

Exchange Report

Queen's University

Smith School of Business



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Year 3 (ACCT & IS)
Fall 2019 Exchange

Monthly Activity log

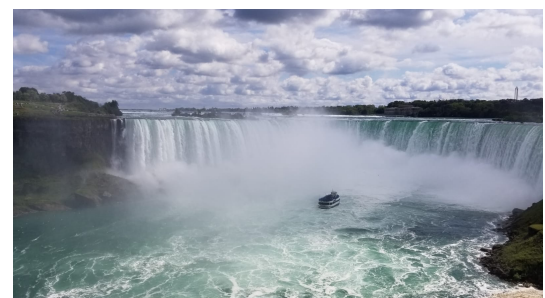
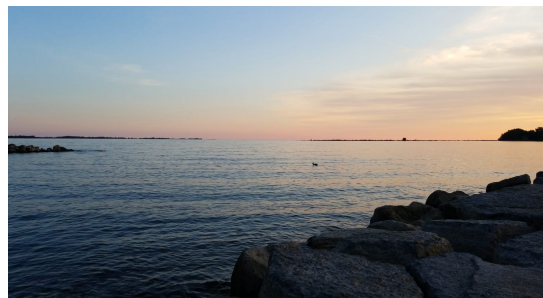
August 2019

I arrived Vancouver in late August and met up with family to visit Yellowknife for 3 days. Although I only got 2 nights to stay in the town, I was fortunate enough to see the aurora at the first night. It was stunning and definitely worth to stay up at the night. Then, I headed to Toronto and met up with other UST exchange students at 27th August. We visited some of the tourist attraction such as Royal Ontario Museum, center island and St. Lawrence Market. After visiting Toronto, we headed to Kingston at 30th August. As student id card was not available before 4th September, we went to QUIC for a temporary wristband so we could take the bus for free.



September 2019

Before fall term classes began at 5th September, there was an orientation for commerce exchange student at 3rd September. It was organized by the Smith school of business. During the orientation, I have known more about the school and academic requirement. It was also a good opportunity for you to make friends from all around the world.



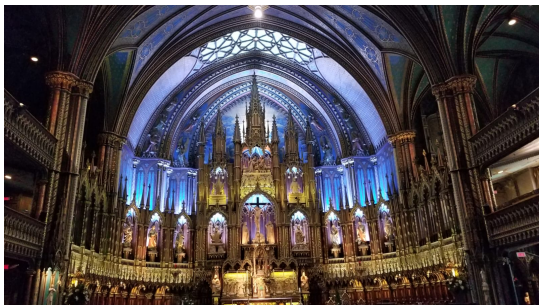
As it was the beginning of the semester, workload was considered low. I tried to visit around Kingston. Kingston may not be as convenient as cities like Hong Kong and Toronto, it is a good place to slow down your pace and relax. Also, we have joined the

one-day bus trip organized by QUIC to Niagara Fall and Ottawa. It cost 100 CAD in total for both bus trip. Better to join the trip earlier as they have limited seats.



October 2019

October should be the busiest month throughout the semester. There were many assignments due and mid-terms were all done within this month. I put more concentration on my academic studies. Besides from academic, there was a home coming events which was a huge festival for Queen's. Alumni will back to Kingston and celebrate together. Although there was huge workload, I still managed to visit Montreal and Vancouver in the beginning of the month and Quebec during mid-term break.

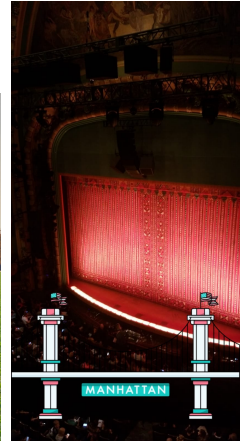


Weather starts to turn cold in late September. Scarf and wind breaker are quite important. When we visited Quebec, the weather turns 0 degrees, so remember to wear enough clothes.



November 2019

Compare to October, I had less work as I only had one group project throughout the semester. If you take management courses, there will be more projects. On the first week, I visited my friend who lives in Mississauga. My friend and I also traveled to New York as there were remembrance holiday. We visited almost all the attractions, such as Metropolitan, Central park, Brooklyn bridge and Broadway. Although Broadway show is quite expensive, it is still worthwhile to spend a night on it.



December 2019

I got 3 examination at 10, 11 and 14 December. The final examination schedule was out in the late October or early November. I did not leave Kingston before examination, most of the time I just did revision and met up with friends. After finish all examination, I spent some time to take photos around campus. Then, I started my journey to Cuba and the States.



GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

1. Visa Procedures

Exchange students who are Hong Kong citizen will have to apply for the eTA. You may apply it online and payment of 7 CAD by credit card are required. For more information, you may refer to <https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/visit-canada/eta/apply.html>. If you wish to travel to the US, you might like to apply for the US visa at least one month in advance before departure.

2. Orientation Activities

The Smith School of Business will organize an orientation for commerce exchange students. It includes Goodes Hall tours, welcoming talk, academic talk and a networking session. It is a good time to mingle and ask questions to the exchange team.

New, Exchange and Transfer Students (NEWTS) is another orientation program run by the Queen's university. Any students who are new to the university can join it. The program lasts for a few days. Personally, I did not attend as it is quite costly. However, it is a good choice to make friends and know more about Kingston.

3. International Services & Activities

Queen's University International Centre (QUIC) offers a lot of activities and support services for international students. They offer plenty of one-day bus trip for students. For my semester, they have bus trips to Niagara Falls, Ottawa and Montreal. It is a good chance to travel around Canada and to meet up with new friends. All details can be found through their Facebook page or webpage.

The Exchange and Transfer Committee (ETC) also arrange events for commerce exchange students. I have joined their buddy program. You may also find more details through their Facebook page.

4. Accommodations

I choose to live off-campus along with two exchange students from UST. We have tried to find accommodation through Facebook pages and Kijiji right after the exchange result is out. It is hard as we have 3 people. The sources on Facebook page are usually one room sublet. For Kijiji, you might need to be careful with the information of the landlord and better request a video call for observing the environment of the house before signing the contract.

At last, we find a house through Airbnb. We try to message the landlord and sign a contract with her. The whole rent (all inclusive) is 2000 CAD per month for three of us. It is not far away from Goodes Hall, approximately 15 min of bus or 20 min of walk. It is always cautious to communicate well with the landlord and have all things be clear to protect yourself.

5. Courses Registration

It is not difficult for UST student in course registration. Queen's use SOLUS as their portal for student to handle course registration and other personal information. It is just the same as our SIS. You just need to be cautious with the time in registration and the course prerequisite/ special permission. Exchange student can waive most of the prerequisite. However, some course might have required special permission. You might need to fill in a special request form to seek for approval.

6. Teaching & Assessment Methods

Course	Equivalent course	Assessment
COMM 303 <i>Business and Ethics</i> (Jim Ridler)	MGMT 2130 <i>Business Ethics and Social Responsibility</i>	Retirement Speech (15%) Business Case Analysis (25%) Team Research Project (45%)
COMM 311 <i>Financial Accounting</i> (David J McConomy)	ACCT 3010 <i>Financial Accounting I</i>	*Assignment I (15%) *Assignment II (15%) Mid-term Exam (25%) Final Exam (45%) *Group assignment
COMM 313 <i>Financial Accounting II</i> (George Boland)	ACCT 3020 <i>Financial Accounting II</i>	Homework – individual (18%) Mid-term Exam (20%) Case Assignment – group (20%) Final case – individual (12%) Final Exam (30%)
COMM 317 <i>Auditing</i> (Erin Webster)	ACCT 4510 <i>Auditing</i>	Participation + In-class group assignment (25%) Mid-term Exam (30%) Final Exam (45%)

All classes that I attend is similar to UST, with a class size of approximately 45. Instead of canvas, all resources will be released through commerce portal. Exchange students can apply for time extension for examination, you may follow the application period given by the business school office.

7. Sports & Recreation Facilities

Athletics and Recreation (ARC) provide different fitness and recreation facilities. For instance, gym, swimming pool, basketball court and squash court. You may rent the

equipment from the ARC. Student can have free access to the facilities but remember to bring along with your student ID. You might like to bring a lock if you would like to use the locker.

8. Finance & Banking (including currency/ expenses)

I have opened a CIBC account during the break of orientation. The school has a booth or you might open an account in one of their branches upon arrival. Debit card is one of the most common payment methods in Canada and it is convenient. Besides from CIBC, you might also consider Scotiabank, BOM and TD Canada Trust. If you do not plan to open a bank account, remember to bring sufficient cash or credit card. Union pay is also available if you would like to use the atm.

Expenses

Flight fare (HKG – Vancouver – Toronto – HKG)	HKD 14,219
Rent	CAD 2,500
Food and Miscellaneous	CAD 2,700

9. Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

There are different societies in Queen's University. At the beginning of the semester, there will be booths set up along the university road and you may have a look in it.

10. Health & Safety

The University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP) is required for all exchange students. For safety, Kingston is relatively a safe town. If you leave campus late and would like to have someone accompany, you might call the back-home service.

11. Food

There are many restaurants in downtown but it is quite expensive. You also need to pay 13% tax and an extra tip. I prefer to cook by myself and do groceries once a week. Metro, Foodbasics and Loblaws are supermarkets that student usually go. Metro is in downtown and close to university. They offer 10% discount off for Queen's student on every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Foodbasics do not have discount but their products usually have a lower price compare to other supermarket.

12. Transportation

In Kingston, the only public transportation is bus. Queen's student can ride on all buses for free by showing their student ID card. If you would like to travel within the east coast of Canada i.e. Toronto, Montreal and Niagara fall, you might consider the following ways:

- Megabus (you might find some 1CAD/ 10 CAD bus ticket if you book early)
- Viarail (you might buy a semester pass if you would like to travel a lot)
- Shareride (a cheaper option)

13. Communication

I used Freedom Mobile plan in Kingston. It cost 50 CAD per month with 8 GB of data plan and unlimited phone calling. However, it only covers several areas. You might want to check on the coverage area before getting the plan. There are other exchange students purchase sim card before coming to Canada. It might be a better option as it covers all places (include US area) and cheaper.

ITEMS TO BRING

Passport (might bring a soft & hard copy with you)

HKID

Letter of Acceptance

Laptop

Charger

Adaptor

Medicine

Cash (CAD, USD)

Credit card

Calculator

Stationery

Beanies

Clothes (Both summer and winter)

Scarf

Business Suit/ Business casual