

## IMBA/Purdue Dual Degree Report- Misha Chou

### 1. Preparation and Arrival

#### 1-1. Motivation:

After graduating from university three years ago and working in a tech company, the idea of going abroad to study began to sprout. At the beginning, my goal was to study MBA or BA in Singapore, because I am quite optimistic about the future of developed countries. However, I failed on my GMAT test. After being devastated, I had to give up. I found that my alma mater National Chengchi University has the opportunity to offer an international MBA and a dual degree, which gave me a glimmer of hope.

#### 1-2. Schools Selection

In addition to Purdue Supply Chain Management, IMBA also provides opportunities to connect with eight other top European business schools, including ESCP, which is also known as the top three business schools in Paris, and University Mannheim, known as Harvard in Germany. After that, I feel that Taiwan supply chain management is more related to my previous work background in the tech industry.

#### 1-3. GMAT and Toefl

It is better to contact Purdue when you have finished the GMAT or Toefl test. I saw the historical data on Purdue's official website. The average GMAT is 621/TOEFL is 97. There is a big gap between mine GMAT score and average one. However, I wrote a letter to the person who is in charge of hiring at Purdue and she told me that the GMAT score could be accepted. They focused more on my Toefl score, so I took the TOEFL test again and finally met the Purdue standard.

#### 1-4. SOP and Interview

The applicant of Purdue dual degree program still needs to upload Chengchi recommendation letters and passes Kira and manual interviews in the application process. The advantage of NCCU students is that Purdue will definitely keep a place for you. Therefore, all the NCCU applicants can complete the application before Round 3 in March. After I finished writing my SOP, I asked an American to help me with the draft. I was fortunate to have Kira interviews with every question that was written in social media test bank. Furthermore, I realized that they wanted someone with more work experience during the face to face interview.

## 2. Visa Process

The visa application process is the same as international students who are going to study abroad in the United States. You need to apply for an F1 visa. After receiving the admission notice, you can apply for an I-20 file from Purdue, and submit the specified documents and fees to the U.S. government website, and arrange for interview. The AIT conducted an interview. The interview process was quite easy. The interviewer only asked me why I came to the United States and where the funds came from. After three days, the visa will be sent to the designated place.

## 3. Airfare + Transportation

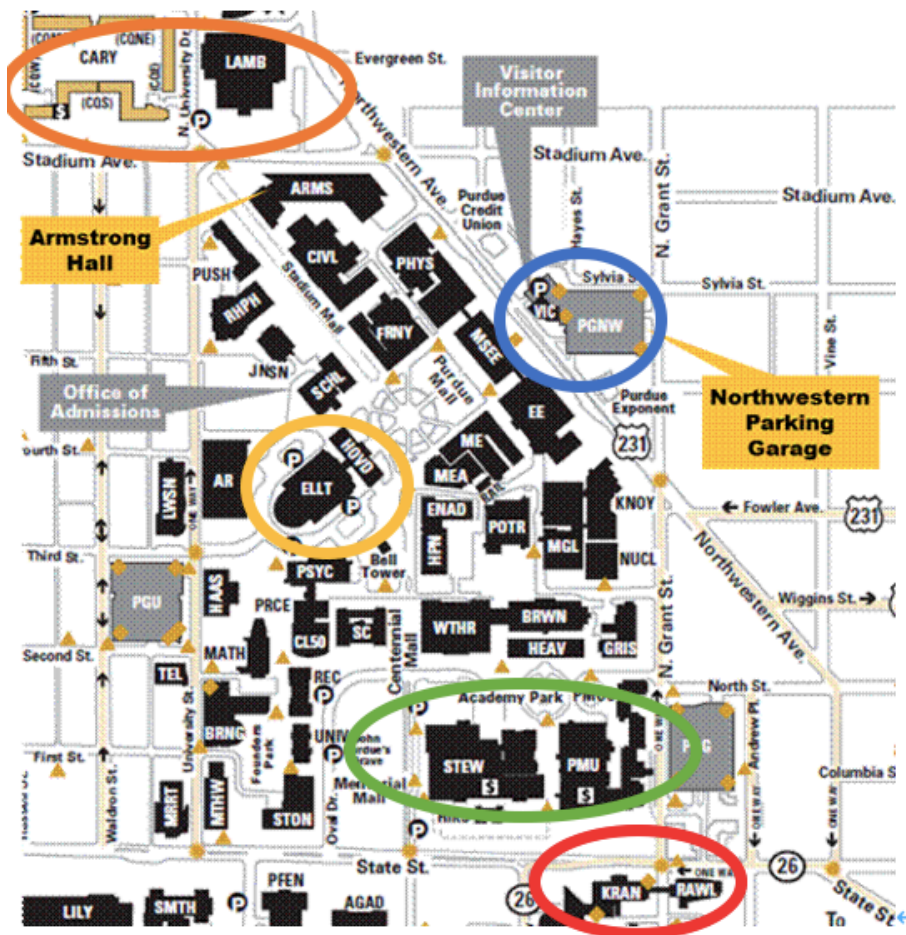
There is no direct flight from Taiwan to Indiana, but there are direct flights to the neighboring big city-Chicago. It should be noted that the only direct flight from Taipei to Chicago is Evergreen. After the epidemic, Evergreen's flights are often cancelled or changed. If you want to take a flight with a confirmed itinerary, you can take the United Airline Taipei-San Francisco-Chicago flight, but the disadvantage is that it takes a long time. This time, because the return time is uncertain, there is only a single flight ticket, and I chose to arrive at Purdue one week before the freshman training at the end of August to adapt to the environment. The time to arrive at Chicago Airport is usually more than 10 pm local time, so the departure time for passenger transportation from Chicago Airport to Purdue has passed. You will choose to stay in a hotel near Chicago Airport for one night. I will recommend to students who will come in the future that they can find a partner to travel with so that they can share the hotel fee together. The passenger journey from the Chicago airport to Purdue is approximately three hours with a one-hour time difference.

## 3. Luggage and Weather

You can buy almost everything in the States. If students have winter snow clothes, snow pants, gloves and other winter clothing at home, I will recommend to bring them. In winter at Purdue, the temperature is between -5 degrees and -10 degrees. The coldest snowstorm period will be -20 degrees. In addition to winter clothes, I recommend that you bring your personal medicines with you. I went to the family clinic to get them, just in case you need them! In addition, I recommend that you bring spare glasses and contact lenses, because glasses and contact lenses in the United States require a prescription and are quite expensive. Furthermore, bring food if you can, because although you can buy in Asian Food shopping store, the price is twice to three times than in Taiwan, There are many spices, such as white pepper, cumin, are not that high quality as in Taiwan. If you like to cook, you can also bring a Datong electric cooker. Finally, the voltages in Canada and

the United States are the same as those in Taiwan, so there is no need to bring a special adapter.

#### 4. Life and Accommodation



##### 4-1. Geographic location

The picture above is a map of the entire West Lafayette campus. The red circle in the lower right corner is the School of Management. 90% of the courses are here, and there are the most abundant restaurant areas nearby, including Chipotle, McDonald's, Panda Express, The Tap, etc., and various cultural or employment activities will be held in business schools from time to time, such as inviting seniors from the industry to come back to give speeches or Indian festival food celebrations. The green circle is Purdue Memorial Hall, referred to as PMU, where business students often hold freshman training, dances and graduation parties, and there are restaurants and bowling alleys in the underground street. The yellow circle is the Elliott Hall of Music, where the school-wide graduation ceremony and various Broadway tours will be held here. The blue circle is the cultural center of the school, where various interesting student cultural activities are often held, such as student oil painting experience or student e-sports competitions.

Finally, the orange circle in the upper left corner is the school's sports venue. PU belongs to the Big Ten league, which is the top three in the NCAA. The passionate basketball and American football leagues are held here. Students who love sports must not miss it.

#### 4-2. Accommodation

In 2021, due to the epidemic situation, Purdue will not open dormitory for graduate students. The dormitory is only for the quarantine. The dormitory is basically divided into in campus (closer to the school) and off campus (farther from the school). The in campus community is generally more expensive, and the cheaper accommodation washing machines have to be shared. The advantage is that it is quite close to the business school and there are many restaurants nearby. I choose to live along the bus line and my community -Franklin Park is closest to Walmart. The bus time is until 12 o'clock in the evening and the management team of the Franklin Park community is quite good. If the home appliance or water pipe is broken, notify the rental company, and it will be solved immediately the next day. The only disadvantage is probably that it is more inconvenient to commute when it snows in winter.

#### 4-3. Activities

Business schools often hold various activities, such as free donut breakfast and Starbucks coffee every Tuesday morning, beer restaurant drinking and eating and bowling activities. There are some private small gatherings organized by the alumni associations. My classmates are all in the university town, and everyone's relationship is quite close. As long as you are willing to open your heart and communicate more, you can make many interesting friends. In addition, I highly recommend students who come to Purdue to participate in the IFP Program, which is a bit like a host program. One person will be assigned to a local family and will do different activities with this family every month. The family goes bowling and barbecues, and it makes me feel like another home in Purdue. In addition, although I don't know the church members, I occasionally participate in various activities organized by the church, such as: Thanksgiving turkey meal, pumpkin carving and summer barbecue activities.

#### 4-3. Sports activities

Purdue has well-known gym, which is quite well-equipped with indoor basketball courts, badminton courts, large fitness space, and even squash courts. It is definitely a fitness enthusiast's paradise. My own favorite equipment is the two-story rock climbing field. You can use it for only 5 USD a

year, and there will be someone next to you to assist and guide you. Students who want to learn rock climbing must not miss it. Purdue is a strong sports school, and various sports events should not be missed. 2021 happened to be a very strong year for Purdue basketball. It ranks in the top ten in the United States throughout the year, and there is a future star to lead the team to the NCAA Sweet. 16 (final round of 16). Purdue is also a strong team killer in football in 2021. We defeated the top few strong enemies in his home court several times. Students who like sports are highly recommended to buy tickets to watch the game.

#### 4-4.Eating

West Lafayette where Purdue is located basically has all kinds of restaurants, from Chinese hot pot to Japanese ramen or different fast food restaurants including Chipotle, Chick-Fil-A, KFC, etc. I usually cook at home, because I live in a community very close to Walmart and Chinese supermarkets. Future students can also use Weee, a Chinese fresh food e-commerce platform to order the ingredients they want, and basically buy a lot of Taiwanese products.

#### 5.Conclusion

I will definitely come to dual degree at Purdue for sure. The best experience is met lots of different experienced supply chain people from all over the world. I don't have any bag experience at Purdue.