

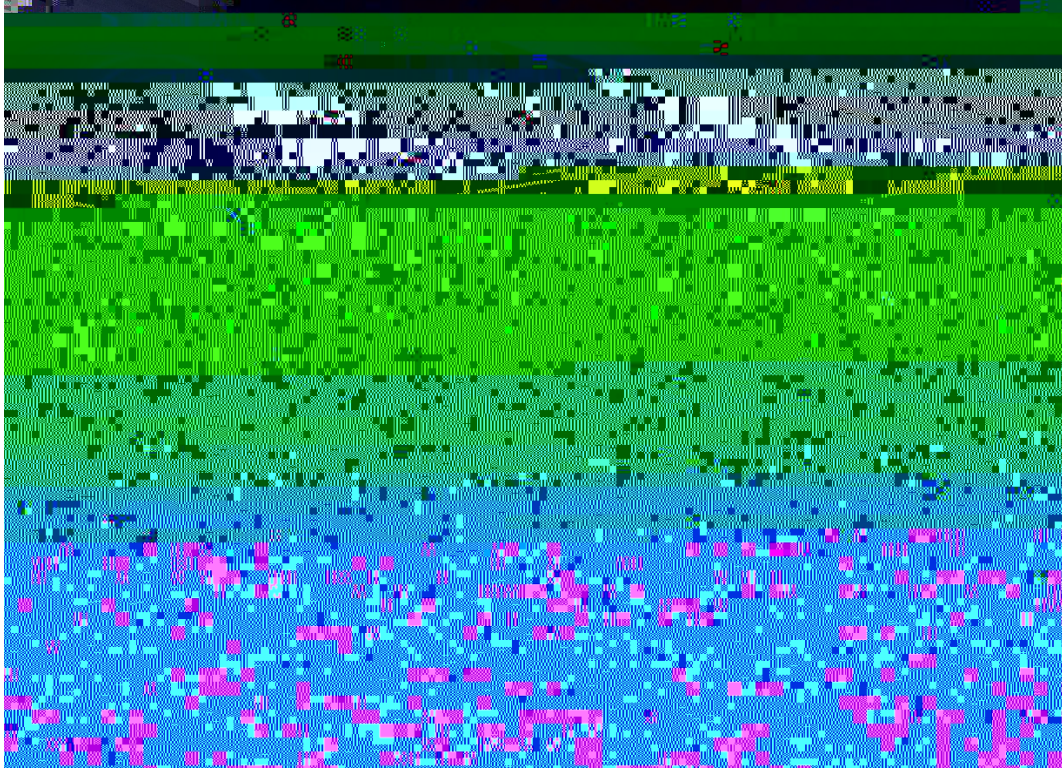
Before I go on exchange, I did lots of research regarding which school I want to go to best. I considered the courses they offer and the location they are at. Finally, I decided to attend Session D starting on July 2<sup>nd</sup> to August 11<sup>th</sup> at the University of California Berkeley, located at the United States. Comparing to other Universities, UCB offers the most courses during the summer session. After I chose UCB, I emailed all course information to SFU for evaluation that I am interested in attending. Finally, I enrolled in Hass Business courses, Financial Derivative and Investment classes, when UCB is open for enrollment. After this process, I had to start working on the studying visa F-1 to study at UCB. The visa was very easy to attain which you just follow the instruction on Calcentral and apply for it. Since I am going to live in the dorm at UCB during the exchange, I had to prepare everything that I need to live there. These include such as bedding sheets, pillow, shower utensils, slippers used in the dorm and shower. Things that are bigger and cumbersome, such as blankets and hair dryer, I decided to buy them when I arrive in the USA. Finally, when it is one month from departing, I ordered the plane ticket which cost almost CAD 400. Before I left Vancouver, I brought USD 2500 cash and Canadian Master Cards.

Since my sister lives in Palo Alto, I arrived few days before the school starts. During that time, I bought the things that I need to use at UCB. One important thing that is helpful during the stay at UCB is a shower basket. Since the dorm only has public shower and washroom outside your room, it is very inconvenient to carry your shower utensils without a shower basket. Places you can visit at Palo Alto includes Stanford, Google, and Facebook. Palo Alto is an only one-hour drive away from UCB, so lots of people visit here during the summer session. Also, I registered for a Chase Bank debit card which includes Visa. It is very convenient for online shopping since some stores only take US cards. Furthermore, holding too much cash is dangerous. The cost of living in Berkeley is similar to living in Vancouver but in USD.

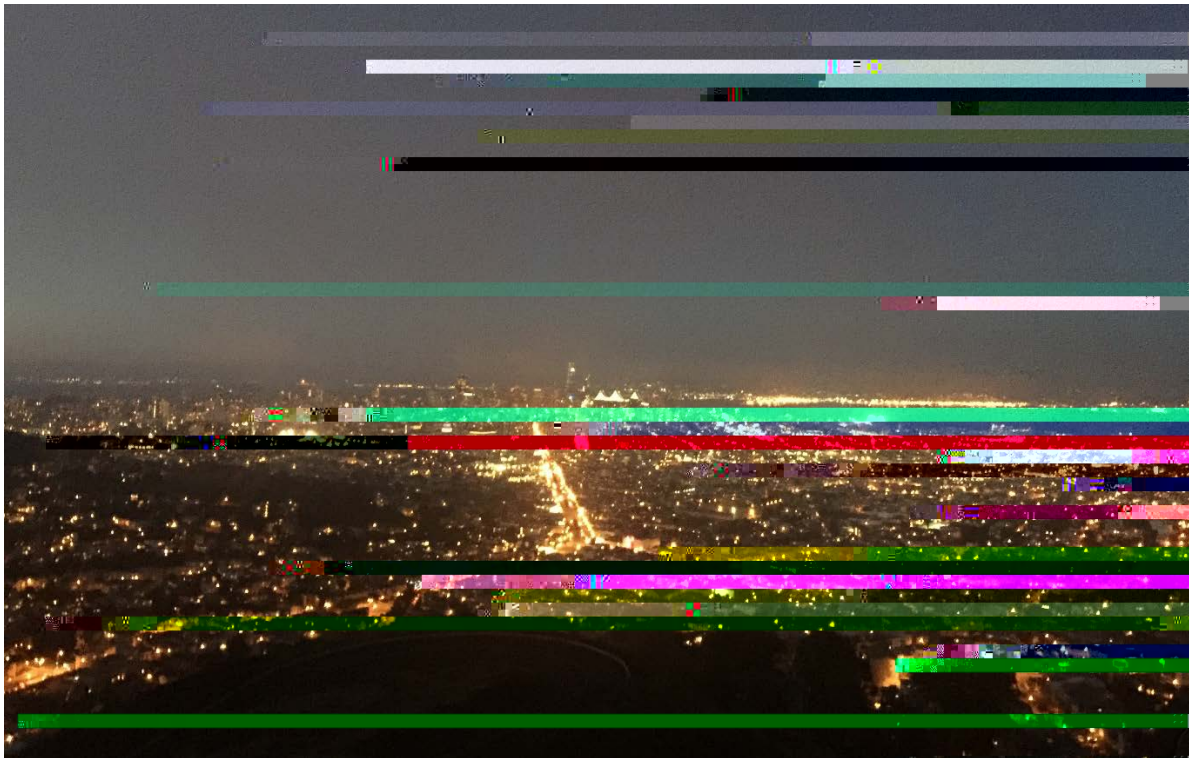
Finally, I went to UCB on July 2<sup>nd</sup>. It is very convenient to travel around in California since there are many Ubers. School starts on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. The first course I attended is the Financial Derivative class. At the first class, I think the course was okay; however, later I found the course gets hard because the professor hardly explains the process of a formula. We had to copy our notes ourselves, and there is no ppt. I noticed all my notes are formulas. In one class, he started talking about matrix which I have never learned, and he did not teach us how the matrix works but only gives us the final solution. Since the UCB canvas had problems, we did not have any hand outs until the second week, which we already had three classes; thus, I decided to drop this class and switched to vocal music during the second week. At the end of the second week, it is the last chance to swap classes. There is one thing one must look out for when swapping classes. For each course, you can only swap once, any additional swaps, you would have to pay for the course. Vocal music was very interesting. Each week there are two classes from 11 am to 1:30 pm. During each class, the teacher would teach everyone some warm up techniques and gives everyone a chance to practice singing in front of the class. During the final, we can choose one of the two songs we learn in class and sing it in front of the class. Also, people who prepared their own performance can also perform during the final. For this class, we had to write music journals



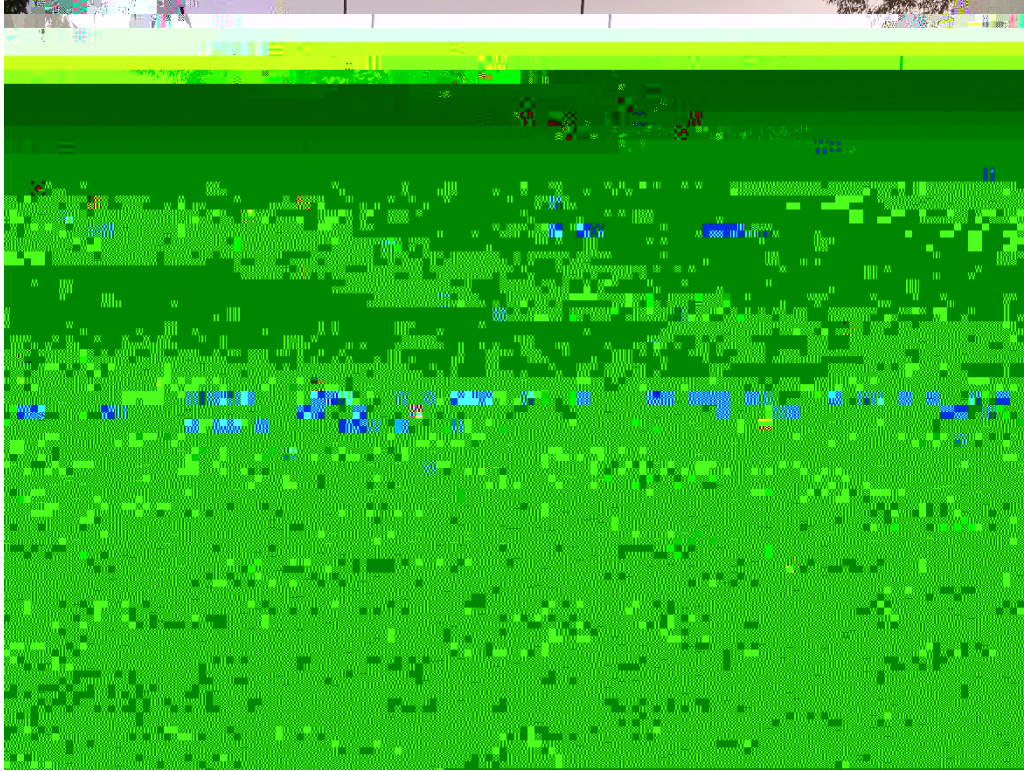




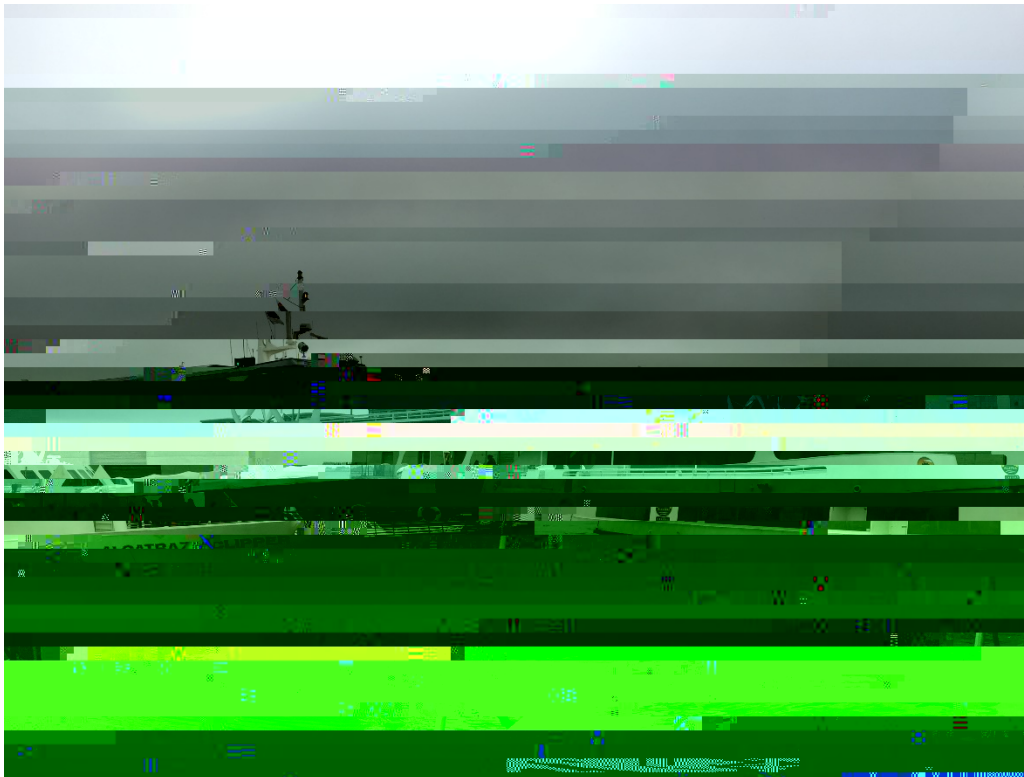
Moffitt Library at Berkeley



Night Scene at Twins Peak, San Francisco



BigC at Berkeley



Going to Alcatraz Island from San Francisco to visit the Prison