

## Dual Degree Report: Purdue University

**Student:** Julia Huang (2020 batch)

**Partner school:** Purdue University, Krannert School of Management (Indiana, USA)

### Preparation

- **NCCU dual degree application and pre-screening:** I submitted my application to IMBA office on October 11, 2020. IMBA office sent me the Letter of Confirmation on October 14, 2020. The transcripts of TOEFL and GMAT are allowed to be updated after receiving the approval from NCCU and before the pre-arrival process with Purdue. Purdue had no minimum score requirement for GMAT, but they asked for 93 or above with minimum scores of Writing 20, Speaking 22, Listening 18, Reading 22 for TOEFL. I handed in my final scores to Purdue in February, and they were totally fine with my submission date.
- **Purdue application and pre-arrival process:** As Purdue is the institution to approve the admission, it is recommended to check the admissions requirements on [its website](#). The very last day for my batch to apply is March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, and I submitted the application on February 10, 2021, after paying an application fee of \$75. The first step to apply is to create an application account on Purdue's website. Purdue requires 2 recommendation letters to be uploaded by recommenders themselves via specific links emailed to the recommenders. It is noteworthy that Kira video essay, which includes 3 video questions for applicants to do at home, must be done to complete the application. Each question needs to be answered within a minute. The Kira question bank can be found on the Internet. I don't recall Purdue asked any difficult questions. Lastly, I had an online interview with the assistant director of the program on March 8, 2021, and got my offer letter on March 16, 2021. Upon receipt of the offer letter, Purdue requests a deposit of \$1,000 for registration which was deducted from the tuition fee later on.
- **Purdue Career Account:** After getting accepted by Purdue, you will receive a temporary password to activate your Purdue career account. This account is for access to all online services at Purdue such as myISS for visa related services, the Bursar for tuition and invoices, the class enrollment system, and BrightSpace which is a digital learning management platform for all courses. You need to install Duo Mobile app to verify every account logon.
- **F-1 visa costs and interview:** After your admission, Purdue ISS (Office of International Students and Scholars) will send you emails to produce your visa eligible document, I-20 for F-1 students. Just follow their guidance and make payments. Then, schedule an interview with AIT Taipei to get the F-1 visa attached to your passport. The total costs that I paid for my F-1 visa is \$609.06 with \$28.50 PayPath Service Fee, \$59.33 I-20 delivery, \$160 F-1 visa, \$350 SEVIS I-901, and return shipping cost for my passport. I took my visa interview on June 3, 2021. It was quick and easy with all the documents being prepared in advance.

### Accommodation

- **Location and cost:** Purdue does not provide housing for graduate students so we need to settle down on our own. I lived in an apartment off campus because the rent was relatively lower with more space for 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a living room and a balcony. Water, internet, and garbage disposal were included in the rent. Electricity and gas were set up with the accounts of my name by myself.

I shared the rent and utilities with a roommate whom I found on a Facebook group for Taiwanese graduate students at Purdue (ILTC, I Love Taiwan Club) in April, 2021. The leasing office requested each applicant to pay \$45 for due diligence before the contract. The average overall cost for the rent and utilities was about \$610 per month for me alone. We paid \$625 in total for the apartment deposit and \$120 in total for the electricity deposit.

- Transportation and surroundings:** It takes only 6 minutes to walk from my apartment to Walmart where the nearest bus stops are located. Buses usually arrive every 30 minutes and can be checked on the CityBus app. It is about 20-30 minutes between Krannert School of Management and Walmart. I did not buy a car because I assumed I would live in West Lafayette for 10 months only. I usually took a bus, called Lyft or Uber, or took a ride with my friends who lived nearby when I needed, and it was convenient enough for me. The bus is free with a Purdue Student ID. Lyft or Uber costs \$10 more or less per single trip between my apartment and the campus.

**Study at Purdue**

- MSGSCM curriculum**

The courses at Krannert School of Management are module-based. Each module is an 8-week intensive course program, and each semester has 2 modules. To receive the diploma, regular fall-enrolled MSGSCM students take 3 semesters from August to December of the next year, but we dual-degree students only takes 2 semesters from August to May of the next year. With that being said, we save 2 modules, and we don't have the summer for internship compared to the regular students. I would suggest upcoming dual-degree students study harder in the fall semester, so the overall GPA won't be too bad if they are not able to balance between schoolwork and job searching in the spring semester. Moreover, the Dean's List (top 25% of the class) considers only the academic performance of the fall semester. I was fortunately put on the list and had this honor on my resume.

- My courses**

I took a total of 21 credits at Purdue as follows:

2021 Fall (12 credits)		2022 Spring (9 credits)	
Module 1	Module 2	Module 3	Module 4
Logistics (2)	Manufacturing Planning and Control (2)	Operations management (3)	Supply chain management (2)
Strategic sourcing and procurement (2)	Global supply chain management (2)		Manufacturing strategy and process innovation (2)
Experiential learning initiatives (Graduate project) (4)			Spreadsheet modeling and simulations (2)

The most difficult courses for me were Logistics (core) and Spreadsheet Modeling and Simulations (elective). The logistics course is focused on quantitative models of optimal economic quantities and costs for ordering, shipping, and warehousing, which could be complicated if taking cross-docking into account. Compared to the other courses, I did spend much time preparing for the exams and homework, and fortunately, the result was paid off with a good score. However, the professor of Logistics left Purdue in Summer of 2022, so upcoming students would not have this course in their curriculum.

The spreadsheet course is all about Excel and mostly Monte Carlos simulations with the adds-on tool @Risk for modeling and random simulations, which I had never learned before.

It was recommended for someone with stronger background in statistics and business analytics. To be honest, I took this course simply to get enough credits for my graduation. Experiential learning initiatives was a cross-module project for students to cooperate with an assigned real business client to improve their goals in supply chain management. It is a must to take for dual-degree students because we don't have the opportunity to do internship in summer. How much you can do and learn from the project rely heavily on the volume and quality of the data provided from the client as well as your teammates. As a result, the comments from students could be bipolar.

For the rest of the classes, most of them had lots of case studies and homework, either individual or group ones. As a student with business background in my bachelor's and IMBA, they were not necessarily difficult for me, but they did take much time to finish. I usually did it or discussed it with my classmates when I could. In that way, it helped me learn a lot from my classmates as well as saved me a lot of time in exploring it alone.

- **On-campus food and entertainment**

The food court in the underground of PMU (Purdue Memorial Union) offers many food options. There are also some restaurants on both sides of the W State Street heading to River Market from Rawls Hall. The Chauncey square where many restaurants are located is on that street as well. You can find in this area Subway, Five Guys, Chipotle, Pizzas, ramen, Chinese food, Indian food, bubble tea, and so on. You can also bring your own food and microwave it on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of Rawls Hall.

CoRec is Purdue's wellness and sports center. You can take training courses, play badminton, basketball, pickleball, racquetball, table tennis, etc., swimming and lift weights there.

Massage chairs were installed on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in Spring 2022, and I personally liked it a lot.

- **Krannert Professional Development Center (KPDC)**

KPDC is aimed to help Krannert students with their job searching. Students can book an appointment with a career coach for resume check, mock job interviews, job hunting strategies, or just to lift your spirits by talking to them if you feel down during the job searching process which is normal.