



Exchange Report

Computer science and engineering at University of Washington 2022 Aut - 2023 Spr
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Summary

I spent 9 months studying computer science and engineering at University of Washington (UW) in the bustling city that is Seattle. The university has a vibrant student culture yet the political and environmental climate is fairly similar to that of Sweden. For any fellow student with a yearning to explore education internationally, I enthusiastically endorse considering UW.

Before departure

My primary motivation for pursuing exchange studies was to immerse myself in a new culture beyond what a regular vacation could offer. Initially, I explored universities in Asian countries to experience a less westernized environment while retaining a technological edge. However, upon discovering unparalleled career opportunities and scholarly expertise in my field of computer science (CS) at the University of Washington, I chose it as my destination. However, before coming to UW, I had to go through the painstaking and unflatteringly expensive US VISA process. So my recommendation for any and all who wish to study in the US is to start this process as early as possible. Besides the VISA, UW also wanted proof of vaccination for some odd diseases so I had to dig up my health records ("Barn Hälsokort") and transcribe these. UW was fairly conformable regarding these documents and so this was a smooth process. For the exchange I also needed proof of English proficiency and so I opted to take a TOEFL test. This test was at a very basic level and I wouldn't worry about preparing for this test. On the topic of preparations, I also want to suggest the following: Save everything; Every receipt, every confirmation letter, all physical documents, really anything that you need for immigration, study, financial, etc purposes. I structured my documents in directories like seen in Figure 1. Preserving everything digitally also externalizes all those crisp, but old fashioned, physical hand signatures; this also eases travel in and out of the US as I never forget any documents that a border agent might ask for (like a DS2019). Furthermore I want to mention EU regulation 910/2014, which improves communication with government agencies (eg CSN) within member states of the EU substantially¹.

Upon arrival

I arrived in Seattle on the evening of the 18th of September 2022, which was 10 days before studies started. I had signed up for a move in crew called "dawgs crew" which allowed me to move in 2 days earlier and I got to see some campus houses whilst helping others move in. Besides dawgs crew, I participated in UW's social introduction event called "dawg daze" where all manner of fun and activities were held in order to help students connect with others. My birthday was on the 29th so I took both of these opportunities to make first contact with people in US and speed dated some friends to invite for a little celebration. During my first quarter I got roped into Swing dance club and Huskies for reproductive freedom (H4RF @huskies4reprofreedom). For the second quarter I joined Husky Winter Sports (HWS @huskywintersports) and Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu. Of all the clubs I spent the most time with HWS and H4RF. Both clubs had great people whom I spent much of my free time with outside of studies.