

# Queen's University, Canada Smith School of Business

FALL 2019

## EXCHANGE REPORT



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Finance & Management, Year 3

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# PART 1 - MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG

## AUGUST 2019

I travelled with another friend from HKUST in Toronto for 5 days before I transferred to Kingston. Toronto is a good place to spend your holidays and there are many amazing tourist spots. On 31st August, we commuted to Kingston by VIA rail. It took around 2 hours and 15 minutes. It was a good way to start my exchange journey.



## SEPTEMBER 2019

On the next day we arrived Kingston, we joined an orientation day arranged by the Smith School of Business, and I met exchange students from different countries. In the orientation day, we were arranged into groups and took part in city hunt challenge in the campus and downtown. The workload of courses in early and mid-September was not that heavy, so I got time to explore the downtown of Kingston and spent time with other exchange students from Hong Kong. We celebrated the Mid Autumn Festival, and held several gatherings. I also took part in the day tours organised by QUIC (Queen's University International Centre) and visited Ottawa and the Niagara Falls in two of the weekends. The QUIC arranged shuttle buses for us and we were allowed to explore the spots ourselves.



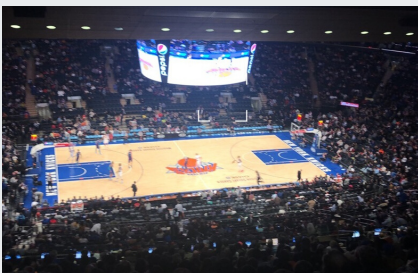
## OCTOBER 2019

October was still not a very busy month. My major workloads were two mid-terms in mid-October and a few assignments. I had to also take part in project meetings for my management course (Leadership & Negotiation). Group projects were with tight schedules, but they were fun. Local students are very passionate towards projects and they invest a lot of time in it! Therefore, I spent time to travel to three places in October, Toronto, Quebec and Montreal. These are all 3-to-4-day shorts trips and it is a fun and good way to spend my weekends, as there are not much to explore in Kingston.



## NOVEMBER 2019

November was a hectic month in terms of academic workload. I had to hand in many assignments and there were several project presentations, but I enjoy working with other local and exchange students. I had to study on most of the weekends. Fortunately, I spent 6 days to travel to New York in mid-November, and it was an unforgettable journey. It is worthwhile and convenient to visit New York as it is only an hour flight from Toronto. I watched my first Broadway musical and NBA there.






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## DECEMBER 2019

The first week of December was the study period for final examinations, and exams took place at mid-December. Luckily, only two of my courses had final exam so the study period was not that packed for me. After the examination, I visited Cuba with my friend, and spent my Christmas in Vancouver.





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# PART 2 - GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

## Visa Procedures

The process is simple. Exchange students with Hong Kong passport, and plan to stay in Canada for less than 6 months, can apply for eTa online. The cost is CAD 7 and you will receive a confirmation email after applying. During the immigration procedures in the broader of Canada, you just need to prepare your admission letter from Queen's and show your passport.

## Orientation Activities

There are mainly two types of orientation activities. One of them is organised by the NEWTS (New, Exchange, Worldly, Transfer Students). The programme is basically an orientation week that lasts for a few days. I did not join it because it was quite expensive. The other one is a compulsory orientation day arranged by the Smith School of Business and ECA, a student organisation that mainly serves exchange students. It is usually held in Early September.

## International Services & Activities

There are no pick-up services and cultural activities. You can seek help from the international office in Smith School of Business regarding any course registration and academic issues.



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## Accommodations

Some of my exchange friends are living on campus, which is the Jean Royce Hall. Other than dorms, there are many other choices for accommodations in Kingston. There are Co-op houses and off-campus housing facebook page. My friends and I rented a house with 3 rooms for 4 months, and it cost us around \$12,000 per person (in total), which is a bit cheaper than other housing offered by the school or co-op organisation.

## Course Registration

It is similar as the course registration of HKUST. You just need to check the enrolment dates and do the enrolment on time. Pay attention that some of the courses require prerequisite and further approval (you need to fill in a form online), so you have to check in prior before the registration date and apply for approval as soon as possible.

## Teaching and Assessment Method

COURSE	TEACHING & ASSESSMENT
COMM 303 (MGMT 2130) <b>BUSINESS AND ETHICS</b>	The workload is normal, which includes in-class participation, 2 individual assignment and a group project. The course might be a bit boring but it is useful after all.
COMM 311 (ACCT 3010) <b>FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING I</b>	The content is not that difficult and the professor explained concepts clearly. The assessment includes mid-term, group homeworks and final-exam.
COMM 313 (ACCT 3020) <b>FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING II</b>	The content is difficult to understand and I spent quite a lot of time to study the content. The assessment includes mid-term, group in-class assignment, online assignment and final exam.
COMM 351 (MGMT 3120) <b>LEADERSHIP IN THE 21ST CENTURY</b>	The professor is very friendly and supportive. I enjoyed his class very much. The assessment includes a group project, three individual assignment and in-class participation
COMM 385 (MGMT 3140) <b>NEGOTIATION</b>	The content is very interesting to me and we have to conduct negotiation with a random partner once a week. The assessment includes reflection of negotiations and a group project

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## **Sports and Recreation Facilities**

You can do exercise in the Athletics and Recreation Centre (ARC). There is a gym, all kinds of courts for ball games and swimming pool. For the courts, you can book it for free online.

## **Finance and Banking**

You can apply for CIBC student accounts so you can use debit card for all payment in Canada. I did not apply for one and I mostly use cash. You can also deposit Canadian dollar from ATM with Union Pay (with a transaction fee of around \$20hkd). I spent around hkd80,000 in total.

## **Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities**

There are quite some activities organised by QUIC and ECA, in which you can join to get to know other students, e.g. BBQ, pumpkin picking, etc.

## **Health and Safety**

You have to pay for the UHIP before 30th September (University Health and Insurance Plan). Kingston is a safe town, and people are friendly. The Queen's also provides walk-home services for students who have to leave the campus at late night.

## **Food**

Food in Kingston is varied and includes many Asian Food. The cost for dining outside is quite expensive, which costs around 15cad per meal as the tax and service charge is heavy. I recommend students cooking their own meal by buying groceries in Metro (student discounts from Tue-Thu!) or other supermarkets,

## **Transportation**

With a Queen's ID card, you will be able to take the buses in Kingston for free. You can check the time of bus arrivals on google map. If you plan to travel to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and Quebec, you can consider VIA rail (faster) and Megabus (cheaper).



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## Climate

August to September: The weather is similar to autumn in Hong Kong. It is often hot and sunny (~25°C) in day time but it drops quickly at night (~15°C). Better prepare T-shirts for September and bring along jackets when you go out.

October: The weather started to turn cold. It can range from 5°C to 13°C. You will need think jackets to protect yourself from strong winds and cold weather.

November-December: The weather is even more cold when it comes to the end of the year. Snowfalls occur occasionally. and temperature will drop from a few celsius degree in November to around -5°C in December. I bought thick gloves and jackets in Columbia to face the cold weather.

## Communication

I suggest you bring along 4-5 monthly data card to Canada as the data plans are really expensive there. A 30-day data card with local calls is around \$150 dollars while a monthly plan with 5Gb data and unlimited calls in Kingston can cost around \$300 a month.

Basically, everyone in Canada speaks English and locals are very welcoming and friendly. You can easily make friends with them and chat with them.

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## PART 3 - ITEMS TO BRING

Many of the items can be bought in Kingston, so you don't need to be worried about it.

- Mobile phone
- Laptop
- Chargers
- Powerbank
- Adaptors
- Business suit
- Clothes (for summer and winter)
- Gloves
- Thick jacket
- Umbrella
- Cash
- Medicine
- Credit cards
- Stationery
- Towels
- Data card
- Acceptance letter
- Passport
- Daily necessities

## PART 4- USEFUL LINKS

- Queen's University International Centre(QUIC)

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

- MyQueen'sU

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

- Queen's University – Off-Campus Housing Facebook

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

- Queen's housing listing

<https://listingservice.housing.queensu.ca/index.php/rental/rentalsearch/action/search/>

If you have any questions, feel free to ask SBM office for my contacts.