

My chapters in UT, Austin

If life is book, my time in Austin would definitely cover tons of chapters, containing the colorful and vivid pages. The chapters that teach me something I never expect I would be able to learn. The chapters that I can flip over and smile everytime I read.

This is the first time (in my life) that I have to leave my family, travel and live on my own. I arrived at Austin where no one knows of me. I felt very lucky that I didn't have to worry about my transportation to my dorms because Mcombs business school gave me the shuttle bus voucher, which take care everything for me. I was lucky again when I met someone at my dorms who was driving out to HEB (the closest large and cheap supermarket) so I can buy lots of stuffs in my very first day in Austin.



That night, the series of fortunate events still kept going when I met Thai girl who accidentally was my neighbors and also gave me lots of advice on how to live in Austin. Also, the orientation helped me a lot on where to eat, what to do, how to open the bank and mobile account and how to travel around the city. The first week went past easier than I expected (Thank for those fortunate events!!!)

When the classes began, I really felt nervous at first because I was going to study in no.1 accounting school in the world. Most of the classes required participation and assigned you a number of cases and projects throughout the semester. But believe me, if you can study and survive BBA Thammasat, you can study and flourish anywhere in the world. It's quite surprising that they always begin working on their projects and studying at very last minute so it's common that you will find your group very busy the night before due date and sleepless before the exam.



Is it boring to live in Austin? Of course not, Austin is labeled as the capital of live music so you can enjoy the "free" live music every week. There is SXSW (south by southwest)



where the musicians all over the world come and show what they got. Everyone really enjoyed it, even me, who doesn't know much about music still can move my body and jump around like a little penguin.

If you are shopaholic, there are many shops and malls to serve your appetite. Buffalo exchange is very famous for the second-hand clothes; you will find almost every brand you can think of. There are also Barton creek and highland mall which offers you Macy, Dillard and JC penny. The outlets at San Marcos offers very discounted price of the various brand. However, it's difficult to get there by yourself if you don't have car. Therefore, you have to rely on others' generosity.



Everyone, including me, in Austin loves exercise. I went to the Gregory gym to work out and shape my muscles 3 times a week in order to stay firm all the time, which turned out that I was able to achieve it (in my opinion). I played soccer with someone I initially didn't know every Wednesday. Also, I achieved my target to show how wonderful Thai player can play (in my mind). I played racquetball with Tracey, my best friend during my exchange, every Friday. I can borrow the equipment from the gym, just by showing my student ID card. Again, I achieved my objective to compete her in tight match (I guess so) although I never won.

From the fact that there are people from every region of the world in Austin, I could try something new everyday if I want. Thai Tara is the good choice for me if I miss Thai food while buffet palace can well replace Yaowaraj despite different style. Good Korean food can be found in the Korean market located 10 minutes away from the campus by bus. I can go to Zen for Japanese food and Pho for Vietnamese food. Five guys and burger is the best choice for burger, my friends told me that it is the best burger they'd ever had. Double Daves's pizza can fill up your stomach whenever you are hungry with its buffet style. Tiff or Treats' snicker doodle cookies and Amy's ice cream Mexican vanilla flavor are things that you can really miss for dessert if you have a chance to take your step on Austin. All mentioned are located within 10-15 minutes from the campus.



The international office always organized some trips for the exchange students to travel and have fun together. I went to San Antonio and enjoyed the Alamo, very historic site, and riverwalk, the more than 10 km path along the beautiful river. There are bars and restaurant along the riverwalk that you can sit and enjoy the beautifulness of nature. I went to NASA

to see the demonstration of space operation. I witnessed some bull riders struggling to stay on the bull and some fell off the bull in Rodeo Austin. I also went to enchanted rock and Frederickburgs, the mini German town, where I could try some German pastries and see German architecture.



Tears dropping from my eyes when I left Austin are not because I felt sad but happy. I am happy that once in my life I can have such valuable and wonderful experience. I know I can't be this happy without BBA Thammasat who always gives me the chance to improve and proudly call myself as one of the best student in the world. I would like to thank BBA's ajarns, staffs and everyone involved to let me know how tears of joy are.

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