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Activities
Report

60 Days of Summer in UC Berkeley

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Quantitative Finance / 4



View from Sather Tower in UC Berkeley

This is my first time studying outside The Chinese University of Hong Kong. I have always expected being an exchange student (or at least kind of) for such a long time, but did not find the chance to be one until this program from New Asia College. I must deliver my appreciation to New Asia College. Because of this opportunity, I could enjoy my exchange life with less financial burden. UC Berkeley is such a well-known university, and I'm more than excited and grateful to have this chance staying and studying there for two months. I learnt a lot but also played hard. This must be one of my most unforgettable memories in my life.

I am such a lucky person that I have a childhood friend now being a UC Berkeley student. Her name is Stella. Thanks to her, I could go and just live in her apartment near Berkeley campus. She took good care of me in so many

ways and made my life in the States a lot easier. Stella and I often took buses (which is called AC transit) to commute and explore around Berkeley. We went to an awesome supermarket called Berkeley Bowl every week to buy fresh food and drinks. I often cooked meals for Stella, and I even tried to cook New York steaks for us by myself, and it turned out to be amazing. Stella and I even called each other as the best roommate that we have ever had! Our lifestyles are pretty much the same, and we both love to keep our place clean. Stella and I had known each other since we were kids, while we never got the chance to stay together without our families, not even, say, living together. Before I left Berkeley, I even wrote her a postcard, letting her know that how happy and thankful I was as finally becoming close friends with her. Living with her never caused me any communication problem, and I was glad that she thought in the same way.



I joined a local tour group to have a 3-day tour in Yosemite. Here's me and my groupmates.

I also visited restaurants in my neighborhood. There were tons of different kinds of restaurants there, Japanese, Indian, Italian, Korean, Mexican, and of course American. All of them were awesome, while my favorite was the American-styled sushi roll, and a pizza place called 'the Zachary's' there. The stuffed pizza from the Zachary's was the best pizza that I have ever tasted in my whole life. Stella and I often took it out and watched Studio Ghibli's movies at our place as celebration. And this was definitely one of my best memories there. I will never forget the taste of the pizza from the Zachary's.

If you asked me about UC Berkeley campus, I would say that it is the most gorgeous campus that I have ever seen. I felt like every corner in the campus is a movie scene. Forest, crooks, ancient buildings and libraries in different styles, etc. There is just too much to be mentioned. I had classes from Monday to Friday, and I tried to go to my classrooms, which were in the uphill area in different routes every day, until I found my favorite trail. I really enjoyed the time walking around the campus, and I often spent around fifteen to twenty minutes to walk around campus and to visit each building after class. The weather in Berkeley was

just perfect: there's always sunshine with chilly breeze. You may feel a little chilly if you were not under sunshine, but will feel warm if you walk under sunlight. I do enjoy this fantastic weather and environment in Berkeley. I would definitely like to visit there again if I can.

I had two classes in UC Berkeley, which were MATH53: Multivariable Calculus and STAT134: Introduction of Probability. Both were to be transferred back to CUHK as my major required and elective course respectively. I hate to study math since I was a kid; however, UC Berkeley taught math in such an interactive and impressive way, making me enjoy my math class everyday even it was in early morning every day. The instructor (his name is Ryan) explained all the space concepts in a really clear way and drew amazing graphs on blackboard. Although he gave us tons of homework to do every week, it was a nice practice for us to familiarize with the concepts mentioned in class. Ryan is indeed my favorite math teacher so far! He held discussion time for four hours every week, which made me comprehend calculus in such an interesting and interactive way. By speaking out my confusion, I could figure out the answers to my question more

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clearly by following Ryan's hint. This is the most impressive experience for me in UC Berkeley, and I do hope math classes in CUHK or elsewhere in Asia can be taught in the same way.


I also made around five or six new friends there. Among them, my best friend is Pedram, who is Canadian-American. We took the same two classes there and thus became friends. We chatted every day, talking about sports, Netflix dramas, news, and our families as well. He was actually my first friend in the States besides Stella. Pedram also showed me around the campus and the city, and he even treated me a farewell lunch on the day before I left the States. We promised each other to meet in Asia someday in the future.

Beside studying and exploring Berkeley, I also spent a lot of time on travelling. I had several short trips and a wonderful trip to Yosemite National Park as my birthday gift. I also visited Salesforce and 4 museums, including SFMOMA and Golden Gate Park, in San Francisco. For

my one-day trips, I went to the Pride Parade 2019, Muir Woods, Sausalito, Angel Island, Fillmore Jazz Festival, Japan Town, Lake Merritt in Oakland, Castro District in San Francisco, the Alcatraz Island, the Pier, watched my very first Broadway hip-pop musical called Hamilton, and went on a road trip on California State Route 1. I will definitely cherish all these memories for my entire life. They were not only attractions to me, but also the places leading me to know more about myself, and think about how to interact with the world.

I want to deliver my appreciation to New Asia College once again and Mr. Michael Wong for the scholarships once again. This opportunity has created my most unforgettable and precious memories in my university life and has led me to think more about myself and the way I should face and interact with the world and our society. I sincerely thank you for this program and your kindness, and I'd love to share my experience with more fellow students in the future. 🙏



 Me and my dear roommate Stella on Alcatraz Island.



 Me and my new friend Julia went on a GO CART trip in downtown San Francisco.