



ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

Illinois' first public university

Unforgettable experience at Illinois State University (Spring 2014)

For the very first time that I reach Illinois State University, I was a little scared of staying away from home and at the same time excited for new world experience staying ahead.

The first day of me in Illinois, me and my friend got such a bad day on transportation and adaptation of weather. Since we didn't know that there is a bus travelling from Chicago O'Hare airport directly to Illinois State University. So we took a subway and train (Amtrak). But the weather was so cold and at the same time our luggages were so heavy. But it was nice that we met lots of nice and kind people along the way that helped us. Once we get to Bloomington, it was late at night since our train was delayed. Fortunately, we have contacted John and Linda association to help us about transportation to our apartment (we didn't stay in dorm since they required us to buy a meal plan). But it was bad that staff of apartment didn't wait for us. So we couldn't get into apartment. Thanks to Linda and John, they provided us that night stay at their home. Also, the day after that we moved in, John and Linda also lend us kitchenware and other important stuff!

Another challenge came to us in the first a few weeks, the weather was too extreme. We had a wind chill of -30 more degree Celcius. So yes, we stuck in our apartment for almost a week.

Regardless of those, the first a few week of mine went pretty well. Since the school has provided a clear information of what to do and they have provided program that helped international students a lot; such as international talk time every Friday dinner time or American family friends.

In the aspect of studying, it had been just like studying in BBA Thammasat, it always depend on a teacher. Each of them has their own teaching style. But what they normally have the same is lots of homework and lots of exams. There is one class that I have 4midterm exams and 1 final exam. But no worry, it was easier than studying in BBA Thammasat. Since they mostly require you to understand the concept, don't have to understand deeply and applied for use as much as in BBA Thammasat. So, the tips was just plan well on your schedule.

During our stay, we normally travelled by bus (Connected). There are only a few of them running per hour per route. So we need to plan well before we go anywhere. But the bus is mostly on time, so it went well with our schedule.

Bloomington-Normal is a good place for the eaters. Even though the town is small, but there are restaurants at every corner! Especially 2 Thai restaurants in the place that we have only no more than 15 Thai people in town!

My lifestyle when I was there, I was always sitting and talking with other international friends that I met at International Talk Time. And also, friends of my friends. And sometimes went out to recreation center, since their fitness was too good for not to go.

Also, I have met a few Thai friends there. And they were so nice, so we have hangout many times; even went to Thai temple during Songkran Day in Chicago.

If we have a long weekend or a long vacation, that was time for travelling. My friend and I went to many places; Chicago 4 times, St.Louis, New York, Washington DC, San Francisco. That was one of my greatest moments.

I hope that the next generation of exchange student in Illinois from BBA Thammasat will get the best experience as I had. Enjoy!

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