

Exchange Study Report

Queen's University

Smith School of Business



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Accounting & Information System
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Monthly Activity Log

December

My long-awaited exchange journey began at the end of December. I arrived at the Toronto Pearson Airport after a 15-hour long flight. Since it was December, there was a Christmas market in the Distillery District so we could still enjoy the Christmas vibe at the market although Christmas had passed.



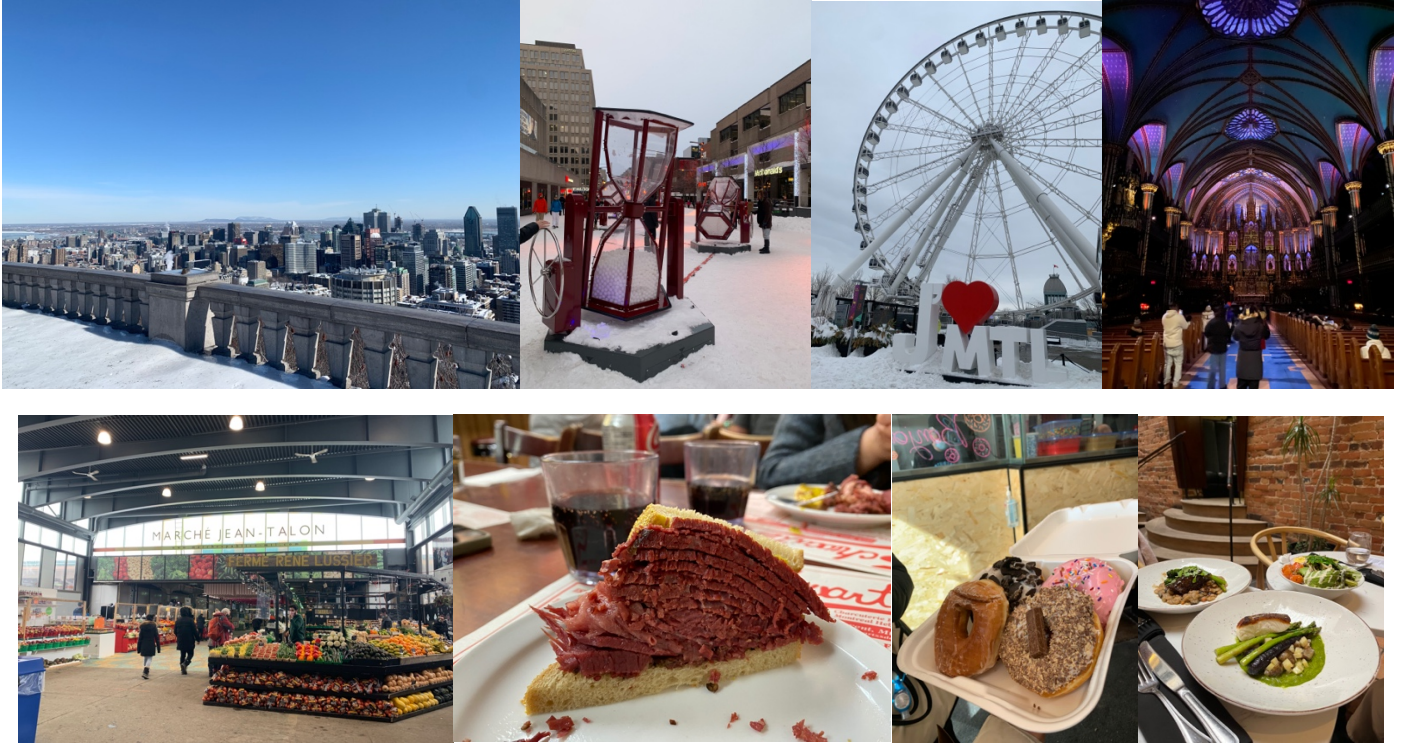
January

We took Megabus to Kingston a week before the start of the winter semester. After we had settled down in Jean Royce Hall, we explored Kingston and Queen's University. At the end of January, we had a short trip to Belleville. Although Belleville is really a small city and there was not much to do, this trip provided me a great opportunity to forget about busy schoolwork for a while.



February

During reading week, we travelled to Montreal for seven days. We encountered freezing rain in Montreal, the road became extremely slippery so you might prevent outdoor activities if there was freezing rain. Montreal is one of my favorite cities in Canada. I was very impressed with the Festival of Lights in Montreal. It was bustling and the atmosphere was similar to the fun fair. In Montreal, bagel and smoked meat sandwiches are very famous. I really recommend you try them. They are delicious and are the most memorable food throughout the exchange.



March

There are many midterm exams and assignments due after the reading week. To take a break from the busy schoolwork, I watched a hockey game which is a match between the Commerce School and Science School of Queen's University. This was my first time watching a hockey game, that was a good experience.



April

We travelled to Quebec City in early-April. Quebec City is my favorite place in Canada. Unlike other places that I have visited in Canada, most of their buildings in Quebec City are built in European style. Besides, their residents are more friendly and eager to help foreigners. At the end of April, I also joined a 1000 Island cruise in Kingston and went to Ottawa after I finished all my final exams.



May

I went to Toronto again in May. Although I have been to Toronto before, the scenery changed a lot. Cherry blossoms bloom in late-April and May in Toronto. I also biked at Toronto Island. Spring in Toronto is very great for some outdoor activities because the temperature is just right, and all the snow has melted. To make my journey a perfect end, I went to Niagara Falls before I got back to Hong Kong.



General Exchange Information

1. Visa Procedures

Since I am holding Hong Kong SAR passport, I am only required to apply for an eTA (electronic travel authorization) before entering Canada. eTA allows foreigners to have a short stay in Canada for 6 months and it costs CAD 7. The application procedure is simple, we only need to fill in our passport, personal and travel information to complete the online form and pay CAD 7 with credit card. After I finished my application, an approval email was sent to my email immediately.

2. Orientation Activities

Due to the severe pandemic, the exchange orientation was held virtually for two days over Zoom. It was held a few days before the start of the semester. There were two sessions on the first day, including information, Q&A session and networking session. The host introduced the culture of the country and university, as well as the facilities and services provided by the university. In the second part of the orientation, exchange students were divided into groups. We got time to freely converse with other exchange students. The networking game, "eMazing Race", held on the next day provided us chances to meet more people through a funnier and more interactive practice.

3. International Services & Activities

Queen's University International Centre (QUIC) provides support to international students. Before the exchange, QUIC prepared live webinars and Q&A sessions on Zoom that talk about regulations related to travelling to Canada during pandemic, arrival information, housing and finances. QUIC also organized and invited students to join different activities, such as watching hockey games and Maple Madness. Details of this information will be sent through email before exchange and during exchange. You can also check their official websites for more pre-arrival support.

4. Accommodations

Students can apply for student hall by sending an email to the university. Most exchange students are allocated to Jean Royce Hall. Meal plan is mandatory in Jean Royce Hall, which includes 19 meals per week (3 meals on weekdays and 2 meals on weekends). However, the price of university residences is expensive, which is around CAD 8000 for a semester. To find some economical housing, you can look it up on Facebook page "Queen's University-Off-Campus Housing" and rent a room in a house that you share with other university students. The rental fee is around CAD 400-900. Some include utilities and wifi and some are not included.

5. Courses Registration

Course registration will be done on SOLUS. The interface of SOLUS is very similar to UST's Student Centre, students can put courses into the shopping cart before enrollment period, enrol in and drop courses through SOLUS. Certain courses are restricted and require special permission to enrol, students might need to submit their academic transcript or a letter from the department of their major to enrol into these courses. In a semester, exchange students are allowed to enrol into 3-5 courses and at least two of them are business courses. The course registration will open in October. To plan your course registration, you can find all course information and syllabus on Exchange Portal.

6. Teaching & Assessment Methods

Course	Equivalent Course	Professor	Assessment
<i>COMM 104</i> Business Ethics & CRL	<i>MGMT 2130</i> Business Ethics and Social Responsibility	Constance Friesen	Take-home Test (20%) Group Project (30%) Perspective Paper (20%) Reflection Paper (15%) Participation (15%)
<i>COMM 313</i> Financial Accounting II	<i>ACCT 3020</i> Financial Accounting II	David McConomy	Three Quizzes (10% each) Mid Term Exam (25%) Final Exam (45%)
<i>COMM 317</i> Auditing	<i>ACCT 4510</i> Auditing	Erin Webster	In-class Team Assignment (15%) Take-home Team Assignment (10%) Mid Term Exam (30%) Final Exam (45%)
<i>COMM 401</i> Business & Corporate Strategy	<i>MGMT 4210</i> Corporate Strategy	Ali Ghawe	Capstone Team Simulation (25%) Capstone Individual Simulation (35%) Case Presentation (30%) Participation (10%)

7. Finance & Banking

I mostly use cash or debit card for payment and I did not own and apply for a Canadian bank account. When I ran out of cash, I will withdraw money from the ATM or top-up money to my debit card. Also, there are CIBC ATMs on campus and in student dorms, so it is convenient if you own a CIBC bank account.

8. Climate

In Kingston, the winter is from December to March and it is very cold and dry. The temperature ranged from -20°C to 5°C. Snowing is also very frequent in winter. Spring comes around mid-April and the weather becomes warmer or even hot in April and May. Moreover, the sunset is very early in winter, it is mostly about 5pm. Rather, the daylight in May is very long.

9. Health & Safety

The University Health Insurance Plan(UHIP) provided by Queen's University is mandatory for all exchange students and it costs around CAD 200. The UHIP fees called International Health Care will be listed on SOLUS and are due at the end of the first month of your semester(Fall exchange: September 30th; Spring Exchange: January 31st). There are many drug stores located in downtown and Kingston centre so it is easy to buy medicine if you feel sick. Kingston is very safe, but in order to protect your personal belongings, it is better to lock the windows and doors before you leave your home, especially during reading week. The mobile app, SeQue-Queen's University, allows students to use walk-home service at night and call emergency services when they feel unsafe.

10. Food

For On-campus dining, there are many restaurants located inside the ARC(Athletics and Recreation Centre). Except for ARC, you can also choose to dine at the dining hall in different student halls. ARC and Victoria Hall are very close to Smith School of Business so it is very convenient to have lunch or dinner there. For off-campus food, there are many restaurants downtown and there is a food court in Cataraqui Centre, including American, Mexican, Chinese, Japanese and Korean food. If you want to buy snacks or food to cook, you can go to supermarkets(Loblaws and Metro) at Kingston Centre and downtown. To save time, you can also order food using Uber Eat.

11. Transportation

To reach Kingston, you can choose to take Megabus, Rider Express or VIA Rail. Buses(Megabus and Rider Express) are cheaper but take a longer time than trains to reach the location. In Kingston, it only has buses, taxis and Uber. You can buy a post-secondary student pass(CAD 119) online so you can ride the bus by just showing your pass to the bus driver. To plan your trip, you can use Google Maps to check the route and the arrival or departure time of the buses.

12. Communication

I bought a phone card for telephone services in Canada and six 30-day SIM cards(5GB per card) in Hong Kong. You can also buy data plans at telecom stores in Canada. If you decide to live in student halls, you need to bring an ethernet cable and a router to connect to Wi-Fi. If you forgot to bring either of them, you can buy them at the downtown computer store.

13. Sports & Recreation Facilities

The Athletics and Recreation Centre(ARC) has a gymnasium, badminton court, pool, etc. All facilities in ARC are free to reserve.

14. Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

There are many social clubs at Queen's University, such as tennis, hockey and boxing. You can find all social clubs on the university website.

15. Cautionary measures

- Since the pandemic situation is very uncertain, the entry requirements change frequently so it is recommended to carefully check the special requirements and documents needed(e.g. Vaccination proof and negative COVID test result) needed before departure.

- It is customary to tip around 10-15% on the total bill if you dine at a restaurant and to tip taxi drivers around 15%.

Items to Bring

- Passport, HKID, Offer letter, Acceptance letter
- Cash, Credit card, Debit card
- Winter and summer clothes, Waterproof coat and shoes
- Business suit
- Laptop, Adaptors, Chargers, Power bank
- Stationary, Calculators
- Toiletries, Hair Dryer
- Pillow, Pillowcase, Bedsheets
- Medicine, Umbrella, Sunscreen, Vacuum bags

Useful links and Contacts

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

Student Residence: <https://www.queensu.ca/residences/>

Queen's University - Off-Campus Housing:

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

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

Commerce Portal/Exchange Portal: <https://smithlearning.ca/d2l/login>

Eateries at Queen's University: <https://dining.queensu.ca/whats-open/>

Queen's University International Centre(QUIC): <https://quic.queensu.ca>

