was about 1 month ago and enjoyed 15% discount. For the airline, KE and AC would be better choice. By the way, stewardess of AC is the most charming one I have seen.

When I arrived at Beijing, I was shocked by the traffic jam here. It would be inadvisable to take a taxi or drive private car. Why? Because it’s extremely possible to be stuck on the road while the destination is only couple of steps away from you. Hence I chose metro as the best way to “travel” in Beijing. I bought a metro card which offered me lots of convenience. You are able to buy one with ID card or postcard. The metro card also enables you to take bus. With the help of the magic card,
you can go anywhere you want to.

Actually, the living cost in Beijing would be less compared with Vancouver. The rent of department accounts for the biggest portion which is about $200 per month. An e-card was given to me to buy at dining hall. On average, the cost was less than $700 each month, which is still an acceptable number.

I moved into foreign student’s dormitory the day I arrived in Beijing. The restriction there is strict. If you break the rules again and again, you’ll not only get punished but been circulated a notice of criticism. Never try to bring friends who you meant to bestow for night, and never use electric blanket----once caught, the only thing waiting for you would be punishment. There will have welcome party gold in student dormitory #22. I suggest that you can take part in forget guideline book-list and apply buddy program.

For living, I think living in campus is better than outside. Because, the Tsinghua campus is so big that you may need take long time to classroom. So living campus is better. What’s more, there many different dining hall in campus. You can eat any food you want and some open so early and close at 12am. For academic courses, I choose some business courses which is similar with SFU in lecture format, schedules and grading. Also I choose one Chinese course. It’s an interesting Chinese history course called introduction to mirror. I know some Chinese history knowledge from this course. And the professor is very nice. When i arrive at there is winter, so, it was cold day which was similar in Vancouver. You need down jacket. There may has some dust in air, so it’s better prepare some masks. I really love Chinese culture. I visited the Forbidden City. It’s magnificent and mysterious. Also Chinese food is delicious. You can go one famous snack street called wangfujing to enjoy them.

Reflection after Exchange

The semester, though, only lasts four months and takes up tiny part of my college life, it has become the shining point of my four-year time. THU is undoubtedly the most excellent university in China, thus endowing it “godlike status” in most Chinese students’ mind. It’s been my dream to learn in THU since I was a young girl. I was born in China and learned my elementary education there too. My time in SFU is quite different from what I expected three years ago. Meanwhile, the four-month long exchange experience in THU is far more different. It’s unique. If I’m asked what you learned from this period, I think its diversity. The diversity between the two school, two country, two cultures and two peoples. Firstly I want to talk about school. The pattern of them makes all the difference and decides what they are. Their teaching method and their belief to cultivate the talents are deeply rooted in the culture. The realization of traditional aesthetics education in china was implemented by three
fundamental ways: social aesthetics education, school aesthetics education and family aesthetics education. Chinese students pursue to cultivate themselves, put family in order, administer a country and make the world peace, which has been passed from ancient ages.

Things always won’t go smoothly when you come to a new circumstance. Language is the most troublesome one for exchange student. Though I don’t need to bother, the unfamiliarity of new surroundings still mess me up. I found it hard to get used to a new routine with quite different time zone. Besides, my schedule has turned to be busy after too many club activities. It took me a long time to balance them. So, I advise students who will apply credit transfer to prepare as early as possible.

Since I had finished my exchange semester, I was quite satisfied with it, for I have experienced all I want. The only pity was I didn’t spent too much time with my boyfriend and family because I would never had a chance to study only couple miles away from them anymore. Finally, hope some suggestion and advice are useful.

There are some photos I want to share: