



Our first week of settling down in Minneapolis was full of joy, surprise, excitement, freaking out moment and lastly and unavoidably, coldness. Just to get you a rough idea of our first week in Minnesota, it was claimed to be the coldest week of all for the past 5 years. Yes that sounds like Minnesota to me. We were moving in the dorm where there was no living person (Of course, apart from us two and the reception) and because we were the first 2 students from TU, things had to be figured out by ourselves. First day was like you were a mouse in a cage and then

were released in the land of nowhere ...or snow. But the second day was full of fun and excitement. Decided to go exploring the area, we had found out that despite the coldness, Minnesotans were warm at heart. People are incredibly nice than you could have imagined. We did not know anything, directions, transportation services, the necessary things and places in the city. Fortunately, there were many local people in the city that were friendly, generous and willing to help us when we were in



trouble. In addition to that it was not so difficult at all to make friends with someone just walking to them and simply say "Hi" and start the conversation. During the first week, the exchange coordinators at the University of Minnesota, Carlson School of Management were ones of the people that significantly helped us to settle there by arranging 3-day orientation illustrating all the information that we needed.



Because we lived in residential hall, most of our food is in Middlebrook Hall's hand. We bought a meal plan which serves breakfast, lunch and dinner.

There were times that the dining hall was close or our appetites seemed to be lost due to repeated meals that we had been fed. But no worries, you still can find plenty of food to eat at the restaurants in Dinky town and university area and it comes with student price and discount most of the time. Do look for a book of discount coupons on benches around the campus. You don't want to miss that.



Minneapolis campus is divided into 2 sides by Mississippi river. They are connected by a bridge. Carlson School is located in the West bank area and it was not difficult at all to travel around the campus since there's a bus connector free for everyone and it runs every day. Moreover the public transportation is quite convenient. There are buses and light rails in the city. The light rails take you to most places such as Lindberg and Humphrey airports, uptown where it lays chic and modern restaurants, downtown; a financial district and Mall of America; the largest mall in America. (Oh! Have I mentioned that there is no tax on clothes and shoes in Minnesota?) All you have to do is going to their website, select your destination and you are good to go with all the information on the screen.



Activities such as parties, seminars, work shop, ice-skating, free movies, bowling, concerts etc. are everywhere in the campus. It depends on how eager you are to seek for one. Minnesota Daily and wall post around the campus are good sources. Every other week there was a party for International students where you can get to know more people from around the world.

For those of you who are aged more than 21, pubs and bars are extremely near. Good news for ladies...

lady night at Sally's every Wednesday will cost you a price for night out at 0 dollar!

Moving on to some Academic stuff, shall we? Classroom atmosphere prepares you to deal with corporate America. Most class needs your participation. And what I mean by that is not attendance. Professors will expect you to contribute to the class. In other words, HANDS UP, QUESTIONS, ANSWERS, COMMENTS and DISCUSSION are expected. These are very important and it makes a significant difference to your grades.

Group work also a part of every class. You will get to



do a group project with your assigned classmates. Most classes are case base. Therefore you have to read the case or assignment in order to contribute the class. We normally spent time for our study, did the assignments and prepared for the classes during the weekdays while spent time for our relaxation during the weekends. There are a lot of work loads for each week but certainly if you put efforts into it what you get at the end is satisfying.

All and all Minnesota is a very lovely place to live. We really feel that this was one of the best alternatives for BBA students to gain experience from studying abroad. The institution is well established with well reputation especially in the Midwest. For those of you who are going there for Spring semester, a little suggestion, do pack warm! And for those of

you who are going for Fall, it's Spring time ☺ Whenever you're going though, we wish you luck and a great fun in Twin Cities.



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