

# Queen's University, Canada

Smith School of Business

## Exchange Report



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**FINA & IS (Year 3)**

**Fall 2020**

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# PART I

## Monthly Activity Log

### September 2019

I joined the mandatory orientation day after a few days I arrived Kingston. The event aimed at giving the chance for exchange students from different countries to get along and meet with each other. We would play a few games together as a group and join a campus tour designed by Queen's University. After the orientation day, I am sure that you would be more familiar with the city Kingston and the school.



### October 2019

This is the month that midterms usually took place. I got three midterms and some assignments to hand in. My midterms took place before the reading week so I take the chance to travel to New York City and Orlando this month.

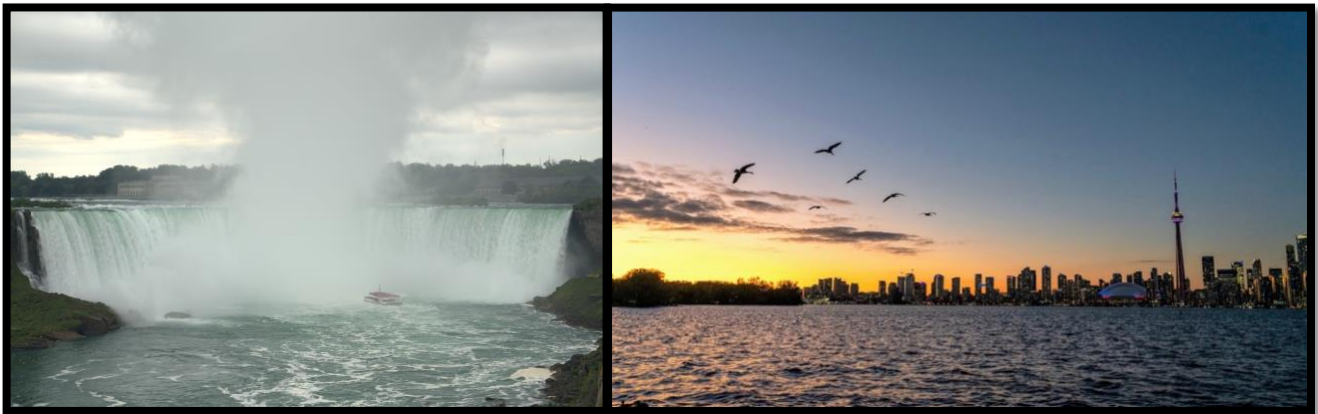


# Part I

## Monthly Activity Log

### November 2019

In this month, I got some presentation and assignments but the workload was not that heavy. I travelled to Toronto in weekend and visited the city centre as well as Toronto Island. I also travelled to Niagara Falls in another weekend and it is amazing to see such munificent waterfalls.



### December 2019

This is the month which examination took place. Before the exam, there are study period like in HKUST. I took the chance to visit Yellowknife during that period. The weather was very cold but I was blessed to see Aurora in all three nights. Yellowknife is the city that you get the highest chance to see Aurora. After the examination, I paid a visit to the State again.



# Part II

## General Exchange Information

### 1) Visa Procedures

eTA is required for Hong Kong citizens to stay in Canada for less than 6 months. It can be applied online easily at the cost of 7 CAD. If you planned to travel to the State, you have to apply for US visa at least 2 months before your departure.

### 2) Orientation Activities

Before the start of the semester, the Smith School of Business would organize an orientation event for all exchange business school students meeting with each other. Groups would be formed and played some games and attended some talks together.

### 3) International Services & Activities

The Queen's University International Centre (QUIC) offers a variety of activities for International students, for example, there was a trip to Niagara Falls. Students could choose joining those activities or not.

### 4) Accommodations

The hall in campus cost around 1000CAD per month. The hall that exchange allocated is 20 minutes walks from the main campus. You could also take the bus for free which only take around 5 minutes. You could also search for off-campus accommodation in Facebook groups or Airbnb. It would be cheaper to find off campus accommodation and it is easy to find too.

### 5) Course

The course registration system used in Queen's is SOLUS which is very similar to HKUST. The interface is pretty much the same and there was an online talk that teach student how to use the system before the enrollment date. Exchange students could only take 5 courses but not less than 3.



# Part II

## General Exchange Information

### 6) Teaching & Assessment Methods

| Course   | Equivalent Course | Workload   |
|----------|-------------------|--|
| COMM 303 | MGMT 2130         | Retirement Speech 15%<br>Business Case 25%<br>Team Project 45% (20%<br>Presentation + 25% Report)<br>Participation 15% |
| COMM 311 | ACCT 3010         | Assignment x 2 30%<br>Midterm 15%<br>Final 45%   |
| COMM 322 | FINA 3303         | Assignment x2 15%<br>Quiz 5%<br>Mini Case 20%<br>Participation 5%<br>Midterm 25%<br>Final Exam 30%                     |
| PHIL 260 | HUMACC-1000       | Weekly Quiz x7 40%<br>Midterm 25%<br>Final 35%   |
| PHIL 301 | HUMACC-1000       | Essay 1 25%<br>Essay 2 25%<br>Essay 3 50%  |

### 7) Sports & Recreation Facilities

There is a gym room located in the Athletics and Recreation Centre (ARC). You can gain a free access when you present your student card. Moreover, there are various sports facilities in the campus but you have to book it in advance.

### 8) Finance and Banking

You could open a bank account easily with your student card and passport in Canada. With local debit card, you could pay with card in different shops so you do not have to bring too much money. You could pay with debit card when you are shopping online too. I spent around 70000-80000HKD in total.

# Part II

## General Exchange Information

### 9) Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

The Social Clubs is Queen's University welcome exchange students and there are promoting booths at the beginning of the semester. You could also join the training in sports team if you pass the assessment but you could not represent the university.

### 10) Health & Safety

It is required to purchase a health insurance for 212CAD. With this insurance, you can visit doctor for free in the given list. I think it is quite safe in Kingston but there were fraud targeting university student so be caution when you are meeting a stranger.

### 11) Food

There are tons of restaurants in Queen's University. There are also Chinese, Japanese restaurant in campus but the price would be a little bit higher. Also, it is quite costly to dine outside as there are 13% tax and you may have to pay 10-15% tips. There are lots of supermarkets near Queen's University so cooking by yourself maybe a good choice.

### 12) Transportation

The only public transportation in Kingston is bus and you are free to take the bus with the student ID. If you would like to travel to Toronto, you may take the Megabus or Via Rail. The time required was similar and traffic condition is expected.

### 13) Climate

When I arrived in September, it is quite hot in the first two weeks. However, the climate change dramatically as it could hit 0 degree in early November. The weather could be -20 degrees at night in December.

### 14) Communication

I brought sim cards in Hong Kong before my departure. It costs \$190 HKD per month. It contained 22GB data and I think it would be way cheaper than you join the mobile plan in Canada.

# Part III

## Items To Bring

- **HKID**
- **Passport**
- **Cash**
- **Debit Card (Union pay is accepted in some ATM and you can withdraw money from that)**
- **Stationery including calculator**
- **Clothing (For the extreme weather in Winter)**
- **Chargers and adaptors**
- **Laptop**
- **Medicine**
- **Wi-Fi Router if you decided to live in hall**
- **Bedding if you decided to live in hall or you can buy it in Kingston**



# Part IV

## Useful Links and contracts

### 1. eTA (Electronic Travel Authorization) 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 you have any questions, feel free to ask SBM office for my contacts.