
EXCHANGE REPORT

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

SMITH SCHOOL OF BUSINESS



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ACCT & OM (Year 3)

FALL 2018

PART 1 - MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG

August

I arrived at Toronto on 25th August and spent time with my aunt and friends who live here. Then, I took Viarail to Kingston and moved in to my residence. Kingston is a small town. My housemates and I visited the downtown and the campus before school started.



September

On 4th Sep, I attended the mandatory orientation where we could know more about Queen's. We also did a campus and city hunt with other exchange students. Class started on 6th Sep with 2-week add drop period. School was not too busy in September. The 2 other UST students and I explored different malls and restaurants in Kingston after class or during weekends.

We also went to Toronto downtown for sightseeing. The attractions included Toronto Island, Old City Hall and the University of Toronto. My favourite spot was the Ripley's Aquarium. We even had hotpot in Chinatown! The city looks more vibrant than Kingston. It was a good idea to have some fun there.



October

Workload started to be more heavy and the professors apparently taught faster compared to the add-drop period. I had 4 midterm exams and also some other assignment deadlines. In my opinion, as long as you attended classes and understood the concepts, it would be fine for you to enjoy your weekend somewhere else.

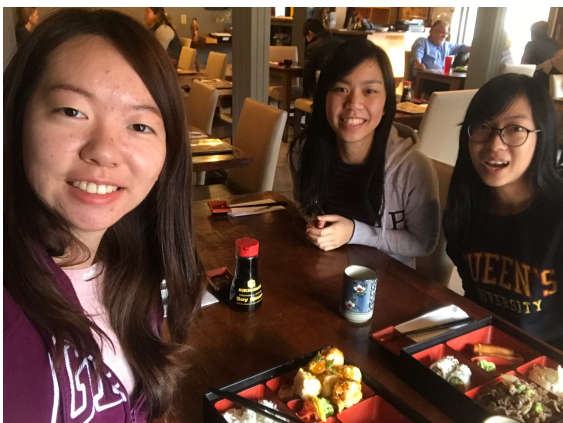
Thanksgiving is also an important festival to the Canadian, and I went to my aunt's place for celebration. I had a special local experience to attend an outdoor wedding ceremony. The rundown was almost or less the same to those in HK. I would say the one here was more fancy. I also visited the Niagara Falls. It was not my first time to be here but it was still my favourite place!

You may also start purchasing the winter clothes if you had not brought any. Weather started to be cooler in mid/ late October.



November

It was another hectic month when I still have 2 midterm exams and other project/ homework deadlines, so I stayed in Kingston during weekends. My friends and I went to the Santa Claus Parade in the downtown and watched an Ice Hockey Game. The game was so exciting! We also tried new restaurants and went for Black Friday shopping!



December

I had a week time before my exams started, so I went to my aunt's place for a short vacation, taking some rest and having authentic Asian food. I finished my exams on 16DEC and moved out from my residence at Kingston. And My journey began! I visited Yellowknife, Vancouver, Banff and the US (west coast) etc. I went to these places mainly for the natural scenery and landscape. They were all more than breath taking and epic!!



Lake Louise



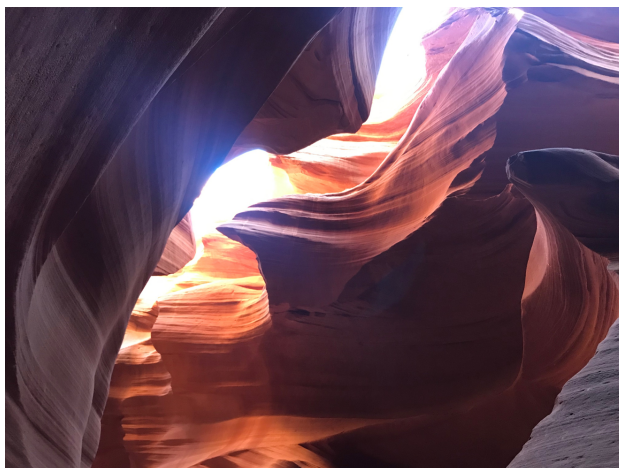
Johnston Canyon



Yellowstone



Grand Canyon



Antelope Canyon

PART 2 - GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

1) Visa Procedures

If you do not hold Canadian passport, you are required to apply for an eTA (electronic travelling authorization) at <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/eta-start.asp> to enter Canada. It costs \$7 CAD and valid for 5 years. The application process is fast and applicants can obtain approval in several days.

Student visa is not required if you do not stay over 6 months, so I did not apply one.

2) Orientation Activities

There was a mandatory orientation for commerce exchange students organized by the Smith School of Business on 4th Sep. We attended talks, had lunch together and did a city hunt.

3) International Services & Activities

Queen's University International Centre (QUIC) offers a list of free/ priced activities, such as day tours, pumpkin picking/ corn maze etc. You would get to know more about Canada and meet other international students.

4) Accommodations

I joined a housing group ran by Queen's student on Facebook – 'Queen's University – Off-Campus Housing' and posted a request looking for a 4-month residence. It was really hard to find a short-term lease as landlords usually preferred a long lease. An exchange student from China saw my post and contacted me. She later invited me to a housing group on Wechat and met the landlord who was willing to do a 4-month lease. The house was located near Kingston Centre (a mall with grocery stores, restaurant, bank etc) and it was 15-20mins bus away from Smith school.

Here are the possible ways I knew to look for housing:

- QU residence
 - o <https://residences.housing.queensu.ca/coming-to-residence/how-to-apply/applications-by-student-type/exchange-students/>
- QUIC housing listing
 - o <https://quic.queensu.ca/resources/housing-support/long-term-options/international-housing-office-listings/>
- Facebook group - Queen's University – Off-Campus Housing
- Kijiji
 - o <https://www.kijiji.ca>
- Airbnb

It is always good to look for residence as early as you can!

5) Courses Registration

The registration system is called 'SOLUS' with features and functions that are very similar to UST SIS system. Queen's do not have waiting list. If you wish to enrol in that course which was 'full', you may first approach the professor for approval and then your exchange advisor(s) for enrolment as they are the SOLUS administrator.

Exchange students are required to take at least 3 but no more than 5 courses per semester.

6) Teaching & Assessment Methods

Course	Equivalent Course	Assessment	Teaching/ comments
COMM311 Financial Accounting I ~Wei He	ACCT3010	Homework 10% Quizzes 40% Group teaching 10% Final exam 40%	Work load is fair. Content is easy to understand.
COMM313 Financial Accounting II ~ George Boland	ACCT3020	Bio-rationale 5% Homework 15% Mid-term test 25% Case assignments 20% Final Exam 35%	A much advanced course compared to COMM311. There were too many topics covered and the teaching pace was too fast for me.
COMM317 Auditing ~ Erin Webster	ACCT4510	Participation & in-class assignments 25% Mid-term exam 30% Final exam 45% (open book)	Work load is low. Erin is a nice prof and she encouraged discussion during class.
COMM401 Business and Corporate Strategy ~ Goce Andrevski	MGMT4210	Capstone simulation 30% New Market Presentation 10% In-class Presentation 10% Class Participation 10% Final exam 40% (open book)	Workload is relatively much higher than other courses but most of them are groupwork. Every class, Goce explained the concepts and let your group apply them on an assigned case for submission.
COMM350 The Future: Forecasting and the Business Environment ~ Peter Sephton	ISOM4540	Test 1 35% Test 2 25% Assignments 10% Research paper 30%	A lot of concepts and tests covered in class. Good to attend tutorial to make them clear. Workload is fair.

7) Sports & Recreation Facilities

Queen's students can use the sports facilities at Athletics & Recreation Centre (ARC) for free. They have gym, swimming pool, basketball court, badminton court etc.

8) Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)

Round trip ticket	HKD12000
UHIP	CAD208
Residence (all included)	CAD2400
Food and miscellaneous	CAD3000
Travel	CAD9400

9) Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

There are a multitude of social clubs and societies at Queen's. You may search online and most of them have a Facebook page. Some of the clubs would hold booths in the open area at Smith School.

10) Health & Safety

You are required to purchase a health insurance (CAD208).

I had a night class every Wednesday till 9:30pm but I felt safe walking from campus to the bus stop. There are also blue lights emergency phones on campus where you could seek help by pressing the button. They also provide walk home service.

11) Food

There are several supermarkets in Kingston and I usually went to Loblaws which is close to my residence and Metro which is near campus at downtown. The former offered Queen's student 10% off student discount every Tue while latter every Tue/ Thu.

There are some fast food choices on campus, e.g. Tim Hortons, Teriyaki, Pita Pit etc.

There are also some authentic restaurants in downtown in case you miss Asian food: Japanese, Korean and Chinese.

12) Transportation

Queen's students are eligible to ride on all buses by Kingston Transit for free by showing Queen's student card.

If you would like to go out of town (e.g. Toronto, Montreal, Quebec etc), there are several ways:

- Megabus
- Viarail (more expensive)
- RIDESHARE Queen's University (a Facebook group where you can offer/ ask for a ride)

13) Climate

Since I reached Canada in late August, the weather is still hot at around 25 degrees, you may want to bring T-shirts and shorts. In late Sep/ Oct, it was breezier and rainier, it would be great if you have a waterproof jacket. Students here seldom bring umbrella. In mid/ late Nov, I had my first snow and the temperature could get to -5 degree Celsius, so get your winter jacket ready by then. In Dec, Kingston would be snowier and colder.

14) Communication

All classes were conducted in English. My classmates usually used Facebook to communicate and for group projects.

PART 3 - ITEMS TO BRING

Letter of acceptance

ID, passport

Cash (CAD, HKD)

Credit cards (Union pay is accepted at some ATMs)

Medicine

Stationery

Laptop

Chargers, adaptors, power bank

Calculator (scientific &/or financial)

Clothes

- For Summer (Aug and early Sep)
- For Fall and winter (e.g. water proof jackets, snow boots, heat tack)
- Formal wear (for presentation)

If you wish to know more about my exchange journey or have further questions, feel free to get my contact by sending an email to bmugexch@ust.hk.