

# Exchange Report

## Queen's University, Canada

### 2017 Spring



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## Part 1: Monthly Activity Log

### January:

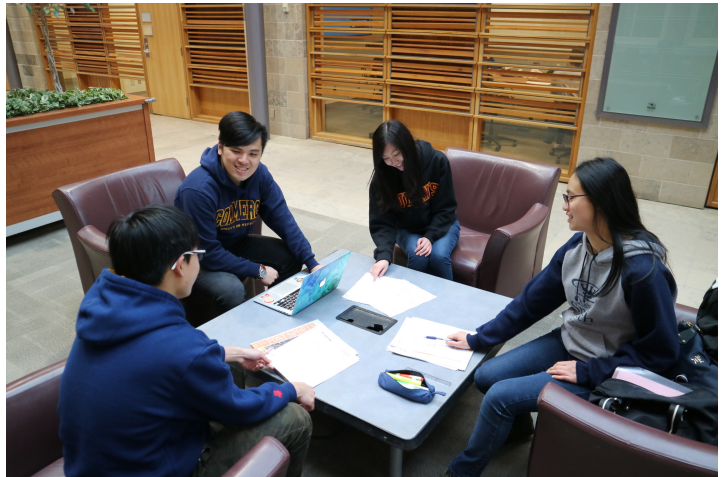
After the amazing New Year Countdown at New York City, me and my friend Jonathan started our exchange semester in early January, landed at Kingston - the place where we were going to stay for almost half a year -- on 3rd January.



We were warmly welcomed by students and staff in Queen's University, followed by a one-week orientation activities, where we deeply devoted ourselves already as members of Queen's. Soon after the start of semester we made a trip to Toronto, the most popular city in Canada, with other exchange students from Hong Kong we met during the week.

## February:

When compared to Queen's, UST was just an icing on the cake in terms of workload. As I will mention in the report below, Queen's adopts a case-based learning method where students (including me and Jonathan) would receive tons of cases per week for self-preparation for discussion in the next class.



Reading thousands of words and having endless midterms have made my February extremely “fruitful”. I made it through and finally could enjoy some freezing weather in Montreal and Quebec during the one-week study break.





## March:

**Weather in March was so unpredictable that the temperature and snowfall record were broken in the same month. But still, they didn't stop us from excursions in the country as we visited Ottawa the Capital and Niagara Falls with other exchange students from UST.**



**After the unforgettable trips we have to get back to reality: Exams. We started to study and revise day-by-day, to an extreme that we stayed the whole day at our apartment just for reading the cases.**

April:

The big boss was there. Work and study were our daily routines during April and the exams were not easy to be made through. At the time we fought with words and figures, we said farewell as well to our exchange friends as most of them would return to their home country right after the exams.



The weather was such comfortable that we fully enjoyed ourselves in the final days at Kingston. We miss the place, the people and our memories here and hopefully at someday we will be here again.

## Part 2: General Exchange Information

### 1) Visa Procedures

No Visa is required for staying not more than 6 months in Canada, but before arrival an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) must be required through online application.

### 2) Orientation Activities

The orientation activities consist of a welcoming day and the registration day. Both events hold around one week before the semester start. Welcoming day is a networking event which held by QUIC (Queen's university international center) and aims to facilitate the integration of exchange student into Queens. And the registration day which every commerce student is getting their student card and there will be a campus tour to help you understand the school facility.

For the welcoming day, all international commerce students will gather and participate in some networking activities. For Queens university, the diversity of nationality is quite large and this is a good opportunities to talk with people from different countries. A brief introduction from the school background and the summary of the upcoming activities will be presented on that day.

### 3) International Services & Activities

Queen's University International Centre (QUIC) is the main connection platform for exchange students, where various functions including orientation week and networking activities.

#### 4) Accommodations

Renting an apartment around the downtown (around queens street or albert street) is actually a preferable choice than the residential hall in campus. If you don't have the access to the apartment around downtown, you can check this out at their FB group.

	Campus	Apartment in downtown
Price	HKD 6000 per month	HKD 3000-4500 per month
Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 20 minutes walking distance to campus</li><li>• 35-40 minutes walking distance to downtown and main supermarket</li><li>• 10-15 minutes bus distance to campus</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 15 minutes walking distance to campus</li><li>• 5-10 minutes walking distance to downtown and main supermarket</li><li>• 5-10 minutes bus distance to campus</li></ul>
International exposure	There will be more international events in campus .	Depends on whether you lived with foreigners or local student.

#### 5) Courses Registration

The courses registration portal is similar with the one in UST. You just need to search for the course name from course database and type into the search engine. Course will be disappeared after the course is full. You need to click show waitlisted course to view all the course available.

Students are required to take at least three course but not more than five course in one semester. You are recommended to take four courses if you take all finance course since the workload is higher than your expectation.

## 6) Teaching & Assessment Methods

Course code	Course title	Assessment method	Comments
COMM322	Financial Management-Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 assignment (30%)</li> <li>• Mid-term (30%)</li> <li>• Final Exam (40%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relatively easy course.</li> <li>• Most topics are quantitative and course materials are PowerPoint.</li> </ul>
COMM323	Corporate Financial Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Case Analysis (45%)</li> <li>• Mid-term (20%)</li> <li>• Final Exam (30%)</li> <li>• Class participation(10%) (Total 105%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extremely heavy workload</li> <li>• Rewarding course and plenty of practical knowledge learnt</li> <li>• Read course material before class</li> </ul>
COMM328	International Finance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case Analysis(10%)</li> <li>• Article Presentation(10%)</li> <li>• Mid-term(25% or 35%)*</li> <li>• Final Exam(40% or 50%)*</li> </ul> <p>*The exam with higher score takes 10% more</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relatively easy and the lightest workload</li> <li>• Mostly quantitative concept in the course material but qualitative question in exam</li> </ul>
COMM329	Management of Financial Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Case Analysis(47%)</li> <li>• Mid-term(20%)</li> <li>• Final Exam(28%)</li> <li>• Class Participation(10%) (Total 105%)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extremely heavy workload</li> <li>• Course material are mainly about Canadian Financial Market</li> <li>• Speak actively in the class since the participation is easy to obtain if you prepared well</li> </ul>



## **7) Sports & Recreational Facilities**

There is a well-equipped gym room with three floor located beside the commerce school and a standard swimming pool. Indoor basketball court and volleyball court are also available with booking. Please remind that you should prepare your personal lock before using the changing room since you need the extra lock to protect your personal things. If you really don't have the lock, you can purchase it in the office which costs you about 100HKD.

## **8) Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)**

Round Trip air ticket: HKD\$8000

Accommodation: CAD \$2000(including utilizes)

UHIP: CAD \$204

Textbook and case package: CAD\$ 100

Food: CAD \$ 2400

Travelling expenses: around CAD\$1600-CAD\$2000

Miscellaneous: CAD\$ 250

The expenses will be highly depend on how often you travel during the exchange and your choice of accommodation. Basically, you need to spend at least HKD 200 per day on meal since the price level in Canada is generally higher than Hong Kong. But you don't need to pay for the transportation within Kingston when you show your student card.

For the Banking, I recommend that you need to create a local bank account on either CIBC or Scotiabank since the main payment method is by paying debit card or credit card. Since you need to pay either 10% or 15% services tips in every restaurant in Canada and US, it would be more convenient for you to pay tips if you have a bank account. Moreover, there are more CIBC ATM in Queens campus than Scotiabank, so it would preferable to use CIBC banking system.

## **9) Health & Safety**

Be aware of the freezing weather during spring and winter as it may easily get you with cold. Kingston is extremely safe and so does Canada, therefore no worries about the safety.

## **10) Food**

There are a great variety of restaurant around the downtown.

Japanese restaurant: Kame (highly recommended), Sima sushi

Chinese restaurant: Silver Wok (highly recommend), Mekong

American restuarant: Cacao 70, Harper burger

Greek restaurant: Grecos (highly recommended)

## **11) Transportation**

The mean of transportation within Kingston is basically bus, which is free if you show the student card. If you want to go campus from downtown, I suggest that you can go the downtown transfer point and it is the stop of every bus routine. It is around 5-10 minutes bus distance from Downtown to campus and there will be a bus every 15 minutes.

If you want to travel beyond Kingston, you can purchase a megabus ticket on [megabus.com](https://www.megabus.com) and ticket will be cheaper if you purchase it earlier. There are two megabus station around Kingston, Kingston and Kingston-Queens, for your first arrival, I suggest that you choose the Kingston-Queens station since you can take the bus or walk back to downtown. But for your further travelling, Kingston is a better station because the price of the ticket will be slightly lower (less than \$50 CAD)

## 12) Climate

The temperature in Canada between January and March is around -5 degree to -20 degree. There will be snowing in the daytime and nighttime. But you don't need to wear too much since there will be heating in every indoor area.

## Part 3 Items to bring

Letter of Acceptance	Laptop
ID, Passport	Charger, adaptors
Stationery	Power bank
Calculators	US, Canadian and HK dollars
Clothing for Winter	Credit cards
Formal wear(presentation)	Hairdryer
Medical Kit	Sport shoes and formal shoes

## Part 4 Useful Links

Megabus: <https://ca.megabus.com>

Greyhound: <https://www.greyhound.ca>