

EXCHANGE REPORT



University
of
Manitoba



I.H. Asper School of Business
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Spring 2017
MAK Wai Kit

Professional Accounting and Operations Management, Year 3



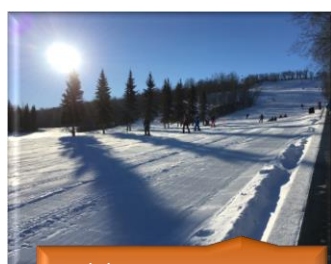
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PART I – MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG



Holiday Mountain Resort
La Rivière, Manitoba



The Pooh Gallery
Winnipeg, Manitoba



Assiniboine Park Zoo
Winnipeg, Manitoba

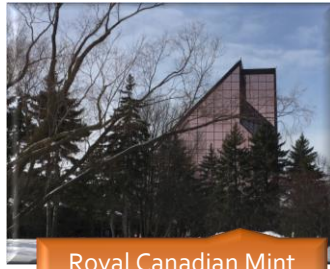


Asessippi Ski Hill
Inglis, Manitoba

I arrived Winnipeg in early January to settle down and experience the coldest weather in my entire life. Before the term has started, I tried snowboarding at Holiday Mountain with my new friends, but I could not handle it well. I also visited Assiniboine Park. Winnie-the-pooh is named Winnie because it is from Winnipeg. Polar bears can be seen in fall term at Churchill of Manitoba, but we can just visit them at the zoo in the spring term. AIMS brought us to Asessippi Ski Hill in Integration Weekend after term started. I know more culture and history of other countries through late night chat with other exchange students. They taught me skiing skills patiently, so I skied well in two days even though this was my first try.



FortWhyte Alive
Winnipeg, Manitoba



Royal Canadian Mint
Winnipeg, Manitoba

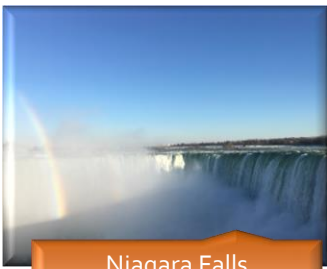


Canadian Museum for Human Rights
Winnipeg, Manitoba

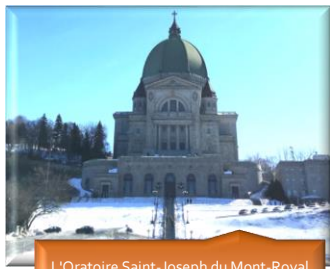


Festival du Voyageur
Winnipeg, Manitoba

In February, I visited different places in Winnipeg on weekends. I skated on the ice Red River which was the longest natural ice range for ice-skating. In spring break, I visited Ontario and Québec. I also joined Festival du Voyageur to know the culture of the aboriginals and made cutting tools. 28th February was the 140th anniversary of UM. I have ice-skated and snowshoed in the carnival and enjoyed free breakfast, lunch, and snacks.



Niagara Falls
Toronto, Ontario



L'Oratoire Saint-Joseph du Mont-Royal
Montréal, Québec

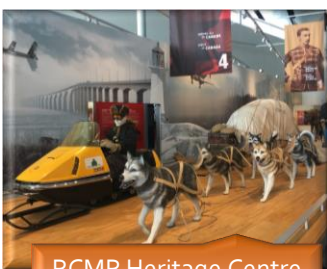


Vieux-Québec
Québec, Québec



Centennial Flame
Ottawa, Ontario

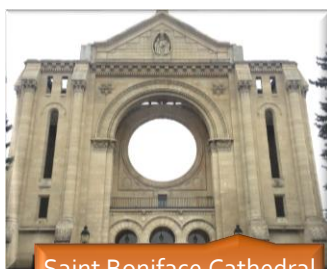
In March, midterms were approaching. I studied hard in weekdays and travelled around Winnipeg and other provinces in weekends. Regina is my first solo trip to relax between midterms. I also visited the North America largest shopping mall in Edmonton with my exchange buddy and played the waterpark inside. After all midterms, I visited Yellowknife to watch aurora. Luckily, I watch the best Aurora of the month in 30th March.



RCMP Heritage Centre
Regina, Saskatchewan



West Edmonton Mall
Edmonton, Alberta



Saint Boniface Cathedral
Winnipeg, Manitoba



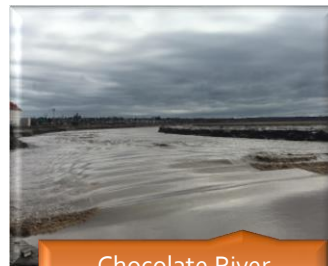
Aurora Village
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories



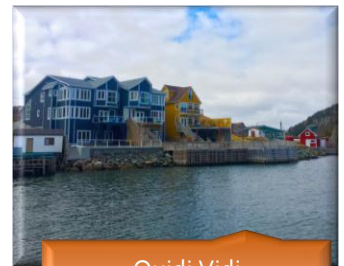
Pier 21
Halifax, Nova Scotia



Trius Transit
Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island



Chocolate River
Moncton, New Brunswick



Quidi Vidi
St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

In April, I visited the Atlantic Canada. Halifax is closely related to Titanic and immigration to Canada. Charlottetown is the born place of Canada. I feel so relax and seafood is excellent there. Moncton has a gorgeous tidal view at Chocolate River. St. John's is a colourful town like Ireland in Newfoundland and different from other places in Canada. Cape Spear is the most eastern spot of North America, which I can see an iceberg. Exams were right after my last class, so it was quite tough to review all materials. I still spent some time with my local friends to walk around this beautiful city in my exam period. I felt uncomfortable in Winnipeg when I just arrived but I miss it very much now. After exams, I left Canada to travel other places in America and will go back HK via Vancouver to end my 10 Canadian provinces trip.

PART II – GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

1) Visa Procedures

If you are holding HKSAR passport, a visa is not required to stay within 180 days in Canada. However, you must apply eTA before you arrive Canada and keep the email for reference.

2) Orientation Activities

In the orientation for international students one day before your first day class, you will receive a lot of irrelevant information, but you can still make some friends. After the term starts, there is another short informative orientation just for business exchange students.

3) International Services & Activities

Business exchange students can find Amber for international services. AIMS hold a lot of activities in the entire term like ski & snowboard tour, potluck, laser tagging etc.

4) Accommodations

I am living in Arthur V. Mauro Residence (AVM). It takes 3 minutes to walk to the back door of Drake Centre, the business school, through Pembina Hall (P Hall). All rooms in AVM are single rooms with queen-size bed, and share a toilet and a kitchen with another room in the suite. AVM is the only hall without a mandatory meal plan, so you can save a lot by cooking and eat various food on Pembina Highway. I have tried the buffet in P Hall and it has fair quality, but the dishes seldom change. AVM has a game room, a table for table tennis, and 2 treadmills on the basement. I enjoyed the movie nights at the game room. Renting a room in off-campus costs C\$500-900/month, in Canadian Airbnb for travelling costs C\$30/night.

5) Courses Registration

You can register your courses in Aurora when you can open an account, or you can ask help from Amber in October. Amber can help you to exclude most of the course prerequisites and enrol you in full classes without quota left in business school. However, sometimes the classes are without hidden quota left and the quotas are usually released during the add-drop period. The classes will be cancelled if numbers of enrolled students are too low. You can find Amber in the add-drop period to finalise your courses.

6) Teaching & Assessment Methods

ACC 2020 (ACCT 3020) Alexandra McMullen	Lectures on concept & examples w/10 online assignments (10%, at least 1% to pass), midterm (35%) and final exam (55%)
ACC 3040 (ACCT 3210) Amit Sethi	CPA lectures on examples w/80% attendance to pass, 18 group homework (5%), 2 group case presentations (15%), midterm (35%) and final exam (45%)
ACC 4010 (ACCT 4510) Jeffrey Gilbert	Lectures on concept by stories, case and videos w/ participation (10%), midterm (40%) and final exam (50%)
GMGT 2010 (LABU 2020) Rakesh Mittoo	Lectures on grammar & skills w/participation (5%), 3 writings (30%), presentation (10%), group report (15%) & final (40%)
PHIL 1290 (CC(H)) Rhonda Martens	Blended-learning w/9 tutorials (18%), 10 online quizzes (10%), 2 tests (40%) and final exam (32%)

7) Sports & Recreation Facilities

There is a huge gym, but it costs exchange students C\$80 per term.

8) Finance & Banking

If you will travel in other countries before arriving Canada, you can open a CIBC bank account in HK to transfer money to Canada. It takes only an hour to open an account in Winnipeg for getting a debit card. CIBC is the only bank which has ATMs on campus, and you do not have to pay the handling fee for getting cash by using CIBC card from CIBC ATM. Winnipeggers just use a debit card for expenses except for ice-cream shops. A Canadian dollar is around HK\$5.7, and sales tax in Manitoba is 13% while other provinces are 5-15%.

9) Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

Beside AIMS, Commerce Students' Association will hold some activities to connect other Asper students. Some associations for students of different countries will hold joint-society activities like singing contests, but UST students' societies organise much more activities.

10) Health & Safety

You cannot apply for a health card, so probably you need to pay for your medical treatment and claim back from insurance company. UM has health and dental clinics located conveniently on campus. A clinic visit costs C\$30 and emergency room costs C\$600. You can request student patrols in Safewalk Program to walk with you on campus.

11) Food

Meal in food court and restaurant cost C\$10 and C\$15 respectively. Though food is expensive than HK, the size is proportional to the price. North America has a tip culture and waiters rely on your tips for living. You should pay at least 10% tips (before tax) if someone serves you in a restaurant in Canada. You should pay 15% tips in a table for 6 or above in Canada and every occasion in the USA. Food in Real Canadian Superstore is fresher than Walmart, while Winnipeg has some Asian supermarket with eastern food. There are canteen, cafeteria, bar, Tim Hortons and Starbucks on campus and be aware that some of the meal prices are included tax while some are not. To be a real Canadian, visit Tim Hortons every day to get a low-price coffee and doughnut. You should try Bison meat and bannock in Manitoba.

12) Transportation

To get around on campus, walking in tunnels is the best way to keep you warm. To get around in Winnipeg, ask for opting-in U-pass scheme at the Answer counter in the 1/F of University Centre. It costs you C\$130/term for the unlimited bus ride. You can download the Transit app to know the coming time of latest buses for most cities. Check out The Red Frogs Wednesday Night Grocery Run for free transport to the superstore. To visit other cities in Canada, check out the airline Newleaf and their flight tickets are usually cheaper than other airlines. Though the airports of destinations are usually less popular, they are near big cities.

13) Climate

We usually check the feel-like temperature which called wind-chill temperature. Wind-chill is from -44°C in January to 24°C in April. Sunny days are often while snow is also a norm. Going out on snowy days with strong wind feels like someone slapping your face hundred times per minute. Outdoor is not too dry, but indoor heaters make you dry and warm. In cold days, you should cover your ears by knit cap and tuck your socks into your long underpants. Uniqlo ultra-heat-tech underwear keeps you warm without a jacket. Thick boots are preferred for walking in thick snow. Timberland boots are sold HK\$500 in US outlets.

14) Communication

I used the C\$48 plan (including tax C\$54) in Fido with country-wide 6GB data, unlimited calling and Spotify, which is good for travelling around Canada. Campus and shopping malls have Wi-Fi so phone plans are optional if you just stay in Winnipeg. There are also data-only plans. Drake Centre has a computer lab and you can activate a free account from staff with C\$50 printing quota. Printing a black-and-white sheet costs C\$0.1.

15) Cautionary Measures

Far away from the campus, there are gangs in northern Winnipeg and do visit there if you want to get the insurance claim. Please reject the beggars to avoid getting into trouble. Keep your eyes on your drinks in off-campus bars and cover them when you move.

PART III – ITEMS TO BRING

Passport	eTA	Laptop	USB
Charger	Earphone	Adapter	Camera
Knit Cap	Sweater	Jacket	Scarf
Suit	Gloves	Heat-tech	Long Socks
Winter Clothes	Water Bottle	Skincare Products	Medicine
Stationery	Watch	Calculator	Slippers

PART IV – USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS

Residence Portal: <https://starrez-app.cc.umanitoba.ca/StarRezPortal>

Aurora (SIS in UM): <https://aurora.umanitoba.ca>

UM Learn (Canvas in UM): <https://universityofmanitoba.desire2learn.com>

Tunnel Map: <https://www.umanitoba.ca/about/map/tunnels/>

24 hours Campus Security: +1 (204) 474-9312

PART V – BEST PRACTICES OF HOST UNIVERSITY

AIMS in UM helps business exchange students a lot to settle down. AIMS has a recycling program for dorm and school supplies. After arrival, exchange students can buy the supplies from previous students at a very low price. Before leaving, exchange students can donate their cleaned and usable items to AIMS for future students.

Residence Portal of UM can help new students to find their roommates according to their living habits. A list of students is put in order of similarity of living habits. Students can make some new friends before they choose their preferred roommate.

If more information is needed, get my contact from SBM Exchange Team by emailing at bmugexch@ust.hk.