



Sacred Heart UNIVERSITY

JACK WELCH COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

The 2016 CONNECTIONS Experience for Luxembourg & USA MBA Students

(SHU course number BU687 – Contemporary Issues in Global Management)

July 17 – July 30, 2016

Our biannual two week seminar and cross-cultural experience for both Luxembourg and USA students will be based at SHU's Graduate Center in Stamford, Connecticut, USA from **July 17th through July 30, 2016**. More detailed information will be available in April but we wanted to share some preliminary information so that you can put these dates on your calendar and, if necessary, plan vacation days from work.

SHU's **CONNECTIONS** Experience offers incredible opportunities to interact with and learn from fellow graduate students coming from numerous countries. Students from our Luxembourg MBA program will join USA-based MBA students. The course is not a typical "come to class, participate while there, and do all the assignments" type course, however. We want to learn from each other and together build our individual and collective insight. During the two weeks students will build *connections* with other SHU colleagues and explore myriad ways in which everything – and everyone – is interconnected. Our work and every aspect of our lives are influenced by shifting trends, technologies, societal concerns and events around us. We'll discuss what some of those influences are and how they affect us. In addition to our class discussions the **CONNECTIONS** experience will include corporate visits, informal discussions with regional business executives, sight-seeing trips and social events.

Here is a brief overview of the course and schedule.

- Luxembourg-based students arrive preferably Saturday, July 16th - or, at latest - by noon on a Sunday, July 17th flight. You could leave either Sunday, July 31st or on Saturday, July 30th on a flight leaving after 6:00pm.
- Orientation and local tour for Luxembourg students Sunday afternoon; light dinner afterward for Luxembourg and USA students
- First class session on Monday night, July 18th; last class session and brunch celebration on Saturday, July 30th
- Corporate visits to be arranged but we hope they will include Sikorsky Aircraft (think helicopters) and IBM (an early and still current pioneer in enabling connections)
- Sight-seeing day in New York City, including a visit to the New York Stock Exchange and an evening boat trip around Manhattan
- Several free days to allow sight-seeing on your own or with colleagues
- Classes and hotel lodging will be in Stamford, Connecticut. We will, however, visit the main campus in Fairfield, Connecticut one day.
- Written course deliverables will be due by the end of August
- Welch College of Business faculty members will lead our discussions on how some of the following influence what we do at work and what we do in our personal lives: the internet of things; artificial intelligence; 'big data' and data analytics; social media and networking; shifting demographics/migrations; increasing interdependence among national economies; geopolitical trends and upheavals; terrorism; cybersecurity; crowdsourcing, societal trends and concerns, climate and environmental changes, et cetera. The list could go on and on. We welcome your suggestions regarding evolutions and revolutions you see influencing the business world that you think we should explore.

Major Costs

➤ Hotel Accomodations

- You'll stay at the Sheraton Stamford Hotel, which is a 5 – 7 minutes walk from the Graduate Center. The address of the hotel is 700 Main Street, Stamford, CT 06901 USA Take a look at the hotel's website. www.sheratonstamford.com
- The cost per room (with either a king size bed or two double size beds) will be \$145 per night plus taxes added, for a total of \$166.75 (€153.82 given the January 29th exchange rate). Up to three people could occupy a room; two adults could do so very comfortably, thus offering a way to reduce costs.
- You will have a 25% discount on food purchased at all hotel food outlets. This includes the lobby café, restaurant (offering breakfast, lunch and dinner) and room service. There are also numerous other inexpensive places to eat near the Stamford Graduate Center.
- The hotel is well-equipped with plenty of room to sit, socialize and eat comfortably in the large lobby. The Sheraton has a pool, exercise room, lobby computers and printers, plus free wireless in all rooms.
- The location in Stamford is good – with restaurants, shopping, leisure/artistic activities, and the train station (to New York City or Boston) all within 6 - 12 minutes walking distance.
- Thus you will not need a car, unless you want to rent one during the middle weekend. If so, there are two car rental agencies (National and Alamo) at the hotel and a third agency – Enterprise – within two minutes walking distance.

➤ Flights – Each person will book their own flight because you can get a better deal via the internet and because some people want to add on extra days. Please fly into JFK (John F. Kennedy) Airport in New York City.

➤ Other expenses

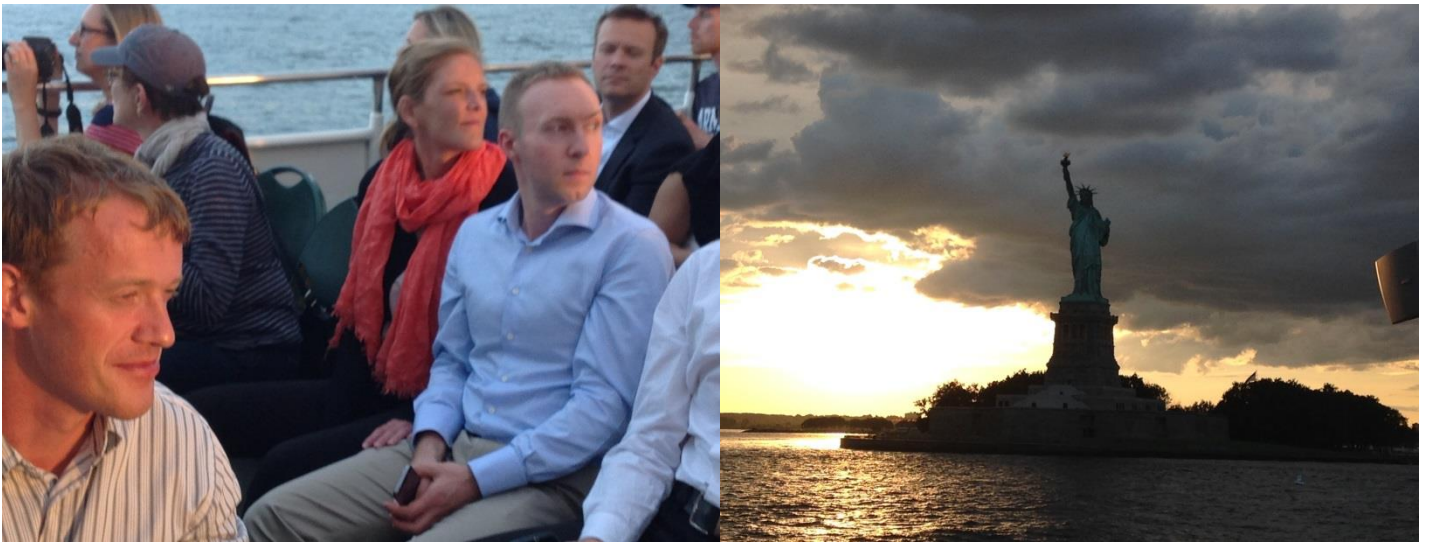
- We will try to recruit volunteers to pick you up at JFK Airport. If we don't have enough volunteers (it's a huge time commitment for them!) the cost for transportation by shuttle van to the hotel in Stamford would be approximately \$60 per person each way.
- \$40 - \$45 per day per person for food. It is possible, however, to eat more cheaply.
- \$125 - \$150 for ground transportation to corporate visits and NYC.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the program coordinator, Mary Trefry, via e-mail (trefrym@sacredheart.edu) or phone (1.203.371.7868) or Skype (Mary.Trefry).



'Watson' Challenge at IBM – July 2012

Watson is the computer which beat human contestants on the game show *Jeopardy* some years ago. Watson is a cognitive system which now aids in fields as diverse as medical diagnoses and traffic control.



What are they looking at?



On the floor of the New York Stock Exchange – July 2014



With our hosts at IBM – July 2014