As an UQ commerce and economics student, I have had the opportunity of studying abroad at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, United States of America. While abroad, I studied 5 courses which covered a wide range of fields: macroeconomics, cost accounting, Japanese culture, business law, and java. The teaching style at UMASS is quite different compared to UQ as classes are just like high school. Classes are taught in a small room containing 20-40 people and due to such the professors get to know you personally.

The professors and people over there are really friendly, and interesting. Amherst is basically a college town and since most of the students come from different parts of Massachusetts it is really easy to meet new friends. Everyone lives together, eats together, and parties together. Every Friday and Saturday nights there is always something going on, whether it is a house party, football games, or concerts, you will never get bored. I have met many new people and made many new friends who I will someday meet again. The best place to meet people is probably at Monkey Bar, and at night club called Divas.

Besides exploring Amherst, visiting Boston and New York is a must. Travelling there is only a few hours away by bus. During my exchange to the US, I did a lot of traveling. I explored: Los Angeles, Seattle, New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Chicago, and Toronto. Each city has its own style and has many interesting attractions. A word of advice for traveling, the cheapest coach bus to take is probably mega bus, and usually if you book in advance, you can get tickets for $1. Also if you’re going to visit Canada, Chicago, or Niagara Falls do it during summer. I did it in winter and it is really, really, really cold.

Going on exchange has been a fun and exciting personal experience. I would greatly recommend that you take this opportunity and go on exchange. Try living the American life.