

Exchange Report – Columbia University

Exchange Application:

The application process is rather straightforward. One suggestion is to thoroughly research the universities you are considering for exchange, from their curriculum to their extracurricular offerings. Another recommendation is to request your recommendation letters early, as professors may require time to process them. After being nominated by FU for the exchange spot, you will also need to apply via the Columbia portal. Fortunately, most application materials are identical to those required by FU.

Financing:

NYC is one of the most expensive cities globally. However, the Columbia exchange offers a stipend to assist with expenses. Nevertheless, this stipend is unlikely to cover all expenses. There are additional scholarship opportunities available, such as DAAD and PROMOS.

Side Note: Personally, I do not recommend opting for the dining plan, as it is relatively expensive compared to the Mensa at FU.

Getting to NYC:

Traveling to the Big Apple can be both exciting and stressful. It is advisable to organize your flights early and apply for accommodation at Columbia within the specified period to secure a dorm spot. Transportation from the airport to campus can be cumbersome, especially with large suitcases. Taking a taxi or Uber costs approximately \$100-150 USD, which may be worth it to ease initial days in NYC. Also arriving a few days before orientation allows for settling in comfortably.

Courses:

There are plentiful of courses at Columbia that may suit your appetite, but it can also be daunting to choose the right ones for you. Fortunately, Columbia has good resources such as academic advisors who can help you through the selections. It is up to you to make the most out of the resources Columbia has, so researching beforehand and potentially reaching out to

people who have the experience can be highly beneficial. For example, there are academic fair in the beginning of the semester, and it is a great opportunity to get in touch with professors and so on.

Clubs and Activities:

There are hundreds of clubs and initiatives at Columbia, and it is a great place to pursue your interests while meeting new people as well. Do attend the club fair so you can get acquainted with all the clubs at Columbia. Social medias are also a good way to get information from them. Be aware the courseload at Columbia can be quite a lot, so some clubs require more time commitments than others. Ultimately, it is about time management but also enjoying what you are doing without being too stressed!

Life Outside of Uni:

NYC has so much to offer, ranging from art, food, to sport events. Columbia has this “art initiative” to get cheap tickets to concerts and performances, and I personally took advantage of them to see some Broadway shows and operas. Every neighborhood in NYC has its own charms, and I enjoy going outside of the Morningside Heights to explore them.

Best of luck on your future endeavors!!