

EXCHANGE REPORT

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY



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Accounting and Operation Management
Spring 2018

Part 1 – Monthly Activity Log

January 2018

I arrived at Toronto Pearson Airport on 3rd January. The temperature was -26 degree Celsius on the day of arrival. It will be best for you to take your coats with you since you will need them soon as you get off the plane.

Before the start of semester, there were some orientation events held by the Smith's School of Business. Those orientation events introduced Queen's student life and Canadian's culture. You will have all the useful information you needed to start your exchange study at Queen's. It was also a golden opportunity for you to meet up with other exchange students. Making friends with international students will definitely help your exchange study as you might study the same course and it will be easier to form a project group with international students.

January was not so busy, so I spent a weekend in Toronto with my friends. We visited most of the popular places, such as the CN Tower, Ripley's Aquarium and St. Lawrence Market. It was a relaxing trip before getting into the mid-term month.



February 2018

On 11th February, the business school arranged a curling event for student to try curling. You might think curling is just about sweeping the floor or sliding rocks to the other side because I did think so before I had this wonderful curling experience. Curling is actually a team sport and you can have so much fun playing with friends. To win a game, players need to set up strategies and communicate with teammates. Players have to put their rocks into the scoring center as close as they can, meanwhile, knocking out and blocking opposite rocks to get into the scoring center. It was also a golden chance to team up with other international students and build up friendship through games.

February was full with mid-term exams. I spent most of my time studying for tests. Lucky, there was a reading week after all my mid-term exams were done. The reading week was a perfect time for exchange students to travel somewhere else. I went to Ottawa and Montreal.



March 2018

The business school arranged a field trip to maple syrup farm. Maple syrup are signature products in Canada. In this trip, students learnt how maple syrup are collected and processed. Apart from that, you can enjoy some great pancakes, if not the best in Kingston, with local-made maple syrup in the farm.



St. Patrick's Day happens on every 17th March. It was a big day for Canada. On that day, every Queen's students dressed up with green clothes and celebrated on Aberdeen street. You could never imagine how many people were crowd on the street. It is Canadian tradition to have pancake party on the morning.

April 2018

April was the final exams month. There was not to do but to study and work off my assignments. The exam period held in mid-April and last for two weeks. Kingston can still be snowing even was April. I had two exams being rearranged due to bad weather. Students should aware and try not to book their flights the day after their final exams finished. Since the rearranged exams might be later than their date of departure.



Part 2 – General Exchange Information

1. Visa Procedures

Hong Kong is a visa-exempt country in Canada. If you have a valid passport from Hong Kong and stay in Canada for less than 6 months, it is not necessary to apply for a visa. Instead, you need to apply online for an eTA. Each application costs \$7 CAD. If you want to work in Canada, you have to apply for a student visa. If you are planning to go to the US, an US visa is needed. The process of US visa application will take a long time. It is better to apply as least one month before your departure.

2. Orientation Activities

There will be a mandatory orientation day before the semester starts. You will collect your Queen's student ID. Personal identification is needed to verify your identity. There are welcoming talk, academic talk and campus tour. Apart from that, there is a counter for setting up Canadian bank account.

3. International Services & Activities

The ice-curling activity, trip to maple syrup farm and a farewell party for exchange students were held by The Centre of International Management. The Queen's University International Centre (QUIC) also offers a variety of activities for International students, such as international food exchange, English conversation group, movie sessions and trips.

4. Accommodations

For housing, you can either choose on campus or off campus. Queen's university provides residential hall to international students, but it is quite expensive. If you are looking for a more economical choice, you can rent a house with locals or other exchange students.

5. Courses Registration

Queen's courses registration system is called "SOLUS" which is similar to UST's SIS system. Course registration procedure is almost the same as how you do it in UST. Course registration will take place in December. Students can enroll up to 12-15 credits in one semester. If you are going to take COMM 401, you will have to find the UST Business School to write a letter for you certifying that COMM 414 is your major required course.

6. Teaching & Assessment Methods

Course	Equivalent Course in HKUST	Assessment Method and Comments
COMM 313 Financial Accounting II	ACCT 3020 Financial Accounting II	<p>Bio-rational and syllabus quiz (5%) 5 Group assignments (30%) 2 Mid-term tests (25%) Final Individual Case (10%) Final Exam (30%)</p> <p>The course teaching style and exam format are similar to those in UST. The assignments are done in group. Professor is nice. It is a easy course.</p>
COMM 317 Auditing	ACCT 4510 Auditing	<p>Participation and weekly in-class group assignments (25%) 2 Mid-term tests (30%) Final Exam (45%)</p> <p>The workload is relatively low as all assignments are completed in-class. The professor is very supportive.</p>
COMM 401 Business & Corporate Strategy	MGMT 4210 Corporate Strategy	<p>Class sessions: Individual assignments (15%) 2 Team assignments (20%) Role playing in case workshop (15%) Reflection diary (5%) Capsim competition: 2 Team strategy formulation documents (10%) Team presentation (10%) Company performance (5%) Final Examination (20%) It is a complicated course. Students have to form groups and compete with others on a online company simulation website. The grade is depend on their company performance and how you present your strategies.</p>
COMM 414 Management Control	OTHRFREE Free Credits	<p>2 Individual cases (40%) 2 Group cases (40%) Participation (20%)</p> <p>The workload is the highest among all courses. There are weekly readings to do and the professor expects students to prepare before going to class.</p>

GPHY 101 Human Geography	SOSC 1000 SACC 1000-level	Proposal of project (10%) Route map of project (10%) Essay letter of project (25%) Learning Labs (30%) Final Exam (25%) The way of teaching is innovative. There are field trips and on-site learning. It is an easy course.
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7. Sports & Recreation Facilities

The Athletics and Recreation Centre (ARC) has a large variety of sport facilities. There are basketball court, swimming pool, weight training zone and aerobic zone. There are also changing room and lockers. You will have to bring your own lock. Throughout the semester, Queen's provide different sport class like UST does. You can register those classes at the entrance of the gym.

8. Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)

Items	CAD\$	HKD\$
Flight ticket		12707
Accommodations	2700	16470
UHIP (insurance)	204	1244
Textbook	50	305
Travel		15000
Food and miscellaneous		12000
Total		57726

9. Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

As mentioned above, QUIC is a department serving international students. It organizes a lot of activities throughout the semester. You can follow their facebook page to keep an eye on their coming events. I think English conversation group is one of the best weekly activities you can go to since you can play games or chat with locals and other international students every week.

10. Health & Safety

You are required to purchase an insurance plan offered by Queen's, named UHIP. It costs CAD \$204. It will only cover your study in Kingston. It does not cover your trip outside Kingston and expire after your study period is completed.

11. Food

Queen's offer a meal plan. If you purchase a meal plan, you can have your meal at Queen's specified restaurants by using your student card. If you want to eat outside, Princess Street will be your choice. A lots of restaurants are located on that street. A lunch normally costs for CAD \$10-15 and a dinner costs for CAD \$20-25. I recommend to cook for yourself since it is much economical and you can have more budget for travel.

12. Transportation

In Kingston, you can take bus to almost everywhere. By presenting your student id card, you can take buses for free. If you are travelling to cities outside Kingston, such as Toronto or Montreal. You can either take train (VIA) or shuttle bus (Megabus or Greyhound). Taking train will have a shorter travelling time but a higher price. For shuttle bus ticket, you can get it from Tri-color outlet where it is located John Deutsch University Centre, Queen's University.

13. Climate

Kingston is cold from January to March. It is around -20 to 0 degree Celsius. Sometimes, it will even get down to -30 degree. You are advised to check the weather before you go outside as the weather can very unstable. You should wear waterproof coat and pant as they have strong heat-trapping function. Snow and ice on the road can be dangerous, you should also wear waterproof shoes.

14. Communication

There are 3 major telecommunicate companies in Canada. The phone plans with mobile network for all these companies are expensive in my opinion. I suggest that you can buy 4 30-days mobile sim card before you go on exchange because phone cards are cheaper and have more data. Queen's and many restaurants provide Wi-Fi service.

Part 3 – Items to Bring

- Acceptance letter and offer letter
- Passport and HKID
- Cash
- Credit cards
- Adaptors and chargers
- Umbrella
- Waterproof coats and boots
- Scarf and gloves
- Long-sleeves (for Canada)
- Short-sleeves (for indoors)
- Business Suit
- Sportswear and shoes
- Vacuum bags (if needed)
- Laptop
- USB
- Calculator & financial calculator
- Stationery and notebook
- Pillow/bed sheet/blanket (if needed)
- Hair dryer
- Hand cream and body lotion
- Personal hygiene products
- Medicine
- Camera

Part 4 – 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/>

Megabus

<https://ca.megabus.com>

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