

From BBA TU to Berkeley and back *~

During my visit to BBA office, Ajarn Pantisa and Ajarn Kulpatra have an idea of having me write some fabulous experiences from the exchange program with the University of California, Berkeley, for N'N' BBA. This sure is a tough, yet full of fun, essay as it is pretty difficult to express every moment of joy in this limited space. Nevertheless, I hope you all will enjoy this essay!

Berkeley, especially Haas School of Business, is famous for its diversity. Each day, you will likely hear at least three languages. There is very little discrimination and you can even be a part of Haas Student Government. Being a part of the government, I had a chance to network with various professional and be exposed to a new leadership experience. For example, there was a networking event with Haas MBA and alumni at Hyatt in San Francisco and an info session from top MBA programs. In addition to the free food provided, I also had a chance to ask these professionals about their real-life experiences. During my time at Haas, there were many workshops and info sessions from companies of various industries, such as



banking, accounting, consulting, and even gaming! These sessions can widen your horizon about our business world and even give you a chance to experience a real interview via internship application. Moreover, with a service of the career centre, you can sharpen your interviewing skills, brush up your resume, and learn how to write a cover letter. If you want to take some non-business classes, Berkeley also has many interesting classes, such as graphic animation, foreign languages, Hip-hop dance, Harry Potter, and many more unexpected classes!

Moving away from an academic side, Berkeley has many good places to eat and lots of things to do. Among the most popular places to eat are Ici, a really good homemade ice cream, Yogurt Harmony, a frozen yogurt store with fresh fruit toppings, and Yogurtland, a new store with various flavours of yogurt with tons of toppings at a reasonable price. There is a famous vegetarian pizza, Chessboard, which tastes so good that even a person who does not touch veggie will eventually like it, and a Chicago-style pizza at Zachary's. There is also one famous Chinese restaurant, Great China, where Chinese people said

the Beijing roast duck is even tastier than the original one in Beijing! Back into the campus, one of the most panoramic sites in Berkeley is a campanile, a tall tower with huge bells on the top, where you can go up there and see the Berkeley town from above. There are also many on-campus facilities you can use, ranging from enjoying fitness and sports to playing piano and singing in a private room. On campus, there are many concerts and the popular weekly A Cappella group in front of the famous Sather Gate at the centre of Berkeley campus.



Traveling to San Francisco (SF) in less than one hour, either by bus or train, you can enjoy various activities in one of the most fabulous cities on the West coast. You can see some sea lions on Pier 39, go on a cruise under or bike over the Golden Gate Bridge, eat some seafood at Fisherman's wharf, and enjoy great chocolates at Ghirardelli's Square. You can go to Japan town for tasty Japanese crepes, delicious —>

Japanese food, and some cool haircuts. China town is also there for you to enjoy Chinese food and dim sums. You can walk around SF hilly roads to see the crooked Lombard Street with beautiful flowers. There are also twin peaks (the highest point in SF), Castro Valley (the famous area for homosexual people), Haight Street for Hippy, Palace of Fine Arts, and many more! If you get tired of sightseeing, there are Union square and Westfield shopping centre for you to shop around and find something to eat. All of these enjoyments are within an hour travel from Berkeley!



Now, let's move out of Berkley and SF into some interesting places nearby. For nature lovers, there are many famous parks and hiking spots. You can find some friends and drive to Lake Tahoe, one of the most beautiful lakes in America, and the famous Yosemite, a very beautiful park where you can enjoy fresh air and climb to the top of a big waterfall to witness a rainbow bridge. If you are over twenty-one, you can also enjoy the famous wine tasting trip at Napa valley. During some breaks, you can travel to Las Vegas to enjoy many famous shows, take tons of photos with fabulous architectures, and experience delicious buffets at many

great hotels. You can also take a tour from Vegas to Grand Canyon to witness the world's wonder. Going back from Vegas, you can go to Los Angeles to experience the Hollywood, Disneyland, and Universal, or go to San Diego for the famous Sea World, San Diego Zoo, and wander around for fresh air and great sceneries in this small calm city. During winter break, you can go skiing and snowboarding, either with some friends or with a club in Berkeley! Whichever fun you want, the choices are yours!

After the time of joy flew by, there came the time to go back to BBA Thammasat. When you have experienced the academic in this leading business school in America, you will definitely realize how well BBA Thammasat has taught you. Broadened my horizon, widened my perspective, and enjoyed many activities I have never before imagined, I would not have been able to do all this without the great foundation of BBA Thammsat. To close this essay full of fond memories, I would like to thank all BBA staffs and Ajarns, P'P' Office, and P'P' at international affairs in making this wonderful program happens and in grooming me with such a great background. Without you, I would not be where I am today. Thank you so much!



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