



Queen's University
Smith's School of Business
Fall 2107 Exchange Report

LEUNG, Tsz Nga Esther
(ACCT & MGMT Year 3)

Part 1 – Monthly Log

September 2017

It was all about adapting to a new environment and meeting new friends! I joined the NETWS orientation during the first week, I wouldn't say it's totally worth it, but it definitely helps you get out of your comfort zone. At least, I managed to make a few friends from this event! At the end of the month, I travelled to Toronto to meet my friend and went to Niagara Falls, it's epic, a must go for sure, and fyi, one day is definitely not enough, wish I had stayed longer!



October 2017



I travelled again to Toronto during the first weekend, this time, with the friends I met at the orientation! Then the second week was all about HOMeCOMing, it's a big tradition at Queen's, all the alumni came back to Queen's and celebrate, and there's this reunion St. Festival that you definitely wouldn't want to miss! What's more, midterm of course, anyways, I think they were manageable, so, no worries! Work (not so) Hard, Play Hard!!!

November 2017

November was all about fighting deadlines and doing presentations. Still I managed to travel to Montreal and Quebec in the first week and I enjoyed it a lot!

There's this farewell event organized by the Center of International Management (CIM), they have free food and drinks and give out an exchange certificate to all exchange students. This is definitely the last chance to meet your friends met in this exchange journey.



December 2017



December comprises the best and worst part of exchange. Finals in the first half of the month and travelling in the second half. Other than that, it's about saying goodbye. During the revision period, I still managed to meet some of my friends and bid farewell. After the finals, I travelled to New York City and spent Christmas there! After that, after a 15 hour long flight, I arrived HK and ended my 4 months exchange journey.

Part II – General Exchange information

1. Visa Procedures

If you are a Hong Kong Permanent resident, you'll have to get an eTA online, it takes less than 20 minutes to fill out, just a few clicks, you are done. Some of us may apply visa to the US, which include an online application to fill in and an interview at the Consulate General of the United States. The whole process approximately takes 3 to 4 weeks.

2. Orientation Activities

As I mentioned above, there's this NEWTS Orientation which offers to exchange and transfer students. It's a bit expensive I'd say and they don't even cover your meal expenses, except that semi-formal dinner. But of course, you get to meet new people, so still not bad to try that out.

3. International Services and Activities

The QUIC offers many activities for international students and most of them are free! Definitely worth checking it out and join their activities. They arrange bus trips to Ottawa, Toronto and Montreal which may save you time and money on transportation.

4. Accommodation

Definitely check out Facebook Groups, just type in Queen's housing, I'm sure you will get a few hits. Make sure to look them up at least 1 month before your start of exchange, rooms/houses got rented quickly. Queen's also have students' residence, but I'd say the chances of getting one is really really low, so don't depend on them. Don't hesitate to reach out to landlords or property agents and ask as many questions as you have in mind, you wouldn't want to get a faulty house like mine.

5. Course Registration

The system SOLUS is similar to that of HKUST's, just that some courses do not have a waitlist and you'll have to monitor it time to time if you really want to get into that course. Finance courses are demanding at Queen's, and most of them need supporting letter from UST to get you enroll in them. Might be a bit more troublesome, but our exchange advisors are there to help!

6. Teaching & Assessment Method

COMM 311 (Financial Accounting)	ACCT 3010	Serena Wu	I feel that some of the course materials are taught already at HKUST. Of course, I also learnt more and it was manageable. 2 quizzes, myAccountinglab homework, 1 group project and 1 final. Group project is the most demanding I guess but don't really weigh lot.
COMM 317 (Auditing)	ACCT 4510	Erin Webster	The professor is really really nice, and of course, she teaches well. There's group hand in case study every lesson that we get to apply what we learnt in that lesson, some are cool some are not, but application of knowledge is all we need. 1 midterm and 1 open book, open computer final, and the rest goes to the group case study and participation. Don't really deal much with Accountings, so you don't have to worry even if you have only taken ACCT 2010 at UST.
COMM 358 (Strategic Human Resources Management)	MGMT 3110	Christine Coulter	Occasional group work in class for discussions. There's 3 individual assignments, 1 group project and 1 final. I would say you'll have to work really hard on the assignments if you want to get high marks.
COMM 385 (Negotiation Theory & Behaviour)	MGMT 3140	Susan E. Brodt	I like this course! We get to negotiate in pairs once every week. We mostly learnt through the readings and through negotiations. 8-9 negotiations in

			total, 1 midterm and 1 final essay. Workload is fair, just have to get prepared before each negotiation.
FREN 106 (Communication et culture I)	LANG 1310	Catherine Dhavernas	This is an online course, and strictly requires self discipline to keep up the progress. Easy to handle if you had French courses at UST till level 3. Still, worth to take! They speak French in Montreal and Quebec, so you may actually apply what you learn in real life situation. Online activities to be completed according to the schedule, 5 online tutorial sessions, 1 group project, 1 online midterm and 1 online final exam.

ps. there are quite a few readings for each course to be read before each class, may be hard sometimes to read through all the stuff, but definitely ease you when attending classes.

7. Sports & Recreation Facilities

The ARC is the place you go for sports! All free of charges, just swipe your student card and they are all open for you! They have changing rooms and bathrooms on site. Unfortunately for badminton or squash rackets, it's 3 CAD each time you rent, quite expensive, but at least, you don't have to pay for booking a court, so there's a trade off here...

8. Cost/Expenses

	HKD
Transport	360
Flight ticket	8,500
UHIP	1,224
Orientation	690
Academics	1,800
Grocery	3,300
Food	3,730

Miscellaneous	3,400
Telephone	920
Rent	21,420
Internet	360
Travel	19,500
Total	~70,000

9. Health & Safety

They have this UHIP insurance plan you have to pay for before your exchange which covers outpatient services like UST. There's also this Walkhome Service which is organized by the students at Queen's. Just a call or a text to them, they will have 2 students walk you home, free of charge, just call them whenever you don't feel like walking back home alone. They also have a number of 'Blue Lights' they call, which are similar to street lights but with blue lights on top, scattered around Queen's, whenever you feel unsafe, just press on those and the security guards will come check around.

10. Food

Eating out is (very) expensive here in Canada, you not only have to pay for tax but tips. Tax at 13% and tips at 10-20%, depending on the services. So, people mostly cook for themselves. There's this METRO supermarket which is 15 minutes away from Queen's main campus, they have 10% student discount every Tuesdays and Thursdays upon presenting your student card. There's also a few Asian groceries stores downtown, you might want to check them out when you miss Hong Kong food. There's also this Food Basics which locates in downtown that also offers 10% student discount every Tuesdays, fruits are cheaper in Food Basics than Metro I'd say, but the location is really not very convenient, unless you live in downtown.

11. Transportation

Good news is, free bus rides within Kingston as long as you show your student card! This really saves a lot since normally it's 3CAD per ride... If you are travelling around Canada, say to Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, etc., you may like to check out MegaBus or Greyhound, and ViaRail. Megabus does offer cheap tickets when you book a month in advance and Greyhound has student tickets. ViaRail is not recommended

since I find it quite expensive, but I heard that the seats are quite comfy, so still you can check that out if you have extra money to spend.

12. Communication

Mobile plans here are expensive. But still, I think you should still get one, you will need data for Googlemap when you travel around. I had Telus which costs 40CAD + tax per month for 500 minutes and 2GB data. Freedom Mobile on the other hand, offers 6GB data at the same cost, but I heard it only covers Kingston and Toronto and not Montreal nor Quebec, so this may not be a wise choice.

Part III – Items to bring

1. Passport, identification cards
2. Letter of acceptance
3. Laptop, notebooks, stationery, calculator
4. Credit Card
5. Adaptors
6. Business suites
7. Personal clothing
8. Bed and pillow sheet

Part 4 – Useful Links

1. Queen's housing listing
<https://listingservice.housing.queensu.ca/index.php/rental/rentalsearch/action/search/>
2. Queen's University International Centre (QUIC)
<http://quic.queensu.ca/>