

# Exchange Report

Queens' University, Canada



Smith School of Business

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Professional Accounting and Operation Management

Year 3

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# Part I

## Monthly Activity Log

*September 2018*

Getting new starts at a totally new environment with full of excitement, I joined the orientation day organised by the school during my first week of arrival. This activity allowed us to get familiar with the campus through the campus tour as well as got to know all of the exchange students and staffs of school in the networking session.



During this month, I usually made use of the time during weekends and traveled to Toronto. In order to pursue convenience, I have purchased the VIA Rail unlimited student pass which could allow me to travel to Toronto and other cities in Windsor with certain block-out dates. I highly recommend this pass if you want to travel to Toronto frequently and comfortably.



## *October 2018*

At the beginning of October, I have joined Bus Trip to Ottawa as well as Local Corn Maze Bus Trip organised by Queen's University International Centre (QUIC). There are two important festivals celebrated in this month, including Homecoming and Halloween. Unfortunately, I did not have the chance to experience the scene of bustle and excitement during the weekend of Homecoming as I traveled to Montreal and Quebec at that time. I strongly recommend these two places as the scenery there was magnificent. Moreover, I also visited a few famous tourist attractions in Toronto, including CN Tower, Toronto Zoo, Royal Ontario Museum, Ripley's Aquarium of Canada and Casa Loma. It is more affordable to buy the Toronto CityPASS if you would like to travel all these spots. Another highlight in this month was a two-day trip to Niagara Falls. There were no words that I could describe how spectacular it was. Finally, I also took the Thousand Islands Cruise in Kingston during the reading week. Again, the scenery was stunningly beautiful.



## *November 2018*

November was probably a hard time for all the students in Queens due to tones of assignments and projects. The stress and tension were much of a muchness when comparing that to HKUST. However, I still spent the time to explore the culture in Canada. For instance, I watched hockey match at the end of this month. If you enjoy excitement and violence, you must be going to devoted to this sport. All the courses ended at the end of this month.



*December 2018*



Before attending any exams and doing the revision, I traveled to Yellowknife in order to see the Aurora. We spent four days there and fortunately we could see it on the last day of the trip. This experience really made an indelible impression on my life and I would say it was definitely worth it. After finished all the exams, I started my journey to the United States.

# Part 2

## General Exchange Information

### 1) Visa Procedures

It is not required to apply for a visa for studying less than 6 months in Canada if you are a Hong Kong Permanent resident with a valid passport. However, you must apply for an eTA (electronic traveling authorisation) to enter Canada. It costs \$7 CAD to get an eTA and only takes a few minutes to apply online. Approved eTAs are valid for up to five years. You can also apply for the US visa if you would like to travel to the United States during the exchange.

### 2) Orientation Activities

There is an Orientation on the first week of September organised by Smith School of Business to help students learn about the university and Kingston. It is mandatory to attend the orientation and you can take this opportunity to know the local students as well as other exchange students there.

### 3) International Services & Activities

The Queen's University International Centre (QUIC) offers support for international students and organises several bus trips during the semester with affordable price. The bus trips include traveling to Ottawa, Montreal as well as Niagara Falls. You can also join the corn maze and buy pumpkins there.

### 4) Accommodations

The hall spaces are extremely limited in Queens. Most of the exchange students failed to apply for the hall successfully and forced to find accommodations by themselves. It is particularly difficult renting housing by only 4 months as most of the leaser will only consider to rent for half or one year. As I did not have other better options, I chose to rent Airbnb for 4 months instead. The price was relatively the same when comparing with other off-campus accommodations, which was much cheaper than living in the campus.

### 5) Courses Registration

The course registration system (SOLUS) is mostly the same as the SIS system using by HKUST. All exchange students are required to take at least three courses and no more than 5 courses in total. Bear in mind that at least you should register two business courses. Besides, there are many prerequisites for certain business courses, you are required to submit the online application in August or even gain the supporting letter from HKUST for approval and also processing purpose.

## 6) Teaching & Assessment Methods

Course Code	Equivalent Course	Professor	Comment
COMM311	ACCT 3010	Wei He	The course content is quite simple and fair workload. It includes 2 midterms, 12 online assignments, group teaching and 1 final.
COMM313	ACCT 3020	George Boland	The workload is fair with 1 midterm, 3 problem set assignments, 2 case studies and 1 final exam.
COMM350	ISOM4540	P. Sephton	Highly recommend this course as it's workload is extremely small with only two MC tests each with 10 questions only and one group research project.
COMM401	MGMT4210	Gary J. Bissonette	This course mainly involves the use of Capsim Business Strategy Simulation. It may not be suitable for exchange students as you may need to attend lots of group meetings throughout the semester and approval from Smith to register the course.
PHIL301	HUMA 1000 LEVEL	Kerah Gordon-Solmon	There are three papers in total and you can have one week buffer time after the deadline to finish each of the papers.

## 7) Sports & Recreation Facilities

You can go to the Athletics & Recreation Centre (ARC) for sports, which is totally free of charge and simply access by your student ID card. It is a four-story building with gym facilities, basketball courts and an indoor swimming room.

## 8) Banking

I suggest you can open a bank account for a debit card as it's more convenient when paying and can avoid carrying around a lot of loose change. It can also allow you to do online shopping as well.

## 9) Finance

Round Trip Flight Tickets	HKD 11,286
VIA Train Pass	HKD 3,128
House Rental Fee (utilities included)	HKD 18,000
UHIP	HKD 1,250
Course Materials + Casepack	HKD 1,350
Total Living Expenses	CAD 4,500
Telephone	CAD 200
Travel	HKD 20000

## 10) Health & Safety

It is to necessary pay for UHIP (University Health Insurance Plan) insurance plan which costs CAD 204. It provides primary medical coverage for most doctor and hospital services in Ontario and you are required to pay before your exchange. In order to protect your safety at night, Queens also provides walk-home service which is totally free of charge.

## 11) Food

There are several supermarkets in Kingston. Metro is the nearest supermarket from campus which only needs around 10 minutes walk. You are able to get 10% discount on every Tuesday and Thursday by presenting your student card. There are few Asian groceries stores and Chinese restaurants downtown as well if you miss Chinese food you might want to check them out.

## 12) Transportation

It is free of charge to take any bus in Kingston as long as showing your student card. To get to or leave Kingston, you may check out MegaBus and Greyhound which offer cheaper tickets if you book a month in advance or purchase for student tickets. You can also take ViaRail if you have enough budgets.



### 13) Climate

During summer time in early September, it was quite warm at the beginning and you could simply wear T-shirts as the average temperature is around 20 °C. However, when it came to a few weeks later, the temperature began to drop down to around 10 °C, it is therefore not necessary to bring too many summer clothes for exchange in Fall Semester. Snow came in late October when temperature further dropped down to below 0 °C. It is actually quite cold in November and December, make sure you bring the essential clothing for heavy winter.

### 14) Communication

All of the courses in Queens are conducted in English and it is easy to understand Canadian English. Most of the local students in Queens use Facebook to communicate. Although there is wifi everywhere in the school area, I still choose to pay for the phone data plan as it is more convenient when traveling.

# Part 3

## Items to Bring

1. Letter of acceptance & Offer Letter
2. Passport
3. HKID
4. Cash (Canadian dollars)
5. Credit Cards
6. Slipper
7. Stationery
8. Medicine
9. Notebook Computer
10. Calculator & Financial Calculator (if necessary)
11. Adaptors & Extension plug
12. Chargers
13. Business Suit and Formal Wear
14. Sport Shoes
15. Summer and Winter Clothes
16. Camera
17. Medicine
18. Scarf and Gloves
19. Power Bank

# Part 4

## Useful Links and Contacts

1. eTA (Electronic Travel Authorisation) Application Link

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/eta/apply.html>

2. Megabus

<http://ca.megabus.com//default.aspx>

3. Greyhound

<https://www.greyhound.ca/>

4. VIA Rail

<https://www.viarail.ca/en>

5. Queens' University

<https://www.queensu.ca/>

6. Kingston Transit

<https://www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/transit/>

7. Queen's University International Centre (QUIC)

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

8. Queen's University - Off-Campus Housing Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1618611005028802/>

9. Queen's Ride Share Facebook Group

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/QueensRideShare/>

If more information is needed, get my contact from SBM Exchange Team by emailing at [bmugexch@ust.hk](mailto:bmugexch@ust.hk).