



Student Report

Outbound exchange student, 2017-2018
University of California, Davis
United States of America

By

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General information

UC DAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



University of California, Davis is a public research university, which is located in northern part of California. It has been labeled one of the Public Ivies, a publicly funded university considered to provide a quality of education comparable to those of the Ivy League.

For undergraduate majors, they are divided into four colleges; College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, College of Biological Sciences, College of Engineering, College of Letters and Science. The university provides 104 undergraduate majors in total and 96 graduate programs.

Academic



The university has a quarter system with 10 weeks of school, plus one week for finals. Each class usually have 2 midterms and a final, plus homework. With all these workloads, students need to catch up with all materials at all time and be prepared for the midterm that comes in every 2 weeks. Personally, I think that having a system like this boost students to focus, study harder and not being procrastinated.

The main things I found differently compared to Thammasat University is that students are eagerly participated in class. They are encouraged to give opinions and comments on topics without being judged. This makes classes become more interesting because students can gain knowledge not only from professors but classmates.

Accommodation



For exchange student in UC Davis, we are not allowed to stay in dormitories because it is restricted to all first-year students. We need to find other places to stay. For me, I choose to stay in West Village apartments, which is affiliated with the university. It means that everybody who lives in West Village apartments must be either students or university staffs. Even though the rents are quite expensive compared to other apartments in the area, the apartments provide good environment and a lot of facilities such as swimming pool, gym, study lounges, etc. Moreover, it has a bus that comes every 15 minutes that goes straight from the apartments to the center of campus. It takes only 5 minutes to the campus. Good things about living in this apartment is that it is an individual lease so I do not need to deal with other housemate parts. Furthermore, each of the resident has a key to the main door of the apartment but can only use the key to open their bedroom. It not only facilitates the resident in entering or leaving the apartment but also reduces the chance of robber in the apartment.

Friends



Since the university has a lot of international students that come from all over the world, it makes a diverse culture in campus. However, I observed that majority of students there are Asian.

Unlike Thammasat University, there is no buddy program in UC Davis but on the first day of orientation for exchange students, there were activities that made exchange students know one another, making it easier to find friends. So, we started to hang out together and becomes really close friends at the end.

Moreover, I also made friends while taking classes through office hours and in lectures. They are very nice and easily approachable. We helped each other in studying for class materials and exams. In addition to that, they also recommended me on many things, making it more enjoyable to be there.

Transportation

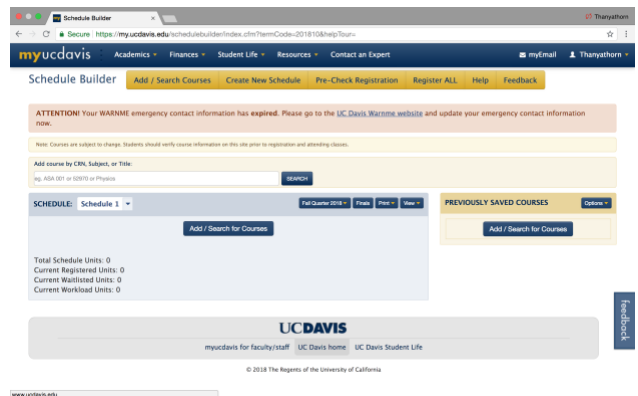
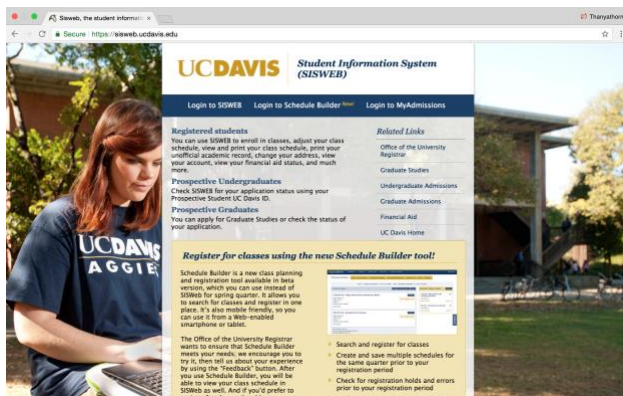


Students usually use 2 main transportations to go to the campus; bikes and buses.

The university promotes bike friendliness in campus by providing large bike lanes, bike circles, and traffic signals for bikes. For safety issue, cars are not allowed to enter the campus. Commuters must park their car in the lots provided. This makes bicyclists are pervasive around campus as well as city.

In city of Davis, there are buses that goes everywhere in the town. The stations are right inside on the campus. It usually comes every 15 minutes up to 1 hour depends on the line and the day. This facilitates a lot of students and visitors as well. Usually, it would cost around 2 dollars for visitors or citizen of Davis but it is free for students who go to UC Davis.

Problems



As an exchange student, I did not get any priority in registering classes. It created problem because some classes are mandatory for my major and also a pre-requisite for other classes. However, the staffs were kind enough to allow me to take the class.

