

Student's Name

Professor's Name

Course

Date

Overcoming Challenges: Learning Abroad in a Time of Global Change

I am a senior undergraduate student taking Supply Chain Management course at the Michigan State University (MSU). I transferred to the institution in 2015 and will graduate from it next year, 2018. Therefore, I have a first-hand informative account of the challenges that foreign learners meet when schooling in the US and the growth potential that they can draw from the obstacles. While at MSU, I have participated in a variety of programs including the activities of the Supply Chain Management Association (SCMA) and the Annual Leadership Academy among other training programs. The experience of participating in the leadership and field-specific programs offered the opportunity to meet corporate leaders, entrepreneurs, upcoming systems developers/ inventors, and scholars from all walks of life. As a result, knowledge gained from interacting with the different groups has been enormous and partly contributed to my exceptional performance at the university over the past three years. Therefore, the skills developed from interacting with leaders and experts from faculty and business-related fields have helped me acquire leadership positions in different groups.

As a Chinese national transferring from Canada to MSU, the opportunity offered a significant growth milestone that I could not reject. Instead, I embraced the chance and used it to grow myself academically, career-wise, and leadership-wise (Grünzweig 132). Despite the previous exposure from studying abroad, my family and I were skeptical about the opportunity to school in America. The reasons for skepticism were massive personal and financial challenges

while going to college, and the coping strategies used to fit in one country may not work in another. However, from the experiences I have had so far, getting an opportunity to study in the US should not be as scary as it appeared. At first, while chatting with a fellow student about his experience about studying in America made me assume that schooling at MSU would be tremendously expensive and, therefore, not a viable option. However, from my experience, it is not so. I realized it after discovering many attractive grants and scholarships available to students taking their graduate courses in the US, and such opportunities encouraged me to pursue the chance further, which has made me a champion for MSU.

After overcoming the initial challenges of moving to the US, I channeled the focus to the personal problems that I would encounter, and many of them triggered fears and worries. The concern was that the students at MSU were smarter than me, and it meant that I would become a struggling learner in the midst of others. I also feared that during my stay here, I would experience difficulties moving around and would not get help at the time of need because I was not sure whether the students at MSU were willing to assist newcomers. Fortunately, I was moving to the best university in the world. The students and the faculty of MSU shared the same concerns and offered newcomers the opportunity to connect with existing learners and get the necessary help. In my case, immediately after transferring to the university, the dean introduced me to the student who had also come from Canada, and he became an excellent friend, thus helping me learn all I needed to know.

In class, it did not take long before I realized that MSU has the most dedicated and knowledgeable professors and faculty members. After receiving the first few lessons, I discovered that they were keen on ensuring that all students, especially new ones like me, understood the materials. From the experience of getting used to the current learning

environment, I would like to acknowledge the staffs and management of MSU for their exceptional foresights. The team pondered all the challenges that new international students encounter and set in place the systems needed to make the experience more comfortable.

Despite knowing that all the necessary help is available, the university staffs and faculty did all they could to make me a leader and career person. For example, immediately after starting classes, I received recommendations on the training and clubs that I could join to exchange useful knowledge and information with other students taking similar courses. The advice led me to join the SCMA, which exposed me to countless mentorship opportunities from other students and members of faculty attached to the association. The challenges of interacting with the more experienced learners and department members pushed me to grow, and the best recourse was reading all the books on leadership that I could find. Thus, the studying culture has been instrumental in equipping me with knowledge needed to succeed in education and my future career.

While studying at MSU, I complemented class courses with extracurricular programs such as sports, field tours, and mentorship that have contributed significantly to my personal growth. The preparation received has nurtured me for all the challenges that life can present including language barriers, reading geographical maps, and embracing new opportunities. Besides, learning the essential skills from experienced members of the university increased my confidence levels and offered eye-opening knowledge on the ways to embrace change to grow as a professional. In essence, despite the few challenges, the opportunity at MSU has been great.

Works Cited

Grünzweig, Walter. *Rockin' in Red Square: Critical Approaches to International Education in the Age of Cyberculture*. London: Lit Academic Publishing, 2002.