



Duke 2013 Exchange Summary

This Summary adds information on earlier summaries (2011/12) posted

Housing

- Things to consider:
 - Distance - Most of the activities happen in the University and this is why renting close to the university is an advantage. I rented in "Partners place" which is in 929 morreene road and it was a 15-20 minutes by foot.
 - A "Duke van" area – there are free taxi services from the university late at night called the "Duke van" see that your area is covered and from what time (depend on the area) do the free taxi services start (for example I had the possibility to take the van from 23:00 on Weekdays, and 17:00 on weekends).
 - Close to a bus station – once you receive a duke transit card the busses are for free.
 - Price – Trinity properties cost 1/2 compare to other apartments (about 750\$ for a 3 roommate apartment), two areas could cost completely different although they are very close (see "Trinity commons" and "Belmont" for example). Because everyone uses a bus/taxi at night the area is not that important, especially if you're a male.
- Asking the full time students if they have a room is a great idea (Although usually they know it a month before the term starts, and the room is for 1 term).
- Subscribing to the international house list is recommended. Duke students often send emails about sublease /selling furniture offers that could be useful.
 - To subscribe: <http://studentaffairs.duke.edu/ihouse/join-email-listserv>
 - You could unsubscribe from this list later.
- If you are renting with an exchange (Like I did), look them up on Facebook and LinkedIn, talk to them before choosing.
- You give a deposit check, there are places who keep the deposit for a long time after you leave. It's better to agree that the land law checks the apartment when leaving and gives you back the check.
- Furniture's

- I and my roommates bought furniture at Ikea in charlotte. We rented a "U-hual" truck (about 100\$) and bought basic things for 750\$ each. After that we sold it on "craigslist" for half the price.
- Although it's a little complicated, the best thing is to buy second hand furniture (It's a city with thousands of students and you have a lot of options). The only problem is finding a way to sleep on the first nights (friend/field mattress/ on the carpet), and renting a truck to pick the furniture. The best thing is to do it together with your roommates. Second hand website:
 - Duke list
 - Craigslist
 Burgan on the price (-:

General Tips and Information

- Say YES to everything! [Totally agree with Omer - 2012 exchange]
- Turn your locker into a second apartment, have your suite ready there for formal events on school.
- You can do a Social Security number (maybe in the future you'll work for an American company in the US), and a state ide (help you avoid taking your passport to the bar and to domestic flights) during your time.

Transportation

- There are two types of busses:
 - City busses (such as 6, 6B, 400 etc.). You can get directions with google map web site / application (sometimes not that accurate).
 - University busses (such as LL etc.). You can get direction with Translock application (The bus usually stops near Fuqua ever half an hour, 12:17, 12:47, 13:17....)
- In every city bus station there's a number you can SMS and receive a text with the upcoming time.
- You can take your bicycle on the street bus.
- Car – getting a license require a lot of logistics but both exchanger's: Omri Fucs from chapel hill and elad for Fuqua did it.

Courses

- Choosing a course and professor is super important. There are huge differences between the classes when some are jaw dropping and some are boring. I post a course feedback web sit on the "Fuqua exchange" group on linkedin, you can read all about the courses there.
- Most of the courses are in teams, try to get into a team with a full time students.
- Every course has a "Course pack" you require to purchase (don't worry they will explain), even if you don't take it you still have to pay for every course pack.
- Auditing a course can be a good experience if you want to reduce the effort.

- There is a mentored program when instead of a course you do an internship for a full semester in a local company. It requires 1 day every week and it's better contact Prof. Jim.Sheldon@fuqua.duke.edu in advance before you arrive for more details.

Fun

- Plan at least one long trip to NY / West coast (don't be afraid to miss a class or three for a longer journey).
- The "Outdoor" club is arranging great trips to places nearby (I went white water rafting after I bought a "last minute" ticket for half the price).

Visa Information & Immunizations

- The J-1 ends at the end of the program, if you found a company to do an internship after the program you can extend the J-1 by twice the time (108 days if you went for a full semester). If it's relevant ask Candice (the program coordinator).