

A Journey to Remember

Text / Cheung Hiu Man Priscilla
(LLB / 3)



 At the Lobby of I-House



 In front of the Doe Library in UC Berkeley

I attended the Summer Sessions at University of California, Berkeley between 2nd July, 2018 and 10th August, 2018.

I have enrolled in 2 courses at the University, namely Globalization and International Relations and International Law. Globalization is a course offered by the Geography Department of UC Berkeley, and discusses the history of globalization and the political, economic and social consequences of this phenomenon. Over the course, students were introduced to different concepts such as neoliberalism, colonialism, and imperialism, and were encouraged to share their thoughts with the class. We also participated frequently in group discussions and mini-presentations. We were assigned a number of readings related to class content, and we also had to complete one quiz per week. In the final week we also had to deliver a presentation on Globalization in a country or city of our choice. Despite the rather heavy workload, I find the course very interesting as it allowed me to view globalization from a different perspective instead of simply focusing on the benefits of engaging in an inter-connected world. In addition, since my classmates in this class came from different countries, I was able to make friends from different parts of the world.

As for the other course, International Relations and International Law, I learned about public international law, a topic which I am greatly interested in. The course focuses on the rules of public international law and the interactions between different actors of international law, such as states, international organizations and individuals. The class met every Monday to Thursday in the morning for lectures, and on every Monday afternoon we had a discussion session where we met in groups to share and discuss the assigned readings and lecture content. Apart from the mid-term examination and the final examination, we each submitted an essay which required us to analyze and discuss which international relations theory best explained an international event of our choice. After attending this course, I not only knew more about public international law, but I was also able to learn about important international issues such as the use of nuclear weapons, wars, and human rights.

I stayed at the International House during my time at Berkeley. The international house is a multicultural student residence that houses students and scholars from different parts of the world who are visiting Berkeley. The location of International House is very nice as

it is within walking distance to different shops and restaurants, making it very convenient for residents to dine out and buy food and necessities. Since meal points are included in my residence fee, I usually had my meals at the dining hall located on the 2nd floor of the building. The canteen offers a large variety of dishes. For instance, pancakes, eggs and sausages are frequently served for breakfast, and in the afternoon and at night we have dishes such as roasted chicken and mac and cheese. The dining hall also serves food and delicacies from different countries. Overall the food at the dining hall is very tasty. Sometimes I would also purchase coffee and snacks from the café located on the first floor as well.

About my room, I decided to apply for a single room for my stay. My room was very large and comfortable, and it also had a little closet. My floor was also very quiet so I was able to study in my room at night, but occasionally I would also visit the library in International House for studying. There was also a gym next to International House and I visited the gym quite frequently.

In addition, International House also organized a number of short trips and excursions, and I signed up for the one-day trip to Sacramento on 22nd July. We departed Berkeley early in the morning that day in a large tour bus. An hour later, we arrived at the State Capitol of California and went on a guided tour in the building. We then headed to Raging Waters, a water park, and the State Fair which were located next to each other. We spent the whole afternoon going on water slides and rides, and we had a very fun time at Sacramento. Apart from Sacramento I also attended the Redwood Grove concert held in the Botanical Gardens of UC Berkeley. Listening to jazz music when surrounded by nature is very relaxing indeed.

Apart from participating in the tours organized by International House, between 3rd and 5th August me and my friend also visited Los Angeles by going on a tour organized by US Student Tours. We arrived Los Angeles by coach, and we visited a number of famous landmarks such as Hollywood, Venice Beach and Santa Monica. On our last day we visited

Santa Monica, a very beautiful city which reminded me a lot of Spain. The tour guide was very helpful and kind in introducing and explaining the history and details of the places we visited to us, and during this trip I met a lot of fellow students who were also visiting UC Berkeley for the summer. I was very excited about this trip because I finally visited Los Angeles, a place that I really wanted to travel to.

I also took my time to explore Berkeley and the Bay Area during my free time. During my spare time I walk around Downtown Berkeley and visited restaurants that were popular among Berkeley students such as the Berkeley Social Club and Gypsy's Trattoria Italiana to get a taste of what life as a student in Berkeley was like. In addition to that, since Berkeley is well-connected to the rest of the Bay Area by BART, I often took the BART to San Francisco to visit some of San Francisco's most famous places such as Union Square and Ferry Building. I was also able to take the ferry to Sausalito and ride a bus to view the world-famous Golden Gate Bridge. By visiting these different places, I was able to understand and feel by myself San Francisco's history of being an important port by the Pacific Ocean. My trip to China Town was also very exciting, as the China Town in San Francisco is the oldest China Town in North America and I was able to feel the warm and close-knit environment that the Chinese established after they arrived in San Francisco many years ago.

My stay in the Bay Area would not be as memorable and enjoyable without the help of the Mr. Michael Wong Student Exchange Scholarship. The scholarship has greatly assisted me financially, especially in tour fees and transportation. With the help of this Scholarship I was able to visit Los Angeles, Sacramento, Sausalito and many more places where I could enjoy the scenery, the culture and the hospitality of Americans that I have met in my journey. My time at the San Francisco Bay Area is truly one of the most memorable experiences that I have ever had, and thank you very much for making this happen by granting this scholarship to me. I am looking forward to an exciting and prosperous year ahead in New Asia College in 2018-2019. 🌟