

# An unforgettable trip in NYC

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Hi, my name is Shanshan Ao. I am a graduate student studying information systems technology at GW school of business. The NYC career quest is absolutely an unforgettable experience for me. Ben, Amanda and Staci (our career coaches) made a perfect schedule which allowed us to visit 6 companies (including Facebook, E-Marketer, Bloomberg, NBA, Bustel and Spotify) within 2 days and preserved some time for us to explore the city on our own. In this blog, I want to share some of my personal experiences regarding this trip.

Firstly, I want to talk about my feelings about this city overall. When I arrived in the New York City, I can immediately tell that this city attracts people from all around the world to work and live there for a reason. It is a city which gives us a lot of choices: what to eat, where to shop, how to work, how to live and so on. You can be yourself and embrace the unlimited possibilities and opportunities. However, opportunities also means competitions. You can hardly see any working people sitting there killing their time. People are always busy working or walking very fast with their coffee toward somewhere. It is a crowded, busy, a little bit smelly and messy city, but it is also a diverse, vivid, stylish, and beautiful city.

Secondly, I want to talk about the my feeling about the site visit. The first thing that impressed me was the working environment. Almost every site that we visited are using open space office, which means there is no office designated for a specific person, everyone is working in an open space no matter what position of that person is. People are working collaboratively on their projects and I can't see any bureaucracy in the work environment. When our hosts are sharing their working experience, their suggestions were honest and genuine. They knew what we were struggling with and did their best to answer our questions. Some of the companies (such as E-Marketer and Bustle) even organized a panel and a thorough presentation of their company and their career opportunities.

As an international student, I often feel stressful in job hunting, especially this year because I will graduate soon. By talking to those professionals, I felt much relieved and are more positive about my future. They let me understand that the opportunities are everywhere and at anytime, we have to be confident and not limit ourselves in one industry or one city. Moreover, it is always possible to change our career paths as long as we have the ability to learn continuously. Also, every professional talks emphasized the importance of networking. They said top networkers always get a job. The benefit that I have to mention here is that, every professionals hosting us will leave their contact information. At the end of the trip, you may get approximately 20 professionals' name card or email address, which is very useful for future job hunting.

The NYC Career Quest is an amazing experience that permits me to feel the lifestyle in NYC, exchange ideas with experienced professionals, expand professional networks and boost self-confidence. I will definitely suggest more of you to apply and participate in this interesting and valuable trip with GW Career Center.

