

- EXCHANGE STUDY REPORT -



Smith School of Business

Queen's University 

Wu Hiu Kwan Gigi

Year 3 (ACCT & MGMT)

Spring 2019

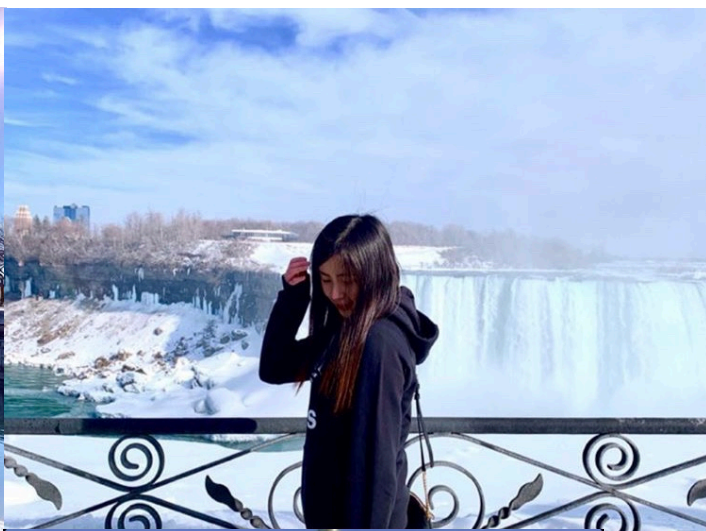
January

My friends and I arrived Toronto in late December. We had our new year celebration together and visited some of the well-known tourist attractions, such as the CN Tower and Casa Loma. We then took Viarail to Kingston as Queen's organized a mandatory orientation activity on 4th January. I got to know other international exchange students through the icebreaking session. As Kingston is a little town, there was not much for us to explore. My friend and I then decided to have some weekend getaways, which were the most memorable and exciting parts of my exchange journey. Our first stop was Belleville and we also had a 2-day trip to Ottawa in late January. The scenery was breathtaking yet the weather was unbelievably cold.



February

February was definitely a hectic month filled with mid-terms, mini-presentations, and myriads of case preparations. The intense studying atmosphere in Queen's was somehow similar to that of UST's. However, my friend and I still managed to spare our time and visit some famous places in Kingston. After a half month of hard work, it finally came to the mid-term break. We spent our whole week in New York, went to different must-go places, and tried some popular restaurants. We spent a few more days in Toronto and visited the Niagara Falls.



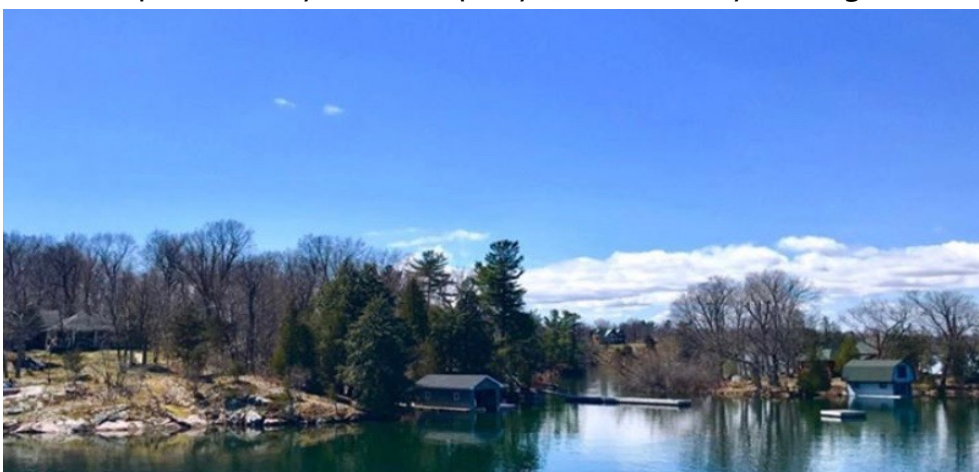
March

Comprising with paper deadlines and team presentations, we only headed to 2 french-speaking provinces in March, which were Montreal and Quebec City. We got an invaluable chance to immerse ourselves in an inter-cultural environment. We went to some renowned places like Mount Royal and Montmorency Falls for sightseeing.



April

It finally came to the end of the semester. I grabbed the chance to explore a few more cities in the States before the final examination. Buffalo and Chicago were the best recommendations for having short trips. Before I left Kingston, I joined a local tour to explore the widely-known Thousand Islands. It was undoubtedly a once-in-a-lifetime experience and a perfect way to sum up my 4-month stay in Kingston.



May

After finishing my two final examinations, my friends and I embarked on our 1-month travel to Banff, Vancouver, and the West Coast of the United States. We had a precious chance to explore different cities and enjoy the stunning natural environment.



General Exchange Information

1) Visa Procedures

For Hong Kong Permanent Resident staying in Canada for less than 6 months, no student visa is required. You only have to apply for the Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) at

<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/eta/apply-zh.html> It costs CAD\$7 and you can pay it by your credit card. The application process is

simple and takes only 15 minutes. Applicants usually receive the approval within 3 working days. If you would want to travel to the State during the exchange period, you have to apply for the US Type B1/B2 Tourist Visa. It takes almost a month for the whole application, interview, and approval process. Here is a guide regarding the application of the US visa

<https://www.skyscanner.com.hk/news/tips/guide-to-apply-for-the-us-visa-201707>

2) Orientation Activities

There is both a mandatory Exchange Orientation and a Smith Orientation on 4th January. The orientation composes of a welcoming talk, academic talk, and a networking session with other international exchange students. You have to bring along your letter of acceptance and your passport to pick up your student ID. The school also invited us to a local hockey game after the end of the orientation session.

3) International Services & Activities

The Queen's University International Centre (QUIC) offers diversified events throughout the semester. For my winter term, it organized several one-day tours to Toronto, Montreal, and Ottawa. It is a golden opportunity for you to step out of your comfort zone and make friends with both local and international students.

4) Accommodations

All exchange students can choose to live on campus or off campus. My friends and I chose to live in the Jean Royce Hall, which is located in the West Campus. It takes a 5-minute bus ride or a 15-minute walk to the Goodes Hall. The living condition is comfortable and spacious. Each floor has its own culture and other international exchange students love to stay in the common room gathering all night long. It is surely a good chance for you to expand your social network and make friends with foreign students. However, it is difficult to get the offer and is a more expensive option comparing to living off campus. It costs CAD\$4077.5 including the cost for the room, ResNet, and the Student Council Fee. The worst part of it must be the wifi connection. Most of the students have to buy an additional wifi router to connect to the internet.

Other exchange students may opt for renting a shared house outside the campus. You could get more leasing information through a Facebook Group called Queen's University – Off-Campus Housing.

5) Course Registration

The Student Center of Queen's University is called SOLUS while the canvas is called the Smith Learning. The procedures of registering for courses are almost the same as the course registration system of UST. Yet, the waitlist only has 5 seats and courses will be closed once the waitlist is full. You have to monitor the situation from time to time to enroll in your ideal courses. If you encounter any problems in the course enrolment process, you can contact the exchange coordinators from the Centre for International Management through email.

6) Teaching & Assessment Methods

Course	Equivalent Course	Assessment
COMM313 – Financial Accounting II	ACCT3020 – Financial Accounting II	Bio Rational (5%) Problem Set Assignments (15%) Case Assignments (20%) In-class Mid-Term Test (25%) Final Exam (35%)
COMM317 - Auditing	ACCT4510 - Auditing	In-class Group Cases (30%) Mid-Term Exam (30%) Final Exam (30%) Professionalism (10%)
COMM351 - Leadership	MGMT 3120 – Managerial Leadership	Professionalism (10%) Written Assignment 1 (20%) Written Assignment 2 (20%) Written Assignment 3 (15%) Team Project (35%)
COMM374 – International Business Strategy	MGMT4230 – International Management	Individual Case Prep (10%) Group Case Discussion (10%) Knowledge Extension Presentation (5%) Test 1 (15%) Test 2 – online & in-class (20%) Market Analysis Individual Report (20%) Team Presentation (15%) Contribution to Learning Environment (5%)
COMM401 – Business & Corporate Strategy	MGMT4210 – Corporate Strategy	Class Preparation Assignments (15%) Case Assignment (20%) Role Playing in Case Workshops (15%) Reflections Diary (5%) Capsim (30%) Mid-Term Examination (15%)

7) Sports & Recreation Facilities

Students can enjoy the sports facilities at Athletics & Recreation Centre (ARC), which is located next to the Stauffer Library, for free. There is also a gym room on the G/F of Jean Royce Hall.

8) Finance & Banking

As paying by debit card is the most common payment method in Canada, most of the exchange students would open a bank account in CIBC or TD Bank. My friend and I opened a CIBC bank account upon arrival, and it was completely free of charge.

Flight Fare (Cathay Pacific)	HKD 8,958
Residence Fee – Jean Royce Hall	CAD 4077,5 (~HKD 25,000)
Queen's International Health Care	CAD 208 (HKD~1250)
Travel (Canada & the US)	HKD 30,000
Food and Miscellaneous	HKD 15,000

9) Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

Not only does Queen's University have multiple student societies, but it also has a committee called the Exchange and Transfer Committee (ETC). It holds different activities like the Buddy Programme, One-Day Trips, and Karaoke Night mainly targeting on exchange students. It allows us to adapt to life at Queen's and gain a more comprehensive understanding of the Canadian culture.

10) Health & Safety

The University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP) is a compulsory health insurance for all students at Queen's (CAD\$208). However, exchange advisors from UST recommend us to buy an additional travel insurance as the UHIP doesn't cover any sicknesses or accidents happened outside Kingston.

11) Food

Students can choose to buy the school meal plan, cook or dine out themselves. I personally don't advise purchasing the plan as it is impossible for students, who go only on a one-term exchange, to spend all the credits. We usually went to Metro in downtown to buy the ingredients needed. It offers a 10% discount every Tuesday and Thursday. As being a 'Foodie', I tried almost all of the restaurants in Kingston this tiny town. Wooden Heads Gourmet Pizza, Silver Wok, and PodoNamu are some of the noteworthy restaurants that you can give a try.

12) Communication

Both local and international exchange students utilize Messenger as a major communication channel. We opened Facebook groups for project discussions instead of using Whatsapp.

13) Transportation

Bus and Uber are two of the paramount transportation methods in Kingston. There is no subway in this little town. Students from Queen's are eligible to have free bus rides by presenting your student card. You can check the bus schedule and the arrival time through Google Map. If you would like to travel to other nearby cities, such as Toronto, Montreal, and Ottawa, etc, you can take Megabus (cheapest), Greyhound, or ViaRail (most expensive). There is a discount sale every Tuesday if you choose to buy train tickets in advance.

14) Climate

It is freezing cold during winter and the 'feels like' temperature was -30 degree Celsius in February. Classes were cancelled because of the snowstorm and the freezing rain. I still had to figure out ways to survive the cold in April while my friends were celebrating the coming of spring in Europe. For your information, you should never buy boots from UGG solely because of its appearance. The floor is super slippery and I had to buy another pair of boots from SOREL at last.

Items to Bring

HKID (Original & Copy)	Passport (Original & Copy)	Credit Cards / Debit Cards
Letter of Acceptance	Offer Letter	Cash (HKD & CAD)
Laptop	Chargers (Phone & Laptop)	Adaptors
Power Bank	Business Suits	Clothes (eg Down Jacket)
Medicine	Stationery	Calculator
USB	Slippers	Wifi Router (Optional)
Bed & Pillow Sheet	Hair Dryer	Scarf & Gloves

Useful Links

1. MyQueen'sU (= Student Center)

<https://my.queensu.ca>

2. Smith Learning Portal (= Canvas)

<https://smithlearning.ca/d2l/home/>

3. Queen's University – Off-Campus Facebook Group

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

4. Queen's University International Centre (QUIC)

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