



Exchange Report

University of Manitoba - Fall 2017

TONG Tsz Chun, Gary
BBA in Professional Accounting & Finance

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Part I - Monthly Activity Log

September:

Your AIMS (Association of International Management Students) buddy will pick up you at the airport when you just arrive Winnipeg. You will have lots of orientation activities from the school and AIMS before the start of the semester. The semester starts on the second week of September after a bunch of orientation activities. Remember to pay the student fee and accommodation fee. They are due in different dates, make sure you pay them on time!

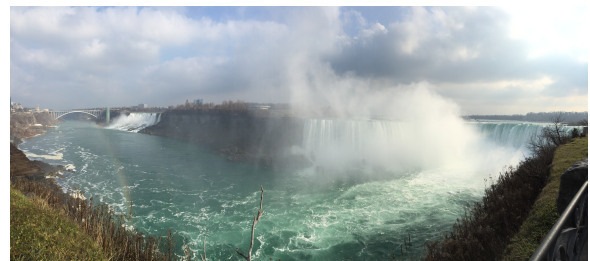
October:

I got two accounting and two finance midterms in October. Midterms mainly tested your understanding on the materials. As there is a study break during October, I make use of this holiday and travel to Yellowstone National Park in United States. It is really nice!



November:

Visiting the Niagara Fall is a must in Canada. I visited Toronto and Niagara Falls in early November after the midterms. It is a good timing as you can take a break and you still have time to prepare the group projects in late November. It is also a time for shopping as there is a special promotion called 'Black Friday'. Many shops were offering discounts down to 70% off for whole store! Don't miss these huge discounts!



December:



December is about final examinations. You can also make use of the time to travel after examination. I have been to Yellowknife to watch aurora and I definitely recommend to all who exchange in Canada! It is the most beautiful scene I have ever seen in my life!

Part II - General Exchange Information

<p>Visa Procedures</p>	<p>For all HK passport holders, you are allowed to stay in Canada for 6 months without visa. Therefore, you do not need to apply for student visa before departure. 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>To double confirm, please check the information with Canadian Embassy to see if you need the above permit(s).</p>
<p>Orientation Activities</p>	<p>UofM held an huge orientation event at the early of September. Make sure you arrive Winnipeg by that day and attend the event. The activity was composed of talks and lectures. It lasted for a day, but some of the contents were unrelated to exchange students.</p>
<p>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. Each suite has 2 rooms sharing a kitchen and a toilet with an affordable price. I would recommend Arthur V. Mauro (AVM) Student Residence for you if you like to have a more fruitful experience.</p>
<p>Course Registration</p>	<p>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.</p>
<p>Teaching & Assessment Method</p>	<p>If you have any questions regarding the course contents and others, just feel free to send emails to the professors. Assessments in UofM are similar to those in HKUST, there are group projects, midterms and final exams.</p>
<p>Sports & Recreation Facilities</p>	<p>UofM has a building a gymnasium. It has a 200-meter indoor running track, hundreds pieces of equipment available for members to do exercises there. Go there and pay for \$81 CAD, then you may enjoy all the above privileges throughout the whole semester.</p> <p>You can also go to watch some inter-university ice-hockey matches. It is a good leisure activity to spare time.</p>
<p>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 and put all your CAD cash inside. They will be able to issue a debit card for you immediately.</p>

	<p>However, I haven't open an bank account and use my credit cards as my major payment method. You can apply AMEX cathay pacific credit and you can enjoy the Premium Plaza Lounge in Winnipeg airport during your travel!</p>
Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities	<p>All exchange students automatically become a member of (AIMS) Association of International Management Students. It holds lots of activities in one semester. Welcoming BBQ, Integration Weekend (weekend camping!), Farewell activities, all organized by AIMS Executive Committee Members!</p>
Healthy & Safety	<p>You are advised to bring medicines that you used to take from Hong Kong. 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 !</p>
Food	<p>If you have opt-in the meal plan, go Pembina Hall Dining Hall. 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 and better! Try ICED CAPP & FRENCH VANILLA!</p>
Transportation	<p>Go Pembina Highway or St.Vital Shopping Centre for more food. It takes only around 15 minutes to get there by bus.</p> <p>Buses are the most common way to travel around Winnipeg. Pay \$132.5 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.</p>
Climate	<p>To travel outside Winnipeg, flying is almost the only option. Air Canada and WestJet are the two major 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.</p> <p>Winnipeg can be as hot as almost 30 degrees in summer while it can hit the lowest at around -30 degrees in winter. Make sure you bring enough clothes to keep you warm.</p>
Communication	<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 6GB 4G data. If you travel to US, it only costs you \$6 a day, which is super economical.</p>
Other Notes	<p>You may take this valuable 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. Remember to get a US Visa before you go Canada, so that you can also travel United States!</p>

Part III - Items to Bring

1. Adapters (at least 2)
2. Extension unit (at least 3-4 HK ports)
3. Camera and spare batteries (especially if you want to take photos of aurora)
4. Chargers and USB
5. Portable chargers
6. Medicine
7. International Driving License
8. Passport and Important documents
9. Jacket
10. Snowshoes
11. Summer & Winter clothes
12. Formal dressing (for presentation or other formal activities)
13. Cash for daily use (\$2000 CAD is enough)
14. Waterproof gloves
15. Beanie
16. Heattech
17. Readiness to Accept New Challenges in Canada!

Part IV - Useful Links and Contacts

1. Campus General Information
<http://umsu.ca>
2. Univeristy of Manitoba - The Association of International Management Students
<https://www.aimsmanitoba.com>
3. Transportation Information
Please download an application called '**Transit**' on your mobile phone