

Syracuse University

I really enjoyed my semester at the Syracuse University in Upstate New York and would very much recommend it!

In the beginning, it is important that, after you got accepted and everything is set in stone, that you book the flight, search for a room and handle your visa early in advance. Another matter should be to extensively think the health insurance through – get as much information on that matter as possible! I was lucky to have been referred to a landlord by a former student from ITU. I was living in a house very close to the campus. The house consisted of other international & American students and the landlords themselves. The landlords are very nice, give you your space and you have everything you need for a great exchange. After I got my VISA, and everything was set in stone, I was awaiting the beginning of my journey to the United States. My landlord picked me up at the airport and I was eager to see my room. My room was very nice and provided me with good comfort throughout my exchange.

The first days were occupied with grocery shopping, exploring of the campus and orientation days. As a new student you must check in online and in person. Time and location is stated on the website of the international center, the Slutzker Centre. As international student you also must attend further orientations. Also, make sure that you keep track of the fees you have to pay. It is always recommended to handle that matter early enough to avoid extra fees and account for problems that might occur.

The university and the different schools also organize social gatherings, where you can meet your fellow students. This is a good opportunity to make friends. The exchange students this year also created a Facebook group to have a platform to organize meet ups and more. This worked out pretty well and is an effective way to stay in contact. The school, especially graduate course, are very international. The university has a vast variety of countries among the students, a considerable proportion of the international students are from India or China. They are mostly full degree and not exchange students. The exchange group had student from South Korea, Chile, Denmark, Germany, Hongkong, Singapore, Japan, Spain, France, Russia, India and more. A very cool experience.

My schedule was not too heavy. I got all the courses that I wanted, which I believe is usually the case with the course from the iSchool, and I was very happy with them. I had courses at the iSchool and one course at the Withman School of Management. One course however was from times a little bit chaotic, the reason might have been that it was a merger between an undergraduate and graduate course. The quality of teaching was good, and the difficulty was, in my opinion, not too high. The American system is a little different compared to Denmark. Most of the courses require a good amount of homework respectively assignments. Courses might also have small quizzes. Midterms, meaning an exam in the middle of the semester, are also a common practice. The final exam is either written or an individual respectively group project. I personally like the system, because it requires you to learn constantly, which makes sure that you do not get tempted to become lazy in some periods.

There are two campuses at the Syracuse University. The main spot of the main campus is the quadrant which is connected to some of the schools. People like to hang out there, to study or relax during their breaks. The university has a big and a small library, some gyms, a huge stadium (Carrier Dome for football and basketball), cafeterias and much more. You want something, you will probably find it. The gyms are very good. The experience in the carrier dome is awesome. One part of the orientation takes place there, additionally every new student gets a free ticket for one football game. There are also tennis courts near the campus and other sport facilities. Near the campus is also the Marshall street that has a variety of bars, restaurants and shops. Definitely a good spot for after university or during breaks. The south campus has mostly housing and other sport facilities, including the ice rink, which is pretty much open every day. The ice rink has a big rink, where also hockey games take place, and a small studio rink. As student of SU, you can skate for free, you just must bring your own skates or rent them out there. Definitely a cool place to go to.

The weather was very good. It was actually very warm in the beginning of the semester (fall). This was unusual, but New York is generally warm during the summer and it is very much possible to enjoy your time outside. Towards October and November, it will get colder. Sometimes there is already snow in November, but the chilly days arrive in January and February. The city has the sixth largest mall in the US and the largest in New York. It is a great spot to spend some time, but the main spot is definitely the campus. In the beginning of the semester, the New York state fair takes place in Syracuse, which is a good time and definitely recommended.

It is also possible to travel around the country. Especially in the beginning of the semester and especially during Thanksgiving break, you will have less workload and can take the opportunity to see some places. There are also some spots for hiking and to enjoy the beautiful nature. Boston, New York City and Toronto are relatively close so even travelling by bus or car

are options. All three cities are awesome and recommendable. If you want to consider a longer trip, you should look for cheap flight in the beginning of the semester for a trip during the Thanksgiving break.

Some pictures of my exciting time in Syracuse.

Welcome to the Syracuse University



Student Welcoming in the Carrier Dome

The Quad and the Carnegie Library

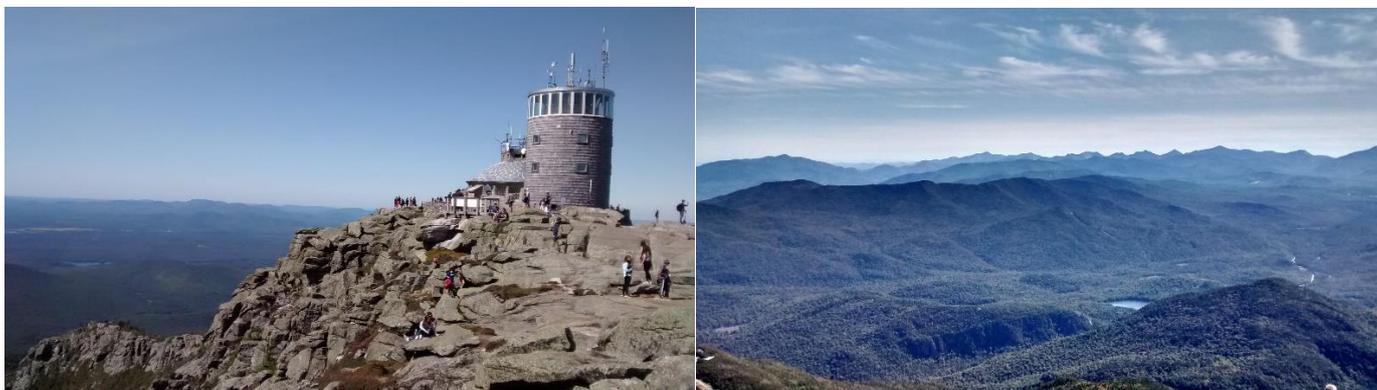


The New York State Fair



Hiking up the Whiteface Mountain





Pumpkin and Apple Cider Farm



The iSchool



Colder Days



IT UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN