

Exchange Report
Spring 2022
Queen's University, Canada
Smith School of Business



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Year 3
Marketing and Management

Monthly Activity Log

December 2021

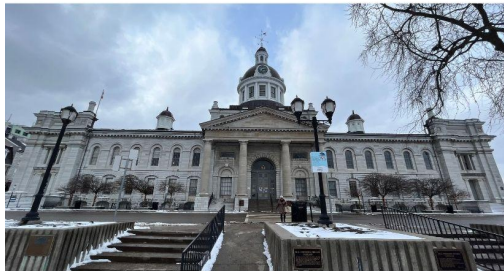
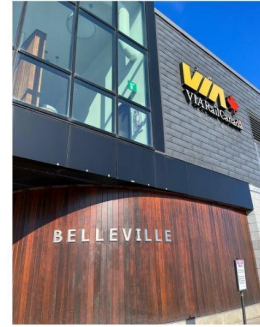
My friend and I departed from Hong Kong International Airport on 27 December 2021, after 17 hours, we finally arrived at Toronto Pearson International Airport. Due to COVID, the security and checking procedures were longer than expected. For the last few days of 2021, we explored a bit of Toronto, such as Casa Loma, Royal Ontario Museum (ROM), Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO).



January 2022

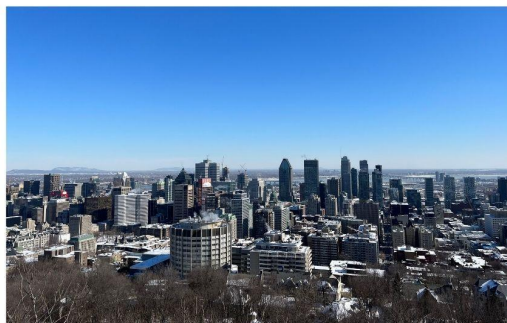
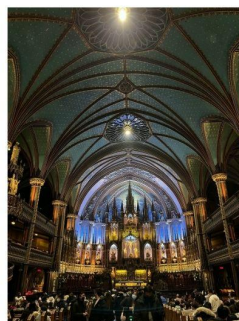
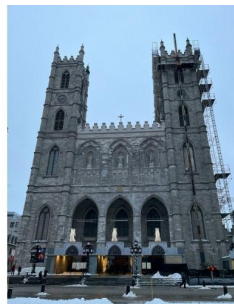
As the semester started on 10 January, we decided to arrive in Kingston on 3 January, in order for us to have an entire week to settle down and to get ourselves familiar with the new environment. We took a taxi from the Megabus station to our dorm, as we were carrying too much luggages. After we arrived in Kingston, we spent the next few days exploring the new place, such as going to the downtown area of Kingston. As the first half of the semester was online, we didn't have much chance to explore the campus. Therefore, we found a day dedicated to exploring the whole campus, including visiting business schools and different libraries.

In the last week of January, as my friends and I wanted to explore Canada more, we decided to take on a 3-day trip to a nearby city named Belleville.



February 2022

Schoolworks was getting busier and more hectic in February, there were more and more deadlines and projects due, so it was very nice for us to have a reading week, in order to relax a bit and to have a chance to explore Canada more. During the reading week, my friends and I traveled to Montreal. It only took around 3 hours for us to go from Kingston to Montreal, which was very convenient. The week spent in Montreal was memorable and incredible. I highly recommend traveling to Montreal if you have the chance to. The scenes and food in Montreal were very amazing, though the weather that week was not perfect, I still had a wonderful time there.



March 2022

The semester resumed as face-to-face mode after reading week. This month was the busiest month for me, as most of the projects and homeworks were due in March. We went to watch an ice hockey game between business school and engineering. The game was really good and the atmosphere there was incredible, and business school had won the game!



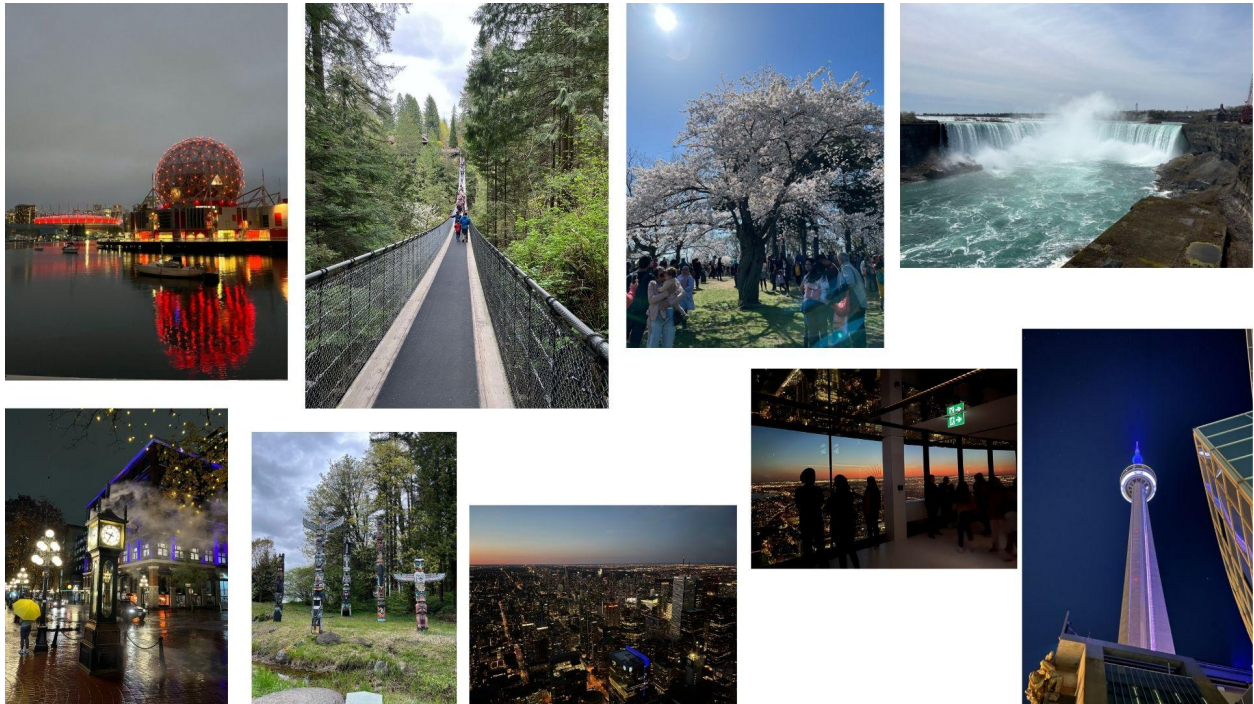
April 2022

School ended on 8 April, as our exams were relatively late, which were in late April, we spent a week in Quebec city before the start of our exams. Quebec city
Before we left, we went on a cruise to the Thousands Islands, which started at the pier at downtown Kingston, and to explore different islands on Lake Ontario.
We left Kingston on 27 April and went to Ottawa for 4 days.



May 2022

For my entire 3 weeks in Canada was just pure traveling around and exploring different cities. I stayed in Vancouver for a week, and traveled back to Toronto for my last week in Canada. Vancouver is also an amazing place to travel to: people there were extremely nice, the food there was. For the last few days in Toronto, we went to High Park to see cherry blossoms, went up to CN tower for the night view, and Niagara falls.



General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

As I was staying for less than 6 months, I applied for the Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) instead of the official study permit. Applying for the eTA is relatively easy, it only took me less than 15 mins to fill out the form, and it only took them a day to review the application, and I was able to receive the eTA within a few days. However, I recommend applying for the official study permit just in case, as there are lots of uncertainties under the pandemic.

Orientation Activities

As the first half of the semester was held online, Smith School of Business had held 2 orientation activities for exchange students through Zoom. The first day was for exchange students to get to know each other better, and to get ourselves familiar with Queen's, study life here and the campus; the second day, The eMazing Race, was a interactive team building exercise, where we got to team up with different exchange students to play a game regarding cultures in different places.

International Services and Activities

There is a center in the Smith School of Business called Queen's University International Center (UNIC), which provides help and different activities for exchange students.

Accommodations

As my friends and I were not able to find off-campus housing, we applied for the dorm. However, I would not recommend staying at the dorm for some reasons: firstly, it was a bit far away from campus (walking distance was around 25-30 minutes), secondly, it was a bit costly (around CAD 8200 for 1 semester, including meal plan); thirdly, the residential hall is a bit old and its hygiene was not at the highest level. Therefore, living off-campus might be a better choice. However, as mentioned above, the residential hall includes a meal plan (19 meals per week, CAD 75 flex dollar for purchasing food and snacks on campus, e.g. Starbucks), it was good that we did not have to cook our own meals everyday. Also, the food is quite good, and it opens till late night, so it is nice that you can still get food when you are planning to pull an all-nighter.

Courses Registration

The course registration system Queen's uses is very similar to the one that HKUST uses. Moreover, some courses need prerequisites and approval from SBM, so be aware of the deadlines in applying those courses.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

The teaching methods in Queen's are quite different from what I have experienced in HKUST, as professors in Queen's focus more on the interaction between students and them, and stimulation. Also, all courses use absolute grading.

Courses that I took:

Course Code	Equivalent Course	Assessment Method	Comments
COMM 104 Business Ethics And Corporate Social Responsibility	MGMT 2130 Business Ethics and Social Responsibility	- Group project/ presentation - Midterm - Final	- A relatively easy course (low workload)
COMM 333 Marketing Strategy	MARK 4210 Strategic Marketing	- MarkStrat simulation (group project) - Midterm	- Highly recommend taking this course: the contents are very interesting and thought-provoking, learnt new marketing knowledge
COMM 374 International Business Strategy	MGMT 4230 International Management	- Group project/ presentation - Class participation - Weekly preparation quiz - Final	- The workload of this course is quite heavy
COMM 385 Negotiation Theory And Behavior	MGMT 3140 Negotiation	- Class participation	- Uses upgrading method - Recommend taking this course: provides lots of chances to practice negotiation, and it was a fun and interesting course to take
COMM 401 Business and Corporate Strategy/ Business Policy and Strategy	MGMT 4210 Corporate Strategy	- Group project/ presentation - Capstone simulation	- The workload of this course was quite high - The capstone simulation was very difficult, especially for exchange students, as we don't have any previous experiences

Sports & Recreation Facilities

There are lots of facilities available on campus. For instance, in the Queen's Athletics & Recreation Center (ARC), there is a gym room for students to use. Moreover, there is also a small gym room and game room in the residential hall for students to use.

Finance & Banking

Most stores in Kingston accept credit and debit payment, some stores even are not accepting cash payment due to COVID. Therefore, it is not a must to carry around lots of cash with you.

Expenses:

Round trip ticket (more expensive due to COVID)	~ HKD 15000
Hall fee	~ CAD 8200
Phone plan	HKD 600
Case pack & stimulation	~ CAD 150
Student pass for transportation	CAD 119

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

As mentioned above, QUIC organizes different activities for exchange students to join. Also, QUIC has held a buddy program for exchange students to get to know and bond with locals.

Health & Safety

It was quite safe in Kingston, however, I heard there were quite a lot of break-ins during reading weeks, as they knew that students would not be living in their houses during those days. Therefore, remember to lock the door and windows before going out or traveling around. Most of the people in Kingston still wear a mask, even if it is not mandatory for them to do so.

Food

As mentioned above, a meal plan is included in the residential fee, which 19 meals are included per week. Also, there are many restaurants in downtown Kingston to choose from.

Transportation

Regarding public transportation in Kingston, buses are the only option there. Therefore, it is a must to purchase the post-secondary student pass for transportation if you are planning to take buses on a daily basis. As it does not require a physical student card to apply for the student pass, I highly recommend applying before arriving in Kingston, so you can use it once you get there.

Climate

The weather in Kingston during January to March is quite cold, with the highest temperature around 0 degree, to the lowest of -20 degree.

Communication

I highly recommended buying a SIM card in Hong Kong before going to Kingston, as it is cheaper and more convenient. Also, I heard that some phone plans that you buy in Kingston, may not be available in other provinces. Therefore, it is better to buy SIM cards in Hong Kong.

Items to Bring

- HKID
- Passport
- Acceptance letter
- Offer letter
- Credit/ debit card
- Cash
- Ethernet cable (if you are planning to live in dorm, as there is not any wireless Internet)
- Business suits
- Medicine
- Warm coats (it is really cold in Kingston during January to March)
- SIM cards

Useful links

Post-secondary Student Pass for Transportation in Kingston

<https://www.cityofkingston.ca/residents/transit/fares/post-secondary-student-pass>

Queen's University Off-Campus Housing Group

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

Megabus

<https://ca.megabus.com>

Electronic Travel Authorization

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