



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	University College Roosevelt
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Liberal Arts and Sciences

destination city & country	Chicago, United States
name university abroad	Columbia College Chicago
start date	27 / 01 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	15 / 05 / 2020 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	The application went pretty smoothly, it was mostly a lot of waiting that the requests were processed and then forwarded to the exchange university who send me a directly an email that I was accepted. One thing that did surprise me is that Columbia College Chicago is part of a group of university called MAUI meaning I had to do another application for them and make a top three of their universities.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	Utrecht University was very supporting, guiding through every step of the application.
academic preparation	I did not really need to make any academic preparation.
language preparation	As I am already taught in English, I did not have to do that either.
finances	To go to Columbia College Chicago is quite a budget. Luckily, we do not have to pay the tuition there. Accommodation is quite expensive as Chicago is a big city and the university is right in the centre. In order to get a VISA for the exchange you also need to proof that you with help from "sponsors", which could just be your parents or anyone willing to support you financially, you have \$10 000 available.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	I went to Columbia College Chicago because they offer Acoustic courses and I wanted to explore aspects of the subject to help me decide whether I would be interested in doing a master in Acoustic. Personally, I found the course load was less than I am used to, however this depends on the courses you take, and the content were approached on a more practical manner which was a nice change. Signing up for courses was a lot of back and forward emails because I did not want to only be in introductory courses, however, the head of department needs to approve that you meet the prerequisites for the course and that can be complicated as you probably don't have the same courses at your university. Also, you need to make sure you have enough credits or not too many, but they really help you with everything.
academic quality of education activities	



The classes are for the most part very structured, the evaluation is spread across the semester depending on the course. For most of my courses, there was some reading to do for almost every class and the reading would serve for the class activities, which in my case were mostly practical. I found the quality of teaching very good and due to the fact that most of my classes were quite small, the teachers are really there for you and interact a lot with the class.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support system of Columbia College Chicago was very good. Firstly, there is the director of the International Student and Scholar Services who helps you right from the beginning with everything to do with the VISA. He gave us tips as to how to make the most of being here and is someone you can always reach out to if you are unsure about anything. Furthermore, if you need help with your courses, there are for almost every course student tutors available as well as office hours from the teachers. Lastly, as international student you are allowed to do internships or an on-campus job, if you need any guidance for that there is the Career Center. There is also a fair that shows you the opportunities you can get in Chicago, although you cannot apply for any off-campus jobs.

transfer of credits

I have not completed that yet.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

As international exchange students we have two days of orientation, the first one is only for the internationals so a small group where we get to know each other and we are told about what our VISA encompasses, including the duration after the end of the semester, the possible extension and other things to be aware of. The second day is for all the new incoming students, there are different presentations and small groups are made where exchange students are in one and we get to ask questions to a current student. At the end, there are some student organisations stands, which you can go around and get information about.

accommodation

You can get on campus accommodations; this is nice because you are right in the centre of Chicago and all the university buildings. Also, if you have a shared apartment you get to know other students and spend some time with them. I was very lucky with my roommates and we got along really well, if I didn't know about something, I could always ask them. Nevertheless, if you have a tight budget, it is probably cheaper to not be on campus, if you are ahead of time you might be able to find a place with other students by using the Columbia App.

leisure & culture

There is a lot to see and do in Chicago. With your student card you get a lot of discounts, some museums like the Art Institute are also free for you to go to. From the school you get a Ventra card which allows you to use the train lines in the city freely during the semester. Typical places to go visit are the Willis tower, the bean and the 360 Chicago which has on the floor above a restaurant where you can have a drink and enjoy a nice view of Chicago.

suggestions/tips

I would recommend being as involved as you can with the university as this will get you to settle in better. The beginning of a Spring semester can be lonely as most people start in Fall and have already made their friend group by the time the Spring Semester comes along. Do not hesitate to send messages to anyone you have met if you need tips. Also, if you want to join a club or a sport, don't wait around, just contact them directly. If you don't know what to do, hang out in the student center, there you can meet people easily. Columbia College Chicago has a lot of resources available to students so I would suggest you try to take full advantage of that while you are there.



In the city itself, I would suggest walking around Chicago, there are a lot of pretty buildings to see. If you are interested in Architecture, I would suggest doing the boat tour on the river. Boats tour on the lake only open when it starts getting warmer. As Spring starts to come around, the city will offer a lot more events, I would recommend checking them out. Additionally, if you want to get out of Chicago a bit, the Wisconsin state is close by, you can do a day trip to Milwaukee or visit other areas and attend to festivals there.

CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would really recommend going on exchange to Columbia College Chicago because you have a lot of opportunities which you would not get at your university. However, if you are a shy person, it might be hard because you really need to put the effort in if you want to meet people and do stuff, there are so many events and there are so many students that no one bothers to promote much but you can find events on the Columbia App. Nevertheless, Columbia College Chicago has a lot of facilities and you can always find someone who is there to help you.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Don't be shy, talk to anyone you recognise, students from a different department will have a completely different view of the university than you do and can show you around. Also, all professors have office hours when any student can just go see them and talk to them, take advantage of that, all professors, as far as I know, actually work in the area they teach so they are up to date with recent developments.