

Alan Lam – UF in Beijing Internship

Major: Finance | Blog: <https://ufinbeijing.wordpress.com/category/alan/>

I studied abroad because...

I love traveling. I knew I wanted to go somewhere this past summer, so I thought it was a good opportunity to complete something for school and do something I loved at the same time.

One of my biggest challenges before studying abroad was...

I think the biggest challenge for me was the idea of opportunity cost. The constant worry of whether or not I was making the right decision based on my time. I'm happy with my choice.

A typical breakfast I had while studying abroad was...

I usually got some orange juice and onigri (Japanese rice triangles) from the 7 Eleven next to our apartment. For lunch I usually went to a Chinese cafeteria with my co-workers.

My favorite spot in my host city was...

There was this sky lounge/bar in right in the middle of one Beijing most popular streets. It was called Migas, and it had an amazing few and wonderful atmosphere. You could see a lot of foreigners and locals at the same time, and you could either go yourself or with friends to have a drink.

The weirdest food I tried while abroad...

Uncooked roots (I was supposed to cook them)

Something I took away from my time abroad is...

The key takeaway for me is that when you choose to study abroad you have to remember that the study abroad is for you. Make it your own. Some people might tell you have to do this or that, you can do those all of that, but just make sure you do what makes you happy when you're there.

The most surprising thing about studying abroad is...

I think the most surprising thing for me was how quickly I began feeling comfortable in Beijing. I think that may be in part that I love big cities, but I was able to know the places I wanted to go and what I liked to do fairly quick this trip.

Lastly, I would like to tell you...

The biggest thing to remember is to not compare your study abroad with anyone else's. You might hear all these insane stories and feel like you have to have the exact same experience. In reality as long as you do what you like, you'll find a story of your own.