
QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

EXCHANGE REPORT



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Accounting and Management (Year 3)
Spring 2018 Exchange

Monthly Activity Log

January

We arrived at Toronto on 27th December to enjoy the New Year's Eve and countdown at the Nathan Philips Square. All the all-nighters gathered at there for the fiesta. It is the best place to go if you are going to spend your New Year's Eve in Toronto.

January was the coldest month of the year. The temperature will stay around at -15 to -25 degree Celsius. The coldest day even went down to -30 degree. You are advised to take a waterproof coat with you since Canada snows a lot.

A mandatory orientation day organized by the Smith's School of Business will take place at Dunning Hall few days before the start of semester. The orientation day provides almost everything you need to know. Information like course registration procedure, campus life, facilities and connection will be well-informed. Queen's University International Center (QUIC) is the department that provides help to exchange students. They organize many activities throughout the semester, so you should keep an eye on their Facebook page.

We went to Toronto to travel a bit more with my friends on the last weekend of January. January was a honeymoon time. I recommend that you should take time to travel as workload are not that much in the first month of study.

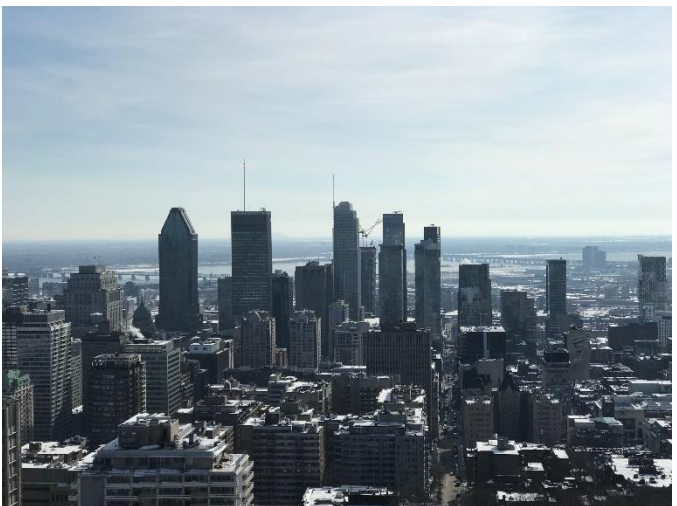


February

During Chinese New Year, the Queen's Chinese Students' Association arranged "Chinese New Year Formal", a banquet almost all Chinese students gather and celebrate for our tradition. It was a great event for exchange students since we had been in Kingston for a month and we experienced some homesick at that time.

On the next day after the banquet, there was a curling tryout organized by the business school. We had so much fun in curling. Since it was merely possible to play curling in Hong Kong, it was interesting to sweep the floor and slide rocks like the Olympic games do. Moreover, you can team up with other international students and make friends with them.

The best thing happening in February was the reading week. It was a week-long holiday after mid-term week. We traveled to Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec during the week..



March

On 25th March, QUIC had a field trip to maple syrup farm. Maple syrup has always been the number one gift for tourists. We studied how maple syrup is collected and processed. We were offered some pancakes in the trip. The pancakes were delicious. This trip was definitely worth to go.

St. Patrick's Day, taking place on 17th March, is a big day in Queen's students because it is the tradition for all Queen's students to have parties on Aberdeen street. Everyone wore green clothes and eat pancakes on that day.



April

April is the last month of Spring semester. Just as UST, final exams were held in this month. Library were full of students and it was hard to find a seat. Therefore, I spent most of my time in my residence to study and finish assignments. Two of my exams were cancelled and rearranged as there were heavy snowing. I was frightened as I booked my flight on the day after my final exams that should have finished. Lucky, the reschedule exams did not conflict with my flight.



General Exchange Information

1. Visa Procedures

It is not necessary for you to apply a student visa to exchange to Canada. As Hong Kong is a visa-exempt country in Canada, you will only have to apply an online eTA if you have a valid Hong Kong passport and stay in Canada for less than 6 months. An eTA application costs for \$7 CAD and is paid online by credit card. A student visa is needed if you are going to work in Canada or stay for longer than 6-month period. For students who are going to the US, an US visa is needed. You are advised to apply an US visa at least one month before your departure because the procedure will take a long time

2. Orientation Activities

As mentioned above, a mandatory orientation day will hold before the semester starts. On that day, you will receive your Queen's student ID. Remember to bring your personal identification to verify your identity. The orientation day is a golden opportunity for you to meet other international students.

3. International Services & Activities

The Queen's University International Centre (QUIC) often provides a variety of activities to international students. If you are going to ski, you can borrow ski boots from QUIC with your student id card. The staff are friendly, and they will like to answer all your inquiry.

4. Accommodation

You have two options of housing. You can either choose to live on campus or off campus. Queen's University provides a building, Jean Royce Hall, for international students. It takes about 20 minutes to walk to school or a 5 minutes bus ride. The residential hall, in my opinion, is quite expensive. If you are looking for a more economical choice, you can rent a house outside. Facebook page, "Queen's University - Off-Campus Housing", is a platform for students to connect with house owners.

5. Courses Registration

The courses registration system is similar to UST's system. It is called SOLUS. You will be familiar with the registration procedure. Registration begins in December. You can contact the exchange coordinator if you have any problems with course registration. You can enroll maximum 15 credits.

6. Teaching & Assessment Methods

Course	Equivalent Course	Comments
COMM 313	ACCT 3020	<p>This course has 5 group assignments, 1 individual case, 2 tests and a final exam.</p> <p>The teaching method and exam format are similar to UST. The assignments are done in group. Your group members will be assigned to you. Thus, you will have to work with local students.</p>
COMM 317	ACCT 4510	<p>This course has weekly in-class group assignments, 2 tests and a final exam.</p> <p>The workload is relatively low as all assignments are completed in-class. The professor is very supportive. She will answer all your questions.</p>
COMM 401	MGMT 4210	<p>This course has weekly assignments, group projects and presentations. Other than you and your group will have to complete an online company simulation website, Capsim. A final exam is also needed.</p> <p>It is a complicated course. Especially the Capsim simulation. You have to set up strategy and implement it in 8 rounds of competitions. You will have to present your strategies at the end of the semester.</p>
COMM 414	OTHRFREE Free Credits	<p>This course has 4 case reports and 2 of that are group reports. Apart from that you will have to finish weekly readings and discuss them in-class.</p> <p>You are expected to have certain preparation before coming to class. The professor will pick students to answer questions.</p>
PHIL 296	SOSC 1000 HMCC 1000-level	<p>In addition to a mid-term test and a final exam, this course has 2 writings and a final essay to do.</p> <p>This course is relatively easy as it is like a common core in Queen's University.</p>

7. Sports & Recreation Facilities

You can do sports in the Athletics and Recreation Centre (ARC). There is a large gym area with many different types of facilities. There are also basketball court and swimming pool in the building. You can find lockers in the changing room. However, you will have to bring your own lock. If you are going to buy one at there, it will cost for \$30 CAD.

8. Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)

Items	*CAD\$	HKD\$
Round trip tickets		8100
Residence fee	2700	16470
UHIP	204	1244
Textbook	50	305
Travel		30000
Food and miscellaneous		20000
Total		76119

*Exchange rate \$1 HKD ~ \$6.1 CAD

9. Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

As mentioned above, QUIC holds numbers of activities for international students throughout the semester. Do not miss those events if you wish to meet some international friends. Many societies and clubs in Queen's have their own Facebook page. You can send a message and ask for joining them if you are interested in them.

10. Health & Safety

A mandatory insurance plan offered by Queen's University, UHIP, cover your medication expense during your exchange study in Queen's. Remark that all accidents happened in your own travel or after the exchange study period, are not covered. The insurance plan costs CAD \$204.

11. Food

You can buy the school meal plan if you live in school's residence. With the meal plan, you can buy food in restaurants in Queen's University by using your student card. If you live off-campus, you can buy food from Metro or Food Basic and cook for yourself. It would cost much less than purchasing a meal plan. A wide variety of restaurants can be found on Princess Street. A main course usually cost for \$10 to \$15 CAD.

12. Transportation

Bus is the major transportation in Kingston. You can almost get to everywhere by bus. You can check the bus route and arriving time on Google Map. By showing your student id card, you can get on buses for free. For travelling to other cities like Toronto or Ottawa, you can take shuttle bus. There is a Tri-color outlet in Queen's University. They offer shuttle bus with discount price. It would be your choice if you have a tight travel budget.

13. Climate

The weather is unstable in January and February. The temperature was around -15C to -25C all the time. There was often heavy snowing. It would be best to not go out at night because of the extreme cold. If you have to go outside, you should check the weather before you go. Houses in Canada usually have furnace. Therefore, you do not have to dress a lot when you are indoor.

14. Communication

Phone plans in Canada are expensive. Plans with 2GB data often cost for \$80 CAD each month. all these companies are expensive in my opinion. A friend of mine bought 4 sim cards, that have 5GB network data in Hong Kong. It was cheaper that purchasing a phone plan. If you are staying in hall or school, Wi-Fi service will be provided.

Items to Bring

- Letter of acceptance
- Offer letter
- Passport (Original and copy)
- HKID (Original and copy)
- Credit cards
- Cash
- Business suit
- Winter clothes (waterproof coat, beanie, scarf, gloves and etc.)
- Summer clothes (for US)
- Sport shoes
- Vacuum bags
- Laundry bags
- Hair dryer
- Laptop
- Financial calculator
- Camera
- Adaptors
- Chargers
- Power bank
- USB
- Lock (for lockers in Gym)
- Medicine
- Bandages

Useful Links and Contacts

Queen's housing listing

<https://listingservice.housing.queensu.ca/index.php/rental/rentalsearch/action/search/>

Queen's University International Centre (QUIC)

<http://quic.queensu.ca/>

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