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My Exchange life in USA

As this is my first time being an exchange student, I would like to thank Thammasat University for providing me a chance to fulfil my dream. I am an exchange student at North Dakota State University (NDSU), Fargo, North Dakota, USA.



First of all, the processes to be an exchange student are not as complex as other people think. We can follow the processes as provided by Thammasat University coordinator. Whenever you have a question, you can just ask and wait for the prompt respond.

After you have done the processes and got accepted to be an exchange student, you have to contact the university (you planned to go) coordinator to inform when you are going and how long you are going to be there and ask for more information.

After I got accepted and placed at NDSU, I contacted Sara J. Johnson, the NDSU coordinator, and asked for exchange student application, housing and meal

plans. Moreover, I asked for other suggestions such as pre-arrival processes or what I have to know before going to NDSU.

The first day that I arrived NDSU, Fargo, I could feel that this place is peaceful and safe. People here are very nice and helpful. The city is not that much big with a small downtown and some department stores.

The first day of the class was quite hard for me because I had to adjust to new cultures and new ways of teaching. Most of assignments and announcements from US Universities systems use Blackboard applications as a main way to contact their students. We have to check the blackboard application every day to see new notifications from professors and university.

Luckily, just one or two weeks I could adjust to the university system and get used to it. As I exchanged only 1 semester, the time is very short, I spent most of my time with my friends and joining interesting university events. However I admitted that studying abroad is hard and we have to well manage time and pay attention in classes. When I had questions in classes, I asked the professors after class and always revised the lessons when I have time. Moreover, friends in classes are also important. I took ECON class at NDSU and I sometimes didn't understand what teacher tried to say, I just asked my classmate, April, and she told me what the teacher said and explain some topics I didn't catch up with.

For me, what I really enjoyed while I am an exchange student are useful experiences and friends. I learn to adjust to new things and get through some hard time over there, dare to do whatever I have never done before and change myself to be a better me. As my friends are from

other countries such as Malaysia, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, USA and Europe, I



experienced their cultures and their lifestyles. I like meeting new friends and spending time together with them because they are really nice to me and always help me. We traveled together to many places such as Minneapolis, Chicago, New York, and other places.



We joined events held by NDSU such as

Halloween party, Bingo games, NDSU Football games and others. The time we spent together are meaningful memories to me.

Until the last day that I had to go back to my home country, my friends were at the airport, we hugged and gave some souvenirs. They fulfilled my happiness in Fargo and always cheered me up. One promise that I can really say is “I will miss them and think of all time and moments in Fargo, North Dakota”.

Last but not least, don't be afraid to apply for exchange program. You would regret not applying for. Because being an exchange student is really worth trying and will surely pay you off.



Farewell Party