

Reports on Short Term Study Abroad Program for Graduate Students

**(Chuo & Tohoku University Graduate English
for Science & Technology Program)**



**February 16-March 19, 2016
University of California at Davis**

**Written By
Chookhumsri Kulthida, Lu Tao, Hong Erchao and Chen Cheng
Graduate School of Science and Engineering
Chuo University**

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※This program was carried out by graduate students of Chuo University (4 students) and Tohoku University (9 students)

About UC Davis

History

University of California, Davis (UC Davis) is the home of the Aggies — go-getters, change makers and problem solvers who make their mark at one of the top public universities in the United States. Since UC Davis was founded in 1905, it has been well known for standout academics, sustainability and Aggie Pride as well as valuing the Northern California lifestyle.



The emblem of UC Davis



The emblem of Aggies

Campus

• Location

The main academic campus of UC Davis having 5,300-acre is located in the city of Davis, a vibrant college town of about 68,000 located in Yolo County. The state capital is 20 minutes away, and world-class sites like San Francisco Bay Area and Napa Valley are within a two-hour drive.

• College of engineering

The academic departments of engineering offer undergraduate and graduate education in the fundamental engineering of their disciplines while engaging students in a research mission that advances the leading edge of engineering knowledge.

Among which, the department of civil and environmental engineering contains environmental engineering, geotechnical engineering, structural engineering and mechanics, transportation engineering, water resources engineering. As an engineering student studying in Chuo University, you can also find whatever you are interested in and broaden your horizon in a different style here.



Civil and environmental engineering



Plant and environmental sciences

• **Animals**

Whenever you wander on the lawns or ramble through the woods, you will see lots of squirrels as lovely as elves. There are also cows and sheep for experiments.



Squirrels



Cows

Campus life

• **Activities**

At UCD, there are plentiful activities. By watching performance, taking part in parties, playing sports, or joining clubs, you can build great friendship and promote yourself as well.



Drum performance



Pizza party



Basketball games



Clubs

• Foods

You can enjoy lots of delicious foods from different cultures at UC Davis, like pizza, Spanish rice and so on.

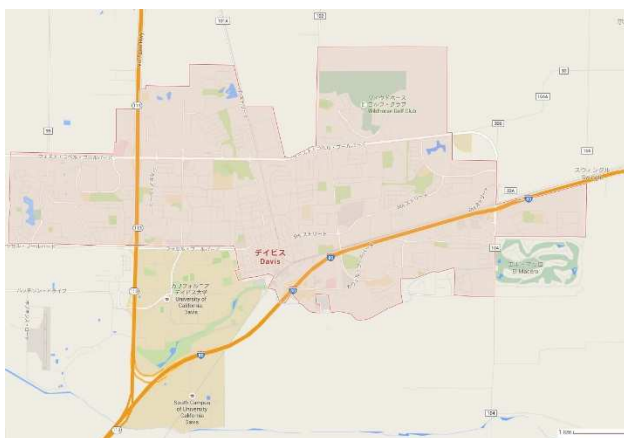


Dining hall

(by Chen Cheng)

About Davis City

Davis is a small but warm and sweet city. It is located in Yolo County, California, 11 mi (18 km) west of Sacramento and 70 mi (113 km) northeast of San Francisco. The downtown Davis is just next to the UC Davis campus as the Davis map shows (P). I will introduction the Davis city in the following sections.



The map of Davis city

Climate

Davis has dry, hot summers and cool, rainy, winters as the climate data shows. The time I went there is February and March. The weather was always changing especially the temperature. In the morning, it was cold like the late autumn and in the noon, it was hot like the summer. It is necessary to take both summer clothes and warm clothes.

Climate data for Davis, California (1981-2010 normals)													
Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Year
Average high(°C)	12	16	19	23	27	32	34	34	32	26	18	12	23.8
Average low(°C)	3	5	7	8	11	13	14	13	12	9	6	3	8.7
Average precipitation(mm)	99.6	98.3	70.4	29.7	14.2	5.1	0	1.3	6.6	22.9	59.9	89.9	497.8
Source: "DAVIS 1 WSW, CALIFORNIA – Climate Summary". <i>Wrc.c.dri.edu</i> . Retrieved June 19, 2013													

People and culture

People in Davis is warm and nice. Walking in the street, they will say hello to you if your eyes meet. American love sports. Baseball, football, and basketball are all their parts of life. So they love dressing in sports clothes with marks or logos of their favorite teams. If you dress the same team clothes with a stranger, the strange will be friendly come to chart with you. For example, I love the logo of New York Yankees. When I wore a cap with the Yankees logo, many people came to me and charted with me. So if you want to get used to the American culture and make friends with Americans, sports will

be an excellent topic. In addition, there are also festivals in Davis like the big ones: Thanksgiving Day, Halloween Day, Christmas and so on. During the time I was there, there were no big events except for the Saint Patrick's Day. It is an Irish cultural and religious holiday celebrated on 17 March. Everyone will dress in green and as for me, I carried a piece of green leaf with me to celebrate it.

Transportation

Unlike Tokyo, the transportation in Davis is not so convenient unless you have a car. It is the American style that almost everyone drives his car to outside. Anyway, the environment in Davis is a little different because UC Davis has a dominant influence on the social and cultural life of the town. There are numerous oversea students who don't have a car. As a result, those who don't have cars will have the following choices.

First, when people don't go far away, they usually ride a bicycle. The Davis city is famous for the bicycle. Bicycling has been a popular mode of transportation in Davis for decades, particularly among school year children and UC Davis students in 2010, Davis became the new home of the United States Bicycling Hall of Fame. The symbol of Davis is an old bicycle.

Secondly, when people want to go to the neighbor city like woodland or Sacramento, they can take a bus. In each bus stop, there will be pamphlets for bus time schedule. Although most buses come every one hour, it is a sound way because if you are a student of UC Davis, you can take the bus, which has a stop inside the UC Davis campus for free. As the American people said, free is one of the most wonderful words in English.

Thirdly, when people are in a hurry, they can call an uber. The uber is just like the taxi but you have to call them. They are most driven by local people as a part-time job and it is not so expensive.

Above all, there is railway service taking people to San Francisco, but it is also not so convenient. All in all, if you want to go to the big city, you should take a plane. Before you go to the airport, you should take a bus or an uber.

Eating

In Davis downtown, the restaurants must be dominant along the streets. Because the people in Davis come from all over the world, the food also comes with people. There are Chinese food restaurants, Mexico restaurants, Japanese Ramen and Sushi Restaurants, and American local restaurants. Among them, there is one restaurant I recommend a lot. It is a Taiwan food restaurant and all of the food there is delicious. As for other restaurants, I don't know too much detail because I almost have my meals in

the campus or host family. However, there you can search the website at *yelp.com*. In this web, there are introductions of all the restaurants and the comments from people. At last, if you go there, you should go to the Starbucks not only for the coffee but also for the experience of American everyday culture.

Amusement

Although the Davis city is small, it is worth going there for relaxation. There are some interesting stores and activities in Davis. The stores I will recommend are the UC Davis souvenir shop and the Davis souvenir shop. In the UC Davis souvenir shop, you can buy nice-looking presents that have the mark of UC Davis and also in the Davis souvenir shop there are post-cards, mugs, paintings and books for purchasing. Then almost every week, there are will be flea market in the parks for selling local food or clothes, which is worthy to go.

In summary, Davis city is different from big cities like Tokyo or New York. It has its own characteristics that attracts more and more people to go there.

(by Erchao Hong)

English Program

Professional Presentation

The Professional Presentation lesson was conducted every day. Every lesson had a time span of 50 minutes. The purpose was to teach us how to make slides and do your presentation in a western style. It also encouraged all the people in the class to discuss with each other and comment on other people's presentation. The most important thing during the class is to learn how to let people not familiar with your field understand your research and feel it is meaningful. I will tell you how the lesson was learned in detail.

The teacher whose name is Debra J Skinner, are taking Doctor Course in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. At the first day, she told us that we would have to do a short self-introduction and then do our presentation about our research one by one. We had a class of 13 students and during one month, we all did our presentations twice in front of the teacher and classmates. And the first time, we got some advices about general presentation style, like advice that you should do eye contact with your audience or the organization of your explanation should be improved to make audience understandable. But during your second presentation, we got more scientific questions.

The presentation was required to be done in 12 minutes. We prepared our presentation before the class and presented formally during the class. It was also our duty to check the device well before the lesson. Teacher Debra counted the time we spent on presentation. At the same time, she took some notes about our presentation and our classmates were also required to take some notes to provide some advice to the presenter. After one person finished a presentation, she asked your classmates first to ask questions about or do comment on the presentation. Then she asked the presenter to show us slides one by one, so that she could tell the presenter which part of the slide could be improved. We got some advices about the font size, background color, the use of movie, the organization of presentation, presentation style (eye contact), how to reply to audience's questions and so on. So this is how we took the lesson.

We only got two homework. The first is to modify your power point and did your presentation again in front of one classmate and your classmate wrote the abstract of your presentation and some advices or comments. The second one is to choose one talk from Ted, and found which effective technique the speaker used to make the talk understandable and attractive.

We got advices from teacher and classmates, then we practiced a lot for final presentation.

(by Lu Tao)

Listening and Pronunciation

This course will help to improve pronunciation and listening comprehension of English, especially related to science and technology. Students will develop their ability to hear and use:

- vowels

Know which vowels are high vowels, mid vowels and low vowels. Also know which vowels are front vowels, mid vowels and back vowels. And know which vowels are tense vowels and which ones are lax (relaxed) vowels.

- some problematic consonants

Include “l” and “r” sounds, “th” sounds, pronunciation of word endings (–s and –ed ending). Also be able to distinguish between can/can’t, are/aren’t and were/weren’t.

- word stress

Know which groups of words are content words and which are function words. That is which words/syllables are stressed and which are not stressed.

- linking and reduction of words in spoken English

Be able to hear and recognize words that are reduced and linked when spoken by a native speaker.

- sentence stress (rhythm, intonation and focus words)

Be able to hear and recognize focus words and identify which content word would receive focus under different conditions. Also know the difference between stressed timed and syllable timed languages.

- a natural flow of syllables in words and phrases

Be able to divide longer strings of words or sentences into thought groups.

Additionally, also know the academic idioms that likely to here in academic setting including the laboratories and also at international meetings and the pronouncing numbers and symbols.

(by Kulthida Chookhumsri)

Public Speaking Skills

During the four-week Public Speaking Skills classes given by Angela Foin, I have learnt a lot about how to make a successful presentation in any situation. I would like to share with you here.

1 Persuasive Speech

In order to convince the audience that our stance on one issue is the best, we are required to do as follows:

- (1) The presenter should use notes effectively other than read them and have a good eye contact with all of the audience.
- (2) The speech should be appropriately paced to ensure understanding.
- (3) The presenter should have a good volume and speak with variety intonation to make speech expressive.

(4) The content of the presentation should contain a clear introduction, body and conclusion and use transition words or phrases throughout to help audience understand.

(5) The speech should meet the time limit.

(6) The presenter should answer questions appropriately.

By practicing, we have been familiar with organizing a good outline of what we want to deliver and have made great progress in using proper words and pronunciation.

2 Prompt Speaking

After practicing persuasive speech, we also obtain the knowledge of prompt speaking, which refer to those times when we get up in front of a group of people and speak about a topic without preparation or with very little preparation. It is needless to say that prompt speaking is much more difficult than the former one. Therefore, in order to make the presentation successfully, the presenter can try to make the structure which contains an opening, a body and a conclusion.

(1) Opening: Open by addressing the audience with brief introduction or opening sentence-attention getting.

(2) Body: Cover the main points that include one or two central themes and use clearly worded simple sentences and try to link the themes.

(3) Conclusion: Look for an effective closing that links back to the opening and thank the audience as well as ask if there are any questions.

In addition, we can organize the body in the way of past-present-future, problem-solution, advantages and disadvantages and so on to help us make a quick reaction and deliver what we want to say more clearly.

Finally, the most important thing that I have learnt is that we should feel confident all the time. Confidence is the way to success.

(by Chen Cheng)

Hot topics

In the classes of hot topics, the main purpose was to communicate in the scientific world and share our ideas. Before I introduce the class, I want to talk about the teacher: Abram Jones, a very nice and kind person. He is young and energetic and loves fishing and diving. He has been to Japan, so he always communicated with us about the Japanese culture, which drew us closer. He also held a party in his house to invite all of us to come and a final party in the class to memorize the class. All in all, we liked him. Anyway, let's then talk about the class. The tasks we should do in this class could be divided into three parts: the scientific terms, the Ted videos, and our presentations.

Firstly, it was the learning of basic knowledge of words. They were the foundation to our understanding about the information we would receive. Before the class, Abram would give us a word

list and we should write down each word's meaning and part of speech in certain sentences and handled in in the Internet. During the class, Abram would ask us the meaning and part of speech of each word and sometimes he would let us make another sentence using the words. After the class, there would be a test for the words. By studying this, we did develop a good sense of learning English words.

Secondly, we learnt things from Ted talks. With the saying "ideas worth spreading", Abram recommended us to watch the Ted talk videos. He introduced the videos of Longevity and discuss it in detail. With the word learning in advance, we could understand the Ted video more quickly and we could directly go into the discussion with other students without looking up some difficult scientific terms. As a result, we not only got to know the theory of longevity and how to live for more than 100 years, but also learnt how to give a good speech. What should we pay attention and what tools we should use during the speeches.

Thirdly, we gave our own presentations in a three-people-group. Abram asked us to use the skills we learnt to give a group speech in the last classes and he would also grade us by how well we performance. The pattern was that each group had not less than one video to reveal the theme of the presentation and each member of the group had his own sub-topic and together with all the members, the group gave a presentation. Our group chose the virtual museum as a main topic and my part is the comparison of virtual museums and real museums. The other two group members introduced the techniques used in virtual museum and the future application of virtual museum. At last, we got an "A" from Abram.

In summary, the atmosphere in the class of hot topics is just like the American class style: free. We can share our opinions and no one is wrong. I just like feeling free talking science topics I'm interested in with teachers and students. As a conclusion, the class is worth joining and we will really have a great time while learning.

(by Erchao Hong)

About the final presentation

On 18th February, after one month lessons and practice, we had a final presentation to show our achievements. People include members of the program, teachers, staff and some home stay families attended the presentation meeting. Also, Prof. Kashiyama from Chuo University and Prof. Kasukabe from Tohoku University took part in the meeting.

The presentation was conducted in 15 minutes, in which 3 minutes was used for questions and discussions. Between the presentations, we had 5 minutes to rest and for the next one to prepare. We

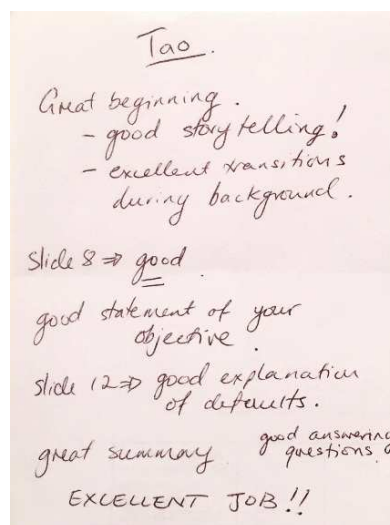
started the presentation at 08:20 am. First person was Yusuke from Tohoku University. His research topic was about developing biochip to monitor body activities. He did a good job, although he was the first one. After his speech, some of us asked some questions about the biochip's function. And he explained it well.

During the break, there were some drink and bread on the table in the back of the classroom. You can take them by yourself.



Unlike the presentation during class, you should concentrate extremely on your speech and your audience. Time flew fast for the presenter and everything went smoothly. Our members came from different universities and different countries. Furthermore, we were from different departments. The topics were diverse. Some topic was about medicine, some about biology, some about mathematics, some about space engineering and some was related with civil engineering. Under this condition, everyone did their best to make other people understand their research.

Everyone got the comments about the final presentation from teacher Debra.



I was the last second one and was very nervous before my turn. But I when began to start my presentation, all my focus was on my speech. I looked on audience, and talked the story of my research.

The feeling of presentation was very comfortable and enjoyable.

I determined that I would like to do such kind of presentation in the future, and I knew a lot of efforts should be paid, just like doing this presentation.

As a result of working together, we finished the meeting 45 minutes in advance. Our teachers and professors gave short talks. Then we had lunch together and took photos with each other.

(by Lu Tao)

Site Visit in UC Davis

• Digital Technology Laboratory, DMG Mori Seiki Site-Visit

Even before the U.S. manufacturing facility, DMG MORI had established a strong presence in the Davis area. The company's Digital Technology Laboratory (DTL) is a sprawling R&D center where a team of more than 60 design, engineering and software experts work in concert with customers and peripheral equipment companies to develop groundbreaking machining technologies and software.

Its proximity to the U.S. manufacturing facility offers unprecedented opportunities for collaboration between production and engineering teams, including product improvements and the local manufacture of specialty machine modifications. This synergy gives DMG MORI customers the distinct advantage of fast delivery, easier customization and greater affordability.



• Napa Valley Winery Site-Visit Tour and Tasting (V. Sattui Winery)

Sattui Winery is located on a 38-acre organically farmed vineyard in St. Helena, and produces more than 60 different highly rated wines from 20 different varieties of grapes.

Every V. Sattui bottle is sold directly from the Winery, from their website or via their Wine Club. However, you won't find their wines sold in stores!

V. Sattui Winery offers a consistently welcoming, delicious and authentic Wine Country experience for all guests and is the ideal Napa Valley destination for picnics, wedding and events.



• **UC Davis Engineering and Fabrication Lab Site-Visit**

The Engineering Fabrication Laboratory (EFL) is a facility within the College of Engineering of UC Davis that provides students opportunities to learn and practice hands-on manufacturing and fabrication techniques in a safe, supervised environment. We also offer instructional support to students, faculty and staff of the College of Engineering as they work on projects for classes, independent study, research, and student design competition clubs.



(by Chen Cheng)

Interaction with Classmates (Students of Tohoku University)



This program is Tohoku & Chuo University Graduate English for Science & Technology Program. There are 13 students, consisting of 9 students from Tohoku University and 4 students from Chuo University, in the program. We have a very good relationship. Every person make a special class because of students which are in it. In this class, we have a very good community which is full of very funny people, we can all have a joke and some pretty amazing banter. There are a lot of strange conversations, but at least it's never boring because we know how to keep things interesting. We have some very good artists in our class and some very good singers. Also we have students who know a lot in different things. It is nice to communicate with different classmates.

We can work together and this is the best in it. We had to work together on project work, presentations and discussions. Working together help us to understand the best ways to work to achieve shared goals. By working together, we used the skills of the whole of our group to get a job done successfully. We shared our skills and learned new skills and new ways of working. We also got to share ideas together. Additionally, in the lunch time we ate and shared our tiffin every day. Sometimes, we played ball or went to outside together after classes. We take care of each other in the school and playground. Also, we went at tour and stayed together on weekend, such as the trip to Los Angeles and Yosemite National Park. We had a good memory.

We studied together in the classroom and shared everything very happily without any problem. Thanks to all classmates! We are amazing!

(by Kulthida Chookhumsri)

About Homestay

What is Homestay?

Homestay is safe and affordable housing for international students, interns, and young professionals coming to the U.S.A.

For international students, homestay is an opportunity to live in a friendly home with an American family located near your school. You will be able to experience the American lifestyle and culture up close, and practice your English language skills, in the world's greatest classroom, the home. You will feel safe in a family environment, which is just like staying in a second home in the U.S.A.

Host Family Provides:

- Your own private bedroom that includes linens, bed, desk with chair and lamp, dresser and hanging clothes storage, independent doorway and standard housing walls for privacy
- A private or shared bathroom
- Meals

Depending on your choice that includes 2 meals (breakfast and dinner) per day, 2 meals per day Monday to Friday and 3 meals on the weekends, or 3 meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) 7 days a week. You will have a self-served continental breakfast (juice, cereal, toast, coffee or tea) in the morning. In the evening, you will have a prepared dinner with the host family.

- Internet access with student's own devices
- Utilities
- Providing a safe and comfortable environment

This provides an excellent opportunity to practice English conversation and feel like you are a member of the family. You will be open to new experiences. The U.S.A. culture, customs, people, homes and cities are very different than your hometown. This is a great opportunity for you to learn about American culture. You will experience American style of living with an American host.



(By Kulthida Chookhumsri)

How to spend weekend

I spent four weekends in America and it was an unforgettable and wonderful experience. I paid visit to the government building, toy stores, the car museum, and Old Sacramento Street in Sacramento city and Hollywood, Santa Monica State Beach and Santa Barbara Beach. I will briefly discuss them in chronological order.

In the first weekend on Feb 21st and Feb 22nd, my host family took me to the Sacramento city, where is the captain of California. There I visited the government building, which looks like the White House. Magnificent and sublime, it represents the symbol of US government. Inside the building, there are not only offices for working, but also museums for visiting and memory. The introduction of each city in California, every governor of California, the bear symbol of California, and other statues are displayed in it. We also saw the old governor's office and the election office. All in all the government building is a combination of arts and politics. What impressed me most was the speaking by the guide working in the building: the government building belongs to every citizen and we are just taking care of it for you.



The government building



The conference house

In the second weekend on Feb 27th and Feb 28th, we had a 3-days optional tour to Los Angeles and Santa Barbara in northern California. The atmosphere in the northern part is quite different from the northern part. The American people say it is because the southern part like money more and the northern part is nobler. However, it took 8 hours to drive and was quite a long way. Anyway, we visited Hollywood 2 days before the Oscar. The whole Hollywood was decorated for the big event and we could not go everywhere for security reasons. After taking some pictures, we went to the hotel near the Disney Land. So in the evening, we went to the Disney Street for shopping. The next day's destination was the Santa Monica State Beach. I was tremendously regretted that I didn't bring my swimming suits, or I could enjoy myself in the beautiful sea. Well, it's also a regret that I didn't have

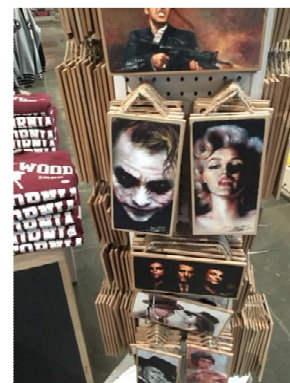
enough time to have some fresh lobsters or crabs. In the third day, we took the bus to come home and the returning route was along the coast. So the journey was not so bad and we also stopped at the Santa Barbara Beach to play for a while. To sum up, the journey to LA was the experience to see something new and to go somewhere new.



The beach



Hollywood



L.A. Style Shop

In the third weekend on Mar 5th and Mar 6th, my host mother took me to the toy store near our house. My hobby is robot models and in Tokyo I almost visit the Akihabara, where is the biggest amusement center in Japan. My host mother hoped I could have something fun in America, so she searched for me and took me to the store. Although it was a little toy house, I did have a good time. I saw the transformers, star war figures, American super heroes' toys, and sports man models. There was an Alien statues as large as a human being in the house. However, I had to say, the amusement way between American and I was quite different. In America, people love board role-playing games more than figures. If I had more time there, maybe I would learn the rules because it looked really interesting.



The toy shop



The car museum



The car museum

In the last weekend on Mar 12th and Mar 13th, I visited the car museum and Old Sacramento Street in Sacramento city. In the car museum, there are old cars representing the history of America being displayed. Not only real cars are showed, the car models in the movie like *back to the future* are also exhibited. The cool Lamborghini cars, heavy American truck, and beautiful Rolls-Royce caught my eyes. Among those cars, there is a zone for RVs. American people love picnic and they would love to

take RVs to the mountains or the lakes. The RVs were fully functioned offering the ability for travelling, sleeping, cooking and eating, playing. After the museum, we went to the Old Sacramento Street, where there is a cowboy style in the old America. There are 3 blocks all for souvenirs, shopping and drinking. Most of the merchandises are made in China, but I did find something interesting designed in America.

In summary, the weekends in America was interesting and rich. I not only had a memorable time there, but also experienced the American culture and learned a lot from it.

(by Erchao Hong)

Impressions for This Program

In the beginning of year 2016, I took the opportunity to study in University of California, Davis (UC Davis) in America for 34 days. It becomes one of the most memorable experiences in my life. I learned a lot and did enjoy myself in America. Actually under the influence of my uncle, I had a dream of going to America since I was young. This journey makes my dream come true and I'm and will be excited about it. However, it also becomes pity that I just made good friends with people in America and I had to say goodbye to them. Anyway, our life spans are filled with meeting and parting, happiness and sadness, hope and disappointment... What is important is that we learn from it and we will always be optimistic to our lives. Here I want to write down my American journey, not only as a memory, but also as thanks to all the people I love.

I still remember the day I arrived at San Francisco clearly. It was sunny outside and I saw the Californian sunshine with my eyes. Although the Jet lag kept influencing me, the tiredness could not complete the excitement at that time. The man who picked us in the airport is a handsome Southern American gay with his cool Ford car. I ate my first American meal in the Penny's and I ordered a chicken salad with a glass of iced lemon tea. The funny thing is after 34 days I still didn't forget the tea was too sweet. After two hours' driving, we reached the UC Davis campus. It was the first time I saw the American campus. It was so big that I almost lost in the campus. The atmosphere in the first eye was free. Everything here was free and everyone was just doing things he liked.

Actually, I love the people there best. I love the teachers and my host mother. They are all very kind people. Here, I want to thank my host mother. Her name is Deborah McCook and she is a staff in UC Davis. She not only communicated culture with me, but also gave me a warm house for living, which made me just feel at home. Everyday, she cooked dinner for me and I ate with all the family members. She has a son and a daughter and her son lived together and her daughter lived in another city. I just felt I was also one of them and all of them were very nice. Until now, I still miss her for the kindness. The teachers and classmates were nice. We all became good friends and in the future I want to meet with them again.



Family members



Classmates

Originally, I wanted to write this in good structures using small titles like: 1. The study in UC Davis. 2. The life in Davis. 3. The people in Davis. But I changed my idea because that was too logical to memorize the fantastic journey. I do need logic in the researches and presentations, but sometimes I think my life should not only consist of critical thinking like classifying everything into mathematics, physics, and chemistry, but also include the affective thinking so that I won't ignore the beauty in my life. The journey to America is one of the most beautiful things in my life.

(by Erchao Hong)

I am glad to have a chance to tell about my impression when I lived in America. I went to University of California Davis (UC Davis) for study about one month. It was such a great experience in my life to stay in Davis and travel around here. A new land scape ready for me to learning many things by myself. It just made me a good memory when living here.

My best memory is the days spent with my wonderful host family. Bob, Gina and Kina, they are so nice to me and the other two host students staying here. I was happy staying with them as a family.



We made dinner together every day. Gina is a great cook. She cooked a lot of delicious food for us including American, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Vietnam and Thai cuisines. Bob also baked delicious cakes for us. I was looking forward to eating Bob's cake every time. Kina is five years old and such a cute and pretty girl. I played with her every day and some days she taught me to play her piano. We

become like sisters. It was very fun cooking, talking and playing together with my host family. My host family also took me to visit many places on weekends. They have a second home in Berkeley, near San Francisco, which is a gorgeous villa. I have never seen anything. They took me to Golden Gate Bridge, Marina Bay and Thai Temple. I had a good time there for this trip. Thank you Bob, Gina and Kina. I learned American lifestyle and culture and practiced my English language skills from them. I will never forget their kindness forever.

I also would like to express my thanks to all the people who I have met here, my teachers, classmates, staff and friends. I enjoyed my stay here very much.

(by Kulthida Chookhumsri)

The reason that I took part in the program was to test my English level and to learn about the education style in American university. It was my first time to go to America, which also mean a lot.

I found the most difficult thing during the communication was sometimes I could not find the words to express myself. But I could felt my improvement during the short period. The education style in America is freer than Japan. In my opinion, which is better depends on individuals.

The progress I could make was limited, but the things I had learned during the lessons can be practiced all my life. Because it provided a new start.

I am very glad to have this chance to attend this program. It is a precious experience to improve your English, to make new friends.

(by Lu Tao)

Some advice about attending this program

This was the first time for Department of Science and Engineering, Chuo University to hold this kind of program. And it was the first time for us to go to USA. So I am willing to give the guys will attend this program some advice to make the trip more pleasure and happy.

1. To apply for VISA as quickly as you can. Please do your application at least one month in advance.
2. About the application materials to visa, it is better to prepare a curriculum vitae (CV) when you go to embassy of America. (Some of us were asked to hand in the curriculum vitae, which made the procedure of application slower than normal case.)
3. The weather in UC Davis is warm even during winter, you shouldn't bring too much heavy clothes. Please bring some if you plan to go to the trip to Yosemite.
4. About picking up from and to airport, it is better to use picking up service provided by the program, if you are not familiar with American transport system (It is possible to go to airport by yourself when you come back, which makes half of the expense)
5. Take some medicine with you, especially stomach medicine and cold medicine.
6. Take some instant noodle or other foods you like with you, when you can't suit the climate in California.
7. Better to go to cinema on Tuesday, because the price of cinema in UC Davis downtown on Tuesday is half.
8. Try to take some normal lessons you are interested in UC Davis so that you can study more.
9. It is also recommended to try to visit laboratory and communicate with the local students.
10. Try to communicate with host family to let them know what you think about and what you want.
11. Be care that don't overweigh your luggage.
12. Make sure your bags taken with you within 2 bags, which is regulated by security check.
13. Try to speak English as frequently as you can.

All of these are what I can figure out. Please add more when you come back from the program next time.

(by Lu Tao)