

MBA blog MBA

## On to the other side of the world

Monica Dee, Chinese University of Hong Kong SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

---

It has been almost a month since I arrived in the US for my exchange programme at Duke University's Fuqua School of Business. These past few weeks have been hectic getting settled into my new home for the next four months – my final academic term before I graduate from the MBA.



Duke University is located in a quiet part of town in Durham, North Carolina, which is the exact opposite to where I have just come from, the ever so busy Hong Kong. Living in Hong Kong for the past year or so, I am just not used to this much space. But if there's one thing the MBA has taught me over the past year, it is how to adapt to conditions or situations I am not accustomed to. I think it is a valuable experience to be exposed to different ways of life in different locations around the world.

Even in the school setting, things are done differently. For instance, courses are much more fast-paced. I had not realized how quickly time was passing until one of our professors reminded us yesterday that we have actually already completed one-third of our first term! I am particularly enjoying how much more extracurricular activities and student events there are here. I guess having a student body of more than 400 per year helps a lot. Plus, the full-time MBA students, or the "Daytime MBAs", are very accommodating and friendly. That certainly makes the transition much easier for me.

I have now met the rest of the incoming exchange students. All in all, we are a group of 47 from more than 20 countries. It is a diverse group of talented MBAs from some of the best business schools globally and I feel blessed to be part of it. This, plus the already highly-internationalised cohort of Daytime MBAs, contributes even more to the globalisation of my MBA education and experience.

The choice to do my exchange programme at Duke Fuqua is definitely one of the best decisions I have ever made.

[Copyright](#) The Financial Times Limited 2018. All rights reserved.

## **Latest on MBA**