

BLUF: Hello Class of 2020! As you prepare to move to Durham and begin your time at Fuqua, we wanted to share some thoughts about making a successful transition. The perspectives you will find below are ENTIRELY student voices, and reflect a broad range of opinions. Just remember – there is no right answer to making a successful transition. Enjoy the read, and we will see you soon!

GENERAL THOUGHTS

What advice do you have for incoming students as they transition to Fuqua?

“B-school work starts before orientation. Plan/budget 1-2 hours a day beginning July 1 (or sooner) to do things like MBA Math, BCA, ISW task assignments, Class Facebook page content, etc.”

“FuquaWorld pictures live with you for the entirety of the Fuqua experience, and are taken during the first week of GI, so it’s a good idea to get a haircut and press a suit right before orientation.”

“Get here early, meet as many people as you can, and recognize that you might not see them again until the spring. Fall semester is CRAZY!”

“Begin to build a business casual wardrobe if you don’t already have one.”

“Set up guidelines with a spouse about time devoted to school, career and social so they have a good understanding of what your life looks like.”

“Be very focused in how you spend your time, because the 2 years fly by!”

“Be open about who you are and embrace the differences of your classmates. I tried to keep an open mind as much as possible and made lots of wonderful friends as a result! Everyone has an interesting story and is passionate about important things.”

“It will be easy to get bogged down by all the work/emails/extracurriculars, but you’ll learn what’s ‘good enough’ in each area - don’t forget to make time for whatever ‘re-charges’ you, be it bingeing TV, going for a run, baking, etc.”

“Quit your job and travel/relax before school starts – you’ll want/need the break.”

“Think long and hard about why you made the choice to come here. Write it down and go back to it every time to feel overwhelmed.”

“Costs are front loaded, so have money saved up for expenses that aren’t necessarily reflected in the cost of attendance that you can borrow loans for. Some of these include: Labor Day Weekend at Myrtle Beach, Basketball season tickets after you win Campout, Fall Break Week-In-Cities trips.”

“Loans do not disperse until at least a week after the term starts.”

“Familiarize yourself with Duke Basketball and Coach K. Try to learn about former players and current players. These are big topics of discussion around campus.”

What else do you wish you would have known before beginning your MBA?

“Your dream job may be 2-3 steps away. So use the MBA to get closer and to build skills but realize it’s a process. ALSO take the HARD classes even if you don’t want to. You’re never going to teach yourself that stuff further down the line, so challenge yourself even when you have the option stay in your comfort zone.”

“Recruiting is important – take it seriously. Really try to think about what is going to make you happy in a job. Don’t take the first offer you get if it’s not right for you. We have two years to think about our dream jobs and we should take advantage of that opportunity!”

“It’s okay if you’re not a super partier; that crowd is definitely more visible than other groups, but if you’re confident about what you enjoy (for me, dinner parties, board games, and getting to bed at a reasonable hour), you’ll find other people who feel similarly.”

“Talk with alumni. If you are international, talk with alumni that did the career path you are looking for, because many companies do not hire internationals.”

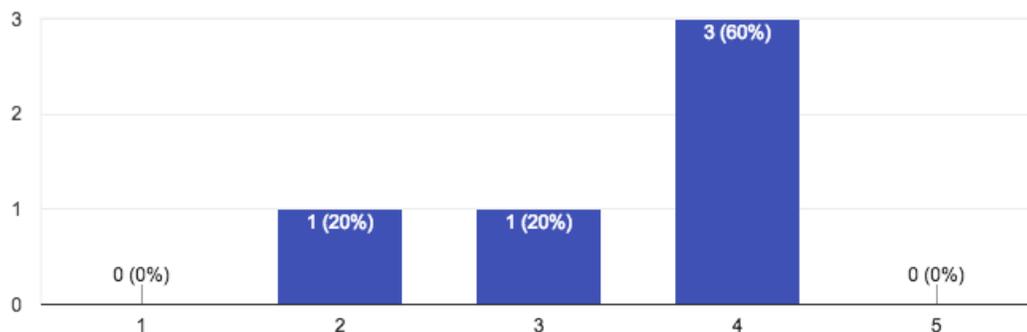
“Academics are important, but more often than not recruitment takes precedence. Also focus on building meaningful relationships in any group work.”

“There are additional costs for class materials/course packs of about \$200 each term.”

ACADEMICS

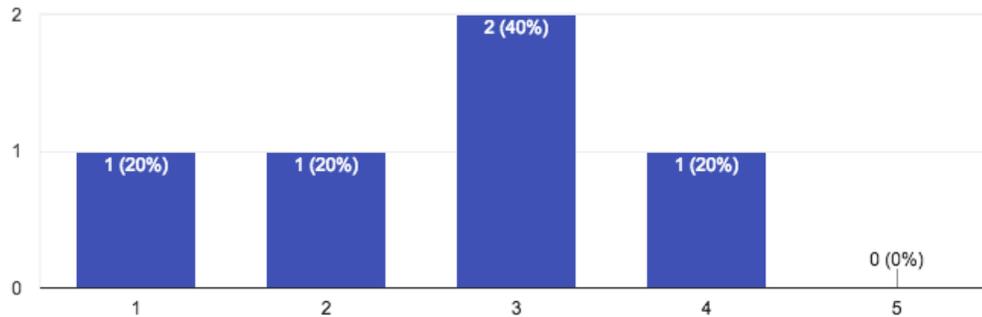
If you attended Math Camp, how helpful would you rank it in preparing for Fuqua's quantitative courses?
(1 = least helpful, 5 = most helpful)

5 responses



If you attended Pre-Term Accounting Review, how helpful would you rank it in preparing for Accounting courses at Fuqua? (1 = least helpful, 5 = most helpful)

5 responses



Think about your experience completing BCA. When did you do it, and how much time would you recommend allotting for completion?

“I did it in June – I’d say [it took] about 6-8 hours.”

“Do it before school, it will probably take around 10-15 hours.”

“I did it over Fall 1. It would have been better to finish it before, but it was not a problem to do it all at Fuqua”

“Finished before orientation. HIGHLY RECOMMEND IT! It took me 4 days, 4 hours each, in an easy pace”

Think about your experience completing MBA Math. When did you do it, and how much time would you recommend allotting for completion?

“I did it over the summer. The modules take different amounts of time to complete but generally I would say the required parts take no more than 8 hours total (and I had limited experience with all of them beforehand.”

“I completed it before coming to Durham. It’s easy but takes time.”

“I wish I didn’t put so much emphasis on it and just focused on BCA instead.”

Do you wish you had done anything differently in preparing for academics at Fuqua?

“No.”

“Just relax over the summer!”

“Wish I did BCA sooner. I’m glad I didn’t review anything.”

“Read more newspapers and watch more English movies.”

“Think harder about what my objectives for year 1 were.”

CAREER

Aside from the CMC syllabi, what, if anything, did you do to support your career search before arriving on campus? (pre-MBA internship, networking, etc.)

“Pre-MBA internship, informal networking.”

“Do sufficient research (online or through informational [conversations]) that you have your target list of companies and roles coming into Fuqua. And they should be diversified – i.e. the list should say more than BCG and McKinsey.”

“I didn’t do anything besides the CMC curriculum.”

“Spend time thinking about what you really want to do and why you want to do it. Staying focused in recruiting is hard because there are so many opportunities on campus.”

“No, I did not.”

What would you have done differently?

“I spread myself too thin, because I thought b school was a great opportunity to explore. But I wish I had been more focused because I actually knew what I wanted to do. Don’t let yourself get pulled in different directions.”

“Be more thoughtful on selecting sectors, career paths, and roles that I’m interested [in] the most.”

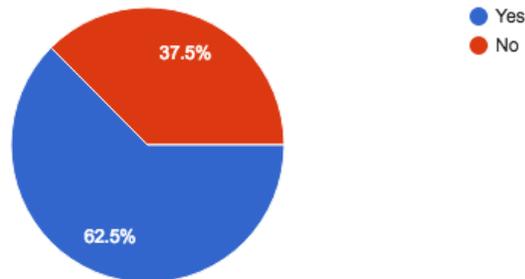
“Having a more flexible plan in mind. Squaring in on role and an industry caused me to myopically focus on certain activities and lost track of other opportunities that ended up being equally or more interesting for me.”

“Know that career switching isn’t an option for all companies/industries, meaning some people are in better position to succeed in the recruitment process. Also, company recognition on CV’s matters.”

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

Did you explore club/involvement opportunities before starting at Fuqua?

32 responses



Where did you find these, and how did you think about allocating your time while at Fuqua?

“Fuqua website and OrgSync.”

“I talked to current second year students about the activities they were involved in and also found information on Fuqua’s website.”

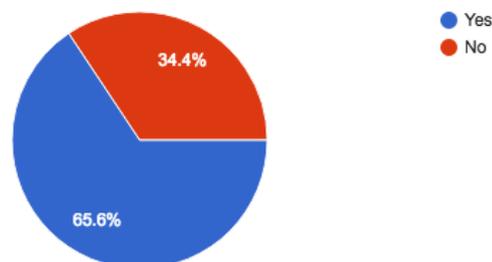
“I reviewed the list of clubs in the Unofficial Guide and figured out which ones I wanted to prioritize involvement in once I arrived on campus; after some reflection I determined not to pursue leadership positions in more than 2 (one career + one other club) to keep myself from being spread too thin.”

“I used the website, knew what my priorities were coming in, and intentionally kept some white space for being spontaneous.”

TECH

Did you buy a new computer before coming to Fuqua?

32 responses



What was the technology transition like? Do you have any tips/tricks for understanding Fuqua's technology platforms?

"It's pretty straightforward and easy – get a PC!"

"I bought a PC before I started because I didn't think my MacBook Air would work, but that was a total waste of money. If you have a relatively new Mac, it'll be fine. And the only classes where it makes a difference are BCA and Decision Models, but plenty of my friends had Macs and were fine! Save your money for travel."

"I use a Mac and it's way more doable than people made me feel like it would be."

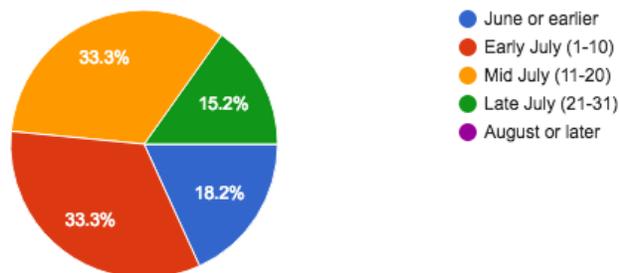
"Just go to the IT office [Technical Support Center (TSC)] directly and ask them to help you. They are incredible helpful and will walk you through any necessary installations/etc."

"I recommend buying a new computer once you get here. Prices are usually cheaper than elsewhere in general. Setting up Fuqua's programs was straightforward."

DURHAM

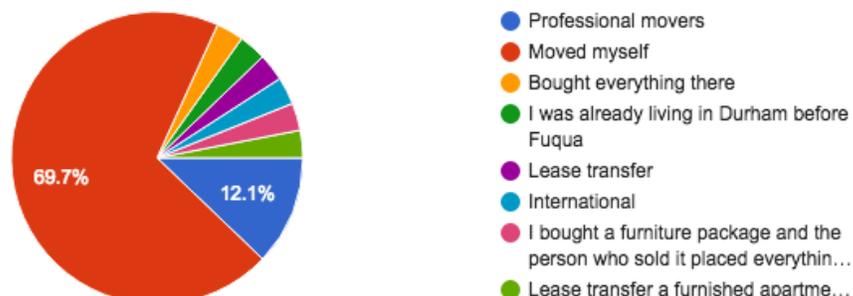
When did you move to Durham?

33 responses



How did you move to Durham?

33 responses



Did you buy furniture/lease transfer from a current Fuqua student, and if so what was that experience like?

“Lease transfer, worked like a charm!”

“Lease transfer from a graduating student and it was the best idea ever. Everything was ready when I arrived. I saw other people struggling to buy furniture or finding someone to help them get their furniture out of storage units.”

“I bought furniture and it was a painful process. I highly recommend a lease transfer with furniture.”

“Bought new from IKEA and had it delivered to my house. IKEA is in Charlotte, so the delivery fee was something to reckon with, but it was a convenient process overall.”

“Bought used in Craigslist and from this awesome local furniture store called Capital Discount Furniture. Great quality and prices.”

What should the Class of 2020 know before moving to NC?

“The weather is unpredictable. Pack accordingly.”

“This was a big transition for me, as I've lived in the heart of an East Coast city for all but two years of my life. Having a slower pace of life in the South definitely took time to get used to, but I've really grown to love it. Durham offers so much – a cohesive group of people deeply invested in their friends and classmates, a rich intellectual community, easy access to outdoors activities, good restaurants, and convenience (depending on where you live but true for most). It's definitely a bubble, though, and I am still shocked to see things like confederate flags when I leave the Triangle.”

“I recommend having a car.”

“You can survive without a car.”

“Come with enough time to settle down, because activities are going to pick up really quickly.”

“It's going to be really hot when you move in, so think twice about doing all of the moving yourself!”

“You can get a 2-year car lease for a good deal if you don't have a car/don't think you'll want it in 2 years - KIA was great.”

“Do doctor's appointments before school starts.”

Do you have any recommendations on getting "settled in" - i.e. finding doctors, securing childcare, registering a vehicle, etc. - to this community?

“Make sure to build all of your furniture, really settle into your apartment, and get anything you anticipate needing before GI starts. Being ready to dive in on day 1 and not have to worry about my apartment really helped me.”

“Duke Student Health is awesome!”

“Regarding groceries, consider making the drive to Target on 15/501, or Trader Joe’s in Chapel Hill – they are cheaper than either Whole Foods or Harris Teeter.”

“Allow at least a full week (and ideally 2 weeks) to settle in before classes Orientation begins.”

“Get down here early enough to fully move yourself in and complete BCA - doing it at the computer lab when you have nothing else to do is pretty painless.”

“Getting a state ID, driver's license, car insurance and license plate is rather tricky process. Allow a couple of weeks to get everything done without rushing.”

“Don’t change your car insurance! Keep it in whatever state you’re coming from. Insurance is oddly expensive in NC and dealing with the DMV is a pain in the neck.”

“Go to urgent care if you have emergency medical issues, don't go to the ER!”

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

As an international student, how did you find housing?

“Advice of alums, students and then online/calls/emails to Station 9.”

“Google spreadsheet shared in Facebook.”

“Fellow Chileans sent me the leasing transfer options.”

“Second year students from my home country.”

“Rumor has it that S9 is great, but I would have opted for a house (cheaper) if I could reconsider my housing options.”

As an international student, do you wish you had known or done anything differently before moving to Durham?

“Understand the plus and minus of each housing location and do a price comparison of each place. You don't have to live in S9/B9!”

“Bring some traditional clothes – there are lots of events where international students can share their home cultures with the broader Fuqua community.”

“I wish I had prepared for driving tests and got a driver’s license as soon as I arrived. That would have made the early life easier. Also I wanted to know more about the auto/house insurance so that I could select a more economical one.”

“Although B9 is a little bit more expensive than S9, it covers part of the utility (so the net rent is cheaper) and the management is so much better!”

As an international student, what advice do you have for incoming international students in the Class of 2020?

“Reach out to your American friends and build connections as early as possible. Be comfortable with yourself and share yourself and your stories. Everyone is adjusting to the new environment when they arrive, so take the step of saying hello and making friends – don’t wait for others to come to you. It is natural for American students to want to hang out with other Americans, but this is not always the best. So, don't wait.”

“Organize so you don’t stress out. And DO BCA ASAP.”

“Recruit for all on-campus companies that take international students (it’s so much harder when you go off campus).”

“Think long term: maybe you want to work in the states long term. Instead of just thinking of getting an internship in the states, maybe getting into a big brand name (I.e. McKinsey) in your home country can also assist you in reaching your long term goal.”

“Network with your affinity groups (in Fuqua, Fuqua alums/in the companies that you want to recruit for). Don’t just join professional clubs – join social and affinity clubs too. These are all important!”

“Learn a sport – it is an easy topic to talk about and to socialize/network.”

“Be intentional about your priorities and put blocks on your calendar for them to make sure you reach your goals.”

“For East Asians specifically: go to all the social activities and practice small talk and networking skills.”

“Don't buy a cheap car. Buy a decent car that you can drive without worrying that it will break down. You can always sell it at good price too. Prepare to lose around \$2,000 in depreciation.”