



UNIVERSITY
OF MANITOBA



Exchange Report

University of Manitoba - Fall 2016

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BBA in Information Systems & Professional Accounting

Monthly Activity Log

September:

When you just arrive Winnipeg, your AIMS buddy is there welcoming you. Before the semester begins, you will have lots of orientation activities from the school and AIMS (Association of International Management Students). These activities undoubtedly fill up your whole week of activities! Don't miss any! The semester starts on the second week of September after a bunch of exciting orientation. Don't forget to drop out and swap your classes if you no longer want the course as the official add/drop period ends in two weeks time. One more, pay the student fee and accommodation fee. They are due in different dates, make sure you pay them on time!

October:

AIMS holds numerous of functions. One of them is International Potluck. You can try and taste delicious international cuisine in one place at one time! You are suggested to cook a dish of HK traditional food for other exchange students. A team from Hong Kong made a oily fried rice, which was highly appreciated and overwhelmed applauded. Halloween is another highlight of the month. There are uncountably many parties and haunted house events. Bring a great costume and join them! At the end of the month, an exchange fair is held by Asper exchange office. It is a great time for you to promote HKUST and Hong Kong to all Asper students and faculty by drawing a beautiful poster and holding a booth. You may also wish to bring them some treat from Hong Kong! Another big events are midterms! They are usually scheduled on the last week of October. Leave at least 1-2 weeks for revision in prior!

November:

First thing first, Voluntarily Withdrawal (VW) date is in mid-November. This is the last chance for you to officially drop out from a course (but not be able to add classes!) However, your dropped class will still be shown on your transcript. Secondly, November is a month all over midterms and is the best time for travel! I had a great road trip with friends driving down to Minneapolis, MN, US, for Black Friday Sale. The crazy sales were totally irresistible! Many shops were offering discounts down to 70% off for whole store! Don't miss these huge discounts!

December:

Seriously, the month of torture, if you have unfortunately skipped too many classes in the past 3 months. Unlike UST, UofM does not have a revision week for final exams (but a reading week in October!) All exams begin right after a week of normal lectures. The professors would usually give very useful guidelines for students in the last lecture for them to prepare their final exams. They help a lot in exam preparation in short time to attain a good grade (at least a pass!) DO NOT FAIL - YOU WOULD LOSE \$6000!

General Exchange Information

<p>1. Visa Procedures</p>	<p>For all HK passport holders, you are allowed to stay in Canada visa-free for 6 months. Therefore, you do not need to apply for student visa before departure. Just be the tourist! For other passport holder, you may need to apply for a tourist visa for staying months in Canada.</p> <p>Another kind of visa-like permit is eTA (Electronic Travel Authorization). It is required for every person if you are travelling into Canada by air, excluded for all Canadian and US citizens and visa holder. You need to have it applied before entering Canada. It costs \$7 CAD per application and is completed online at http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta-start.asp.</p> <p>Check the information with Canadian Embassy to double confirm if you need the above permit(s).</p>
<p>2. Orientation Activities</p>	<p>UofM held an huge orientation event at the end of August. Make sure you arrive Winnipeg by that day and attend the event. The activity was composed of many talks and lectures. It lasted for a day, but most of the contents were unrelated to exchange students since they put international full-time students and exchange students into one venue. As suggested by the precedents, fully charged your phone and bring a potable.</p>
<p>3. Accommodation</p>	<p>There are 4 on-campus student residential halls with price ranging from \$3096 CAD to \$6163 CAD per semester. Some may require you to opt-in a meal plan, which grants a certain amount for you to have meals anywhere on the campus. Arthur V. Mauro (AVM) Student Residence is recommended if you know cooking. Each suite has 2 rooms sharing a kitchen and a toilet with an affordable price. Otherwise, I would recommend University College for you. This is because it is the only residential hall with tunnel connections. You may go to different major buildings through this tunnel, including Drake Centre (where business school locates in). It is essential especially in extremely cold weather!</p>
<p>4. Course Registration</p>	<p>Amber (The Exchange Coordinator from Asper) will handle your course registration. Provide a list of courses that you are willing to take, Amber will enrol you into the classes. Please be noted if there is any prerequisite for the courses that may hinder successful course registration. Also, you can add/drop/swap classes in Aurora like what we usually do in SIS on your own.</p>
<p>5. Teaching & Assessment Method</p>	<p>In UofM, the courses do not usually have a teaching assistant. Therefore, if you have any questions regarding the course contents and others, just feel free to send emails to the professors. They can offer help or answer your questions with the greatest extent as they can.</p> <p>Assessments in UofM are similar to those in HKUST, midterms and final exams. Some may have more than one midterm. Try your best to take midterms as questions are generally easier than those in finals.</p>

<p>6. Sports & Recreation Facilities</p>	<p>University of Manitoba has its school team of sports called Bison. Bison Football and Winnipeg Jet, the regional team, are very famous in Canada! They will have competitions against other school team and regional team in Investor Group Field. Watch a match, you can enjoy the enthusiasm of Bisons from their sportsmanship.</p> <p>Also, UofM has a building a gymnasium, named Active Living Centre (ALC). It has a 200-meter indoor running track, hundreds pieces of equipment available for members to do exercises there. Members may also swim in Joyce Fromson Pool, a indoor six-lane pool with diving area, at Frank Kennedy Centre and ice-skating at Max Bell Centre. The membership fee of gymnasium DO NOT include in your student fee. Go ALC and pay for \$81 CAD, then you may enjoy all the above privileges throughout the whole semester. It worths more than \$81!</p>
<p>7. Finance and Banking</p>	<p>There are several banks operating in Winnipeg. However, CIBC is the only bank has its ATM available on-campus. You may open a bank account at any CIBC branch (the nearest CIBC is located at 2866 Pembina) and put all your CAD cash inside. They will be able to issue a debit card for you immediately.</p> <p>Debit cards are similar to EPS system in Hong Kong. Almost all shops in Winnipeg accept debit cards for payments. It eliminates the problem of bringing too many coins and count for them. PLEASE GET ONE. NO ONE USES CASH!</p>
<p>8. Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities</p>	<p>All exchange students automatically become a member of Association of International Management Students (AIMS). It holds LOTSSSS of activities in one semester. Welcoming BBQ, Intercultural Retreat, Integration Weekend (weekend camping!), International Potluck, Farewell activities, all organized by AIMS ExCo! Join them and know more friends around the world! #AIMSLove</p>
<p>9. Healthy & Safety</p>	<p>You are advised to bring medicines that you used to take from Hong Kong. You may also buy some in pharmacy inside SuperStore. Though there are clinics on campus and a hospital nearby, you are not recommended to go for prescription unless you are really sick or get injured. This is because it could be very costly for a time seeing doctor. They charge you in 3 stages, prescription fee, medicine fee and doctor's note fee (if needed). Double check with your health insurance or travel insurance if they cover such expenses.</p>

<p>10. Food</p>	<p>If you have opt-in the meal plan, go Pembina Hall Dining Hall. They cater students 3 meals a day, otherwise you cannot easily kill all FoodBucks! University Centre 1/F has a food court which has Subway, Asian food, pizzas and burgers available. Both Tim Hortons and Starbucks operate 3 stores on campus. Trust me, GO TIM HORTONS!!! It's far cheaper than Starbucks and far better than Starbucks! Try ICED CAPP in Tim Hortons! It is THE BEST!!!</p> <p>Go Pembina Highway for more food. You can find McDonald's and KFC there. Sun Fortune, a great Hong Kong styled Cha Chaan Teng, can also be found on Pembina. It is the best place when you want some Chinese food or Hong Kong tastes. You may go to another side of Pembina for IGI, where you can have Japanese all-you-can-eat, Korean BBQ and hotpot.</p>
<p>11. Transportation</p>	<p>Buses are the most common way to travel around Winnipeg. Pay \$130 CAD extra for a U-Pass at UMSU counter. You need it all the time, even going to grocery stores from halls. It gives you unlimited free rides on Winnipeg Transit buses. Otherwise, each trip costs you \$2.7 CAD! Taxis are also an affordable option, though their metering method is quite different to that in Hong Kong.</p> <p>To travel outside Winnipeg, as it's located at the central of Canada, flying is almost the only option. Air Canada and WestJet are the best and largest two airlines in Canada with numerous of destinations. You may consider to take them for travel. Noted that all domestic routes offer free carry-on luggages only. All checked luggages should be paid in addition.</p>
<p>12. Climate</p>	<p>Winnipeg's climate is totally extreme. It can be as hot as almost 30 degrees in summer while it can hit the lowest at around -40 degrees in winter. It could be no days after mid-November can see temperature above 0 degrees and snowing is anywhere. Make sure you bring enough clothes to keep you warm.</p>
<p>13. Communication</p>	<p>There are many mobile carriers operating in Winnipeg. Rogers has a store on-campus but they only provide 12-or-24-month contract-signing plan. It is recommended to go Fido for a \$48-plan which includes 5GB 4G data. If you travel to US, it only costs you \$5 a day, which is super economical.</p>
<p>14. Other Notes</p>	<p>You may have heard that Winnipeg is one of the Canadian cities with highest crime rate. No worries, actually it is very safe, especially in south district (the campus area). Winnipeg people are super nice. It's great to chat and make friends with them! You will love them and this beautiful great city. You may even don't want to come back Hong Kong! I am the one!</p> <p>Secondly, take this valuable exchange opportunity to travel more. Thanks to UST commencing the semester in February, you can have more than a month to travel before coming back Hong Kong. This may be the last chance for you to travel to many cities at one time and know more the culture of different countries. If your budget is sufficient, go even further. South America or Europe could be your choices of travelling. BTW, remember to get a US Visa before you go Canada, so that you need not to trap in Canada only.</p>

Checklist

1. Adapters
2. Extension unit (at least 4 HK ports)
3. Camera and spare batteries
4. Chargers and USB
5. Medicine
6. A very-warm jacket (could be purchased at Columbia)
7. Hand cream and body lotion (buy them in Winnipeg)
8. Snowshoes
9. Summer & Winter clothes
10. Speaker
11. International Driving License
12. Cash for daily use (\$2500 CAD is enough)
13. Waterproof gloves
14. Clothes hangers
15. Beanie
16. Readiness to Accept New Challenges!