

Full name: Obichi Obiajunwa
Email: Oobichi@gmail.com
Degree Program at TAU: IMBA
Host University: The George Washington University
Exchange term: Fall 2016

Exchange Experience

Please use the outline below to write your report:

- **About the country and city:** It was the US, so it had to be a great experience. Additionally, it was Washington DC, so it had to be memorable. DC is a very cosmopolitan city, there's probably no other city in the world with such enormous political atmosphere and a mixture of all colors. It's a den of professionals, polished and highbrow.
- **About the Host University:** Imagine studying in a university situated in the capital of the world. GWU is at the heart of DC, blocks away from the White House, the World Bank and IFC are almost located within the University, International Red Cross, PAHO, Department of States, and other big organizations are next blocks to GWU. There are lots of international students at GWU. In fact, it's a school for international students. The school has a strong business and entrepreneurial atmosphere. They have good social events including a trip to the White House and Congress.
- **Courses and professors:** The courses are quite just normal courses you may find in every other school, but there are short courses you may take at the library on special topics. Classes are usually in the late afternoons and evenings. The professors are nice and friendly.
- **Accommodation:** Accommodation, like you can imagine, is very expensive. So you may find accommodation around northern Virginia and get to school by metro or use Uber. But there are dorms in school.
- **Visa:** I went to Jerusalem Embassy for my visa and I regretted it because I had to go there 3 times. I went to the Jerusalem consulate thrice because I didn't realize on time that I was supposed to pay the Sevis fee before going for visa application. And for some reason, that was very difficult to pay as a West African, quite complicated. I guess it's a very easy process for other nationals.

- **Transportation:** Transportation is with Uber, Lyft or Metro. If you wanted to travel far, outside of the DC metro area you might want to use the buses or the train.
- **Insurance and Health Services:** I used the school's insurance (Aetna). I was automatically enrolled because I didn't seek waiver. But that was the biggest regret of my experiences because you could get ISO insurance for \$200 meanwhile Aetna was charging \$1000.
- **Living expenses:** Living expenses are not so much different from Tel Aviv outside of accommodation. Communication is more expensive in DC though.
- **Food:** I didn't eat much in restaurants because I was cooking. Normal food, pizzas, just like Tel Aviv.
- **Night life:** There's somewhat active night life within campus and also the national theatre usually has events at night.
- **Tips:** Enjoy your life. Sign up for the White House visit early on, you'll get a notification for that. Be mindful about the insurance.
- **General experience:** I had a nice time. I applied for an extra-semester which is called academic training. During which time I participated in the GWU New Venture Competition and I was also chosen for the DC I-corps program sponsored by the National Science Foundation.
- **Photos**

