

Summer in California/ UC Berkeley summer sessions

What I did?

I spent my summer studying at UC Berkeley and exploring the amazing city of San Francisco.

I took part in UC Berkeley's summer sessions, which gave me a chance to experience short term study abroad. Since I study economics at Queen Mary University of London, I decided to take two classes/modules within UC Berkeley's economics department.

I took "Microeconomics" and "Econometrics" classes, and really loved them. Though, there was a lot of academic work we had to do, I wasn't going to leave California without exploring it! I visited many landmarks in San Francisco, including the golden gate bridge, pier 39, muir woods, union square and of course the beaches!!!

Berkeley was also a great "college town" to live in and explore. I went on many hikes on Berkeley's beautiful hills and visited the downtown area, which had the craziest and coolest shops. One of the best things about Berkeley was the numerous cafes at every place. Not only were the cafes great for your morning coffee, but many used to be open till late, so they were the perfect place to get some work done in the company of dozens of other Berkeley students.

Leaving Cal was one of the hardest things, as I met a bunch of great people and it was like leaving them forever. I hate goodbyes and always will, but who knows someday, I may return to the lovely California.

Did the trip contribute to my academic progress?

The trip was a big step towards my academic progress, as I got the chance to study two topics “Microeconomics” and “Econometrics” which I will build on in my final year at QMUL.

I have chosen a range of advanced microeconomics and applied econometrics modules in my final year at QMUL, and having completed courses in microeconomics and econometrics at UC Berkeley has helped me gain useful knowledge which will help me with my final year module selections.

Econometrics in USA, is studied to a much higher standard compared to the UK. I worked with advanced statistical software and completed my very own research report on new econometric methods as part of my course at UC Berkeley. This has allowed me to get a good grip of econometrics – a subject that I used to find particularly difficult previously.

How did the expeditions fund help?

The expeditions fund was a useful financial aid, which made my trip possible. As, the trip was funded by myself through money I had previously saved from internships, part time work and student loans in the past year, the expeditions fund helped me reach the total sum I needed.

Knowing that someone is there to provide you with financial aid in time of need, is a very reassuring feeling and I’m so grateful to the expeditions fund team at QMUL for helping me take a step towards my dreams.