

University of Manitoba

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BBA in Information System & Operation Management

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Monthly Activity Log

January	<p>I arrived at Winnipeg in 1st of January and my exchange buddy picked me up from the airport. I moved into the residence during the early move in period, so I had to dine out that night as the canteen wasn't open at that time. Remember to join the orientation day organized by the university which you have the chance to meet new friends and receive important information regarding the university. Do check your email from time to time because amber will organize meeting to inform exchange students about the course registration procedure. Once more, do join the orientation day held by AIMS, you will meet other exchange students all around the world. Moreover, pay attention to the deadline of all the outstanding fee like residence fee, student fee, otherwise extra charge might incurred. I joined the integration week organized by AIMS. We stayed in the Asessippi Ski Area & Resort for two days and it was really fun. You will get along with other exchange students and got to acquire skiing skills within 2 days. You will never forget the moment you first ski all the way down from the mountain.</p>
Feb	<p>February was an exciting month. During the reading week, students usually go travelling in Canada, including Banff national park, Yellowknife and Vancouver. Some of my friends went to Yellowknife and enjoy the aroura at the midnight. As for me, I went to Vancouver to visit my friends and relatives. If</p>

	<p>budget is not your concern, I suggest watching aroura in Yellowknife. As Yellowknife is few hours flight from Manitoba, so it's worth going.</p>
March	<p>I have 4 mid terms in March. Together with the assignment, I think the workload is acceptable if you plan your revision schedule beforehand. The mid terms were not difficult as long as you study beforehand and seldom skip classes. Also,</p>
April	<p>I have 4 examination in April. Unlike HKUST, university of Manitoba doesn't have study break so exam is held right after teaching period. Therefore, you should make sure you have prepared well before the final exam. The papers were not difficult as long as you have gone through the study material.</p>

General exchange information

- 1.** Visa Procedure
For HK passport holders, visa is not required if you stay in Canada for less than 6 months. You have to apply for eTA which only requires you to fill in the form online. For other international passport, student visa is required.
- 2.** Orientation activities
There are two mandatory orientations for business students. Do not miss any one of them because you are going to meet other exchange students there and introduction of school facilities is included.
- 3.** International service & Activities
International Centre for Students (ICS) of UM and (AIMS) association of International Management Students held different kinds of activities. I only join those activities held by AIMS which were quite exciting.
- 4.** Accommodation
There are four residence halls which are Arthur V. Mauro (AVM), Mary Speechly Hall (MSH), Pembina Hall Residence, and University College Residence (UCR). For AVM, meal plan is not mandatory. I recommend AVM because it is comfortable and close to Drake Centre (building which you attend most of the business courses). Most of the time you dine out with other exchange friends and you will get plenty of time to master your cooking skills. Also, even though the food choice changes from time to time, you might get bored with the food offered in meal plan.
- 5.** Course Registration
The exchange coordinator would take care of the course registration. Pay attention to the add-drop period deadline and drop the undesired course before the deadline or record might have shown on the transcript.
- 6.** Teaching & Assessment Methods
The teaching method in UM is quite different from that in HKUST. It might take some time for you to adapt to the new teaching style there. But the professors are all responsible and passionate so feel free to ask them questions if you encounter any problem.
- 7.** Cost/ expense
I spent the most on food. I usually go to Costco and Walmart to buy food and grocery items. With the same amount spent on meal plan, you can get a variety of food in the supermarket.
- 8.** Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities
As mentioned before, join those activities held by AIMS, especially skiing. Also, you might join the activities held by the Asian society.
- 9.** Health & Safety
As we stay in Canada for less than 6 months, we could not apply for the health card. So, you should bring your medicine and buy medical insurance.
- 10.** Food
There are pizza, Subway and many other restaurants. If you want to make Asian food, go to a superstore which offers a lot more Asian food items. There are some Chinese supermarkets near the campus.
- 11.** Transportation

Most of the time you will travel by bus. Therefore, you should buy a u-pass in the University Centre Answer Counter which allow you to travel by bus without limit through the whole semester and it cost CAD130.

12. Climate

It is freezing cold for those who comes to Winnipeg for the first time. I suggest you buy a thick jacket in Winnipeg which are water proof and wind proof. Also, it is better to dress in onion layers. Gloves and hat are must bring items that could keep you warm. You will regret not wearing gloves on your way back from the supermarket, carrying lots of items with your freezing hands.

13. Communication

The data plan in Canada is expensive.I recommend Fido 7GB plan which costs CAD 48 per month. You can buy it in St Viral Centre which takes you a 10 minutes bus ride from AVM.

14. Cautionary measures

Snowshoes is necessary in Winnipeg. It is important to get a pair of water-proof snowshoes that could keep you warm. I spent around HKD 400 to buy a pair of snowshoes in Decathlon

15. Open a CIBC(a Canadian bank) bank account in Hong Kong and get the debit card in Winnipeg. If you open a CIBC bank account , the procedure might be slightly complex. Almost every retail accept debit card.

-Download a app call transit which allows you to find the best way to reach desired destination in Winnipeg.

- It takes 2 bus ride from the airport to UM.

Items to bring

- 1.** Clothes
- 2.** Laptop
- 3.** Adaptors (Make sure you got the North American one)
- 4.** Phone (Iphone might auto off under cold weather but not a big concern)
- 5.** Gloves(must)
- 6.** Boots
- 7.** Medicines
- 8.** Skincare items(super dry with the heater)
- 9.** Clothes Hangers









