

University of Calgary, Canada



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Year 4 (ACCT & FINA)

FALL 2016 EXCHANGE

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Activity Log

September 2016

When I arrived to Calgary, the weather was very nice, around 15-20 degree Celsius. I moved into my residential hall and met my new roommate who is from Sweden. We went to buy some kitchen utensils and household supplies at a shopping center nearby. I also met with my exchange buddy and she showed me around the campus and provided many useful information about Calgary. People are extremely nice and helpful here.

I joined the International Student's Orientation Day and met a lot of exchange students on that event. You will also be receiving many useful guides on living, transportation and studying. I joined the Hong Kong Student Association (HKSA) and made some friends from Hong Kong. We went ice skating at the Olympic Oval and visited Military Museum.



October 2016

The school works started to get heavier during October with more assignments, group projects and mid-terms. Although there were very high workload during this month, I was still able to squeeze some time to visit other places. During the beginning of the October, I joined an activity held by International Business Students' Association (IBSA) and visited Grassi Lake and Lake miniwanker. I also visited Lake Louise, Banff, and Heritage Park and watched a NBA pre-season game during October. I celebrated the Thanksgiving Day at my uncle's house and the food was amazing.

The first snow happened on the first week of October, and the temperature dropped very suddenly during that week. However, the snow lasted for few days only and Calgary got warm again.



November 2016

There was a reading week for you to revise your lecture material during November. Since I had finished my revision beforehand, I and my friends travelled to Toronto, Boston, New York and Washington for 10 days instead. We visited many famous attraction including Niagara Fall, CN Tower, 911 Memorial Musueum, Statue of Liberty etc.



Later in November, I also joined the function held by IBSA to Drumheller, where you can visit the dinosaur museum and hoodoos.



December 2016

It started getting cold in Decemeber, the average temperature was around -10 to -25 degree Celcius, and the snow was thick enough for skiing. Together with some exchange students from Hong Kong, we went to Mt. Norquay in Banff to ski for 2 days. As we all had no experience in skiing, we hired a coach to teach us for 2 days. After learning the basic techniques, we went to the mountain on the second day. Although I fell down many times on the mountain, I find skiing really exciting and the experience is just amazing!

Before final examination, I and my friends also went to Yellowknife for a 3 days short trip. However, due to bad weather, we were not able to see the aurora light during all 3 days, which was very disappointing. Meanwhile, the ice was not thick enough for ice fishing. Therefore, we had only tried dog sledging and fat biking.



Part 2 – General Exchange Information

1) Visa Procedure

For HKSAR passport holder who are visitng Canada for less than 6 months, no visa is required. However, you will need to apply an eTA (electronic Travel Authorization) online before arrival. For more information, please visit:

<http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/index.asp>

2) Orientation Activities

During the first week, there will be an International Student Orientation Day, which provides you with the important information on transportation, working permit, banking account, insurance, academic support etc. It is also a really good opportunity to make friends with other exchange students.

3) International Services and Activities

Centre for International Students and Study Abroad (CISSA) organizes many day trip or short trip throughout the semester. Activities including daytrip to Lake Louise, Banff, west edmonton mall, ice skating etc. Do remember sign up and check for their emails to receive more activities details. Their activities are often charged with an attractive low price! Another international service targets only business student, named International Business Students' Association (IBSA). They provide exchange buddy programme to pair you up with a local student and also organize many activities like day trip to drumheller.

4) Accommodation

You can choose to live on campus or home-stay residence. I chose to live on campus as it is more convenient to go to school during winter. I live in Aurora Hall, which is a new residential building. If you want to live on campus, it is adviced to apply as soon as possible, as they are sold on a first come first serve basis. The residence fee range is around 3000 – 4000 CAD depends on the hall you live and the number of roommate.

5) Course Registration

If you exchange during the fall semester, course registration commerence in March. You can choose the courses you wanted by filling out the Exchange Student Application Form and submit it to the Exchange Coordinator of HKUST. You are allowed to take maximum 5 courses with at least 3 courses related to business. I took 5 courses in total: ACCT425, ACCT443, FNCE465, SGMA591 and

PSYC203. All above courses use absolute grading system. The workload of the courses are comparatively higher than in UST, as there are many small quizzes, projects and assignments.

6) Sports & Recreation Facilities

There are many facilities in University of Calgary, including gymnasium, fitness center, indoor swimming pool, rock climbing wall and sports center where you can play basketball, badminton, volleyball, squash etc. Moreover, there is an skating rink at Olympic Oval which is free to use. The rental fee for helmet and skate is 6 CAD only if you do not have your own equipment.

7) Cost & Expenses

I spent around 9000CAD on my living expenses, residence fee and textbooks, not including travelling expenses. It really depends on your living habit, you could save a lot of money by cooking yourself.

8) Social Club/ Networking Opportunities

There is a club week during the 2nd week of September. There are more than 300 clubs for you to join and make new friends. Join more clubs and explore more about Calgary!

9) Transportation

There is a UPass attached on your student card, and you are required to pay for it. With the UPass, you are able to take public transit for free within Calgary, including bus and Ctran. The required fee for UPass is 125CAD.

Transport is quite convenient in Calgary, it takes 10 minutes walk from University of Calgary main campus to the Ctrain station. From the Ctran station, you can go to downtown within 20 minutes.

10) Climate

The humidity in Calgary is quite low, and the air is very dry. During September, the temperature is around 15-20 degree Celcius. However, the temperature will drops to -15 to -25 during December. And the temperature difference between day and night is large, it is advised to dress in layers.

11) Food

You can buy a meal plan and the value will be added to your student card, named the Unicard. The card acts like an Octopus card, and you can use it to pay for your meal in some food shops inside the school's canteen. Although you can refund the remaining balance after the end of your exchange, I would not recommend you to purchase a meal plan as very few restaurants accept Unicard as a paying method.

Part 3 – Items to Bring

HK ID Card	Socket converter
Passport	Notebook
University Acceptance Letter	Calculator
Mobile Phone	Business Attire
Laptop	Clothes
Charger / Charging Cable	Down Jacket
Shoes	Sports Wear
Slippers	Scarf
Socks	Blanket, bed sheet (if applicable)
Camera	Stationery
Gloves	Medicine
Canadian Dollar	Credit Card

If you have any enquires, please feel free to get my contact from SBM Exchange Team by emailing bmugexch@ust.hk