

Anthony Allard – Purdue University

UQ Program: Bachelor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering

My exchange semester at Purdue University in Indiana exceeded all my expectations. From attending basketball and football matches to experiencing The Feast of the Hunters Moon Festival, (where we ate racoon stew), as well as Thanksgiving and Halloween I was able to immerse myself into Midwestern American culture.

As a third year mechanical-aerospace engineering student Purdue enabled me to learn more about the design of aircraft, as course AAE451 required us to design and build a remote control aircraft in teams of ten, something I could not do at UQ. My other courses were in small class sizes compared with UQ, and it made discussion easier and students could communicate with professors more freely. It was also great to meet three other Aussie exchange students from UQ doing similar courses as we were all able to help each other.

I enjoyed going to the gridiron as the student section gets involved in songs and chants as there is a lot of college spirit and pride. The cost of a season ticket was around \$120. Also I enjoyed barracking for the Purdue basketball team as it was ranked as one of the top ten college teams in the nation.

I chose to live at Earhart residential Hall which was co-educational and had air-conditioning in each room as during the four months I was there I experienced extremes of temperature from 39C to -17C. I made many American friends through participating in Boiler Gold Rush (BGR). This is an Orientation Week run at the beginning of the fall semester.



BGR Fountain Run. I'm on the extreme left.



Last day of uni in the snow in front of Ross-Ade Stadium.

TOP TIPS

- Sort out your medical insurance and history forms as Purdue requires you to be covered by their insurance at around \$300.
- Be aware that the residential halls do not provide linen which is important, as if you are arriving in winter, temperatures are below freezing. These could be purchased at the West Lafayette Walmart which was a short bus ride away.
- Learn the Purdue bus routes as this is an essential mode of transport around campus when the temperatures drop well below freezing.
- Be aware that there are many holidays such as October break, Thanksgiving and Halloween which gave me excellent opportunities to travel to places such as Florida and visit the Kennedy Space Centre and San Francisco.
- It is very cheap to buy food and clothing in the Midwest so don't worry if you have left anything behind. It is also very easy to post home the souvenirs I had purchased.