

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



Emily Lee
Risk Management and Business Intelligence,
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Part 1 - Monthly Activity Log

September 2022

I arrived in Kingston on 1st September. September is a month with lots of orientation to make new friends. I participate in the mandatory Smith School of Business orientation and learned more about the culture and essential notes when studying at Smith. Moreover, I have joined the NEWTS orientation. NEWTS organized interesting activities including a paint party, movie night, and BBQ to let us make new friends from all over the world and get to know more about Kingston and Queen's. Apart from the orientation activities, I traveled to Niagara Falls and Toronto with my housemates. The natural beauty of Niagara Falls impressed me a lot.



October 2022

October is another month with lots of school activities and traveling. I have joined the Hiking Activities in Lemoine Point Conservation Area and the animal farm activities in the Second Chance Animal Farm organized by QUIC. Moreover, homecoming events are one of the greatest activities of the year. You can feel the sense of belonging and the warmth of becoming part of Queen's students and alumni. During Thanksgiving week, I went to Montreal and Quebec City to travel, which have color and classic European buildings. Unlike Kingston, these two areas use French to communicate. Therefore, it is better to know some basic French language before going there. Another highlight of this month is Halloween. Nearly everyone in Kingston, including children and adults, will dress up to celebrate this festival. It is also interesting to experiment with trick or treat.



Part 1 - Monthly Activity Log

November 2022

Similar to HKUST, November is a month full of assignments and tests. I spend most of the time finishing the assignment, presentation, and capstone project during this month. Luckily, I still got some time to travel around Kingston and join some school activities such as the Agnes Etherington Art Centre and corn maze activities. These activities are free of charge. What's more, the first snow starts in mid-November, which remarks the start of winter. After finishing the test and major assignment in November, it's time to experience Canadian culture - Black Friday. During Black Friday, it has big sales in Cataraqui Mall. The mall is full of people and Christmas decorations.



December 2022

'Christmas is a time to love'. There are lots of deadlines in December. However, I have no examination and so I can spend the remaining days having gatherings with friends and traveling. I also traveled to Ottawa alone. The top attraction in Ottawa is the Parliament Buildings, the National Art of Museum, and the Byward Market. Moreover, I watched the ice hockey competition in Leon's Centre. The competition is exciting and the Kingston team turns defeat into victory at last in the last four seconds. On the last day in Kingston, I built snowmen with my housemates. This remarks the end of my exchange journey.



Part 2 - General Exchange Information

1) Visa Procedure

There is no Visa requirement. Exchange students with Hong Kong Passports who stay in Canada within 6 months are only required to apply for the eTa online. It costs CAD\$7 and you will receive the email within 1 day. You only need the eTa, passport and admission letter.

2) Orientation Activities

There is a compulsory orientation organized by the Smith School of Business a few days before the semester start. You will get the student card during the orientation. Moreover, you can also join the NEWTS orientation which you can meet many other exchange students.

3) International Services & Activities

There is no pick-up service at the airport. You can always join some cultural activities, such as pumpkin picking activities, organized by QUIC. Moreover, you can join the Intercultural Awareness Courses to get the certification and know more about intercultural communication.

4) Accommodations

Unfortunately, there is no accommodation offered by the exchange students this semester. However, you can go to the Facebook group - Queen's University Off-Campus Housing or Kijiji for house hunting. You can also seek advice from International Office before renting the house.

5) Course Registration

The course registration procedure (SOLUS) is nearly the same as the one at HKUST. However, some of the courses, especially some of the finance courses, required special approval. You can always read the information of the course in SOLUS.

6) Teaching & Assessment Methods

FREN 106 (Communication et Culture I) - Online lessons with weekly MyLab exercises, open conversation, tutorial, and final presentation. The content is not difficult and easy to finish.

COMM 201 (Introduction to Business for Entrepreneurs) - Highly recommend as this course is easy, practical, and low workload. There are weekly quizzes, talks from successful entrepreneurs, and a final presentation.

COMM 353 (Managing Across Cultures) - Interesting course that interacts with different classmates to finish the in-class discussion, 2 presentations, pre-lesson assignment and one mid-term exam. The workload is medium but it is a recommended course for exchange students.

7) Finance and Banking

I used an HSBC World Debit card for transactions. However, the branch of HSBC is going to move out from Kingston so you will not be able to get cash from the ATM. Therefore, it is suggested to bring more cash instead. I spent around HKD \$75,000 in total.

Part 2 - General Exchange Information

8) Climate

September and October has nice weather that most of the days are with sunny conditions. However, there is large difference between the temperature in day (~23°C) and night. (~17°C). The temperature drops significantly in November (~13°C). The first snow starts in mid-November. It even drops to -5°C in December Be prepared snowshoes for the snowstorm.

9) Health and Safety

UHIP is mandatory health insurance for all students studying at Queen's. You need to pay the insurance on or before September, otherwise, there is no official transcript for you! When you meet danger at night, you can press the lampstands with blue lightbulbs around the campus.

10) Food

Dunning Hall is recommended as it is tasty but the price is slightly expensive. There are Pho, Tim's, etc. in ARC. Dining out is expensive due to the high tax. Self-cooking is recommended. There is a student discount in Food Basics and Metro on Tuesdays.

11) Transportation

To go to Kingston from Hong Kong, it is common to first arrive at Toronto Airport by flight and then take Megabus to Kingston. As long as you have Queen's Student ID card, you are able to travel around Kingston by transit for free.

12) Communication

Firstly, you can buy a data card from 3HK. It only costs HKD\$268 for 35 GB. You can get a free SIM card in the QUIC centre.

13) Sports & Recreation Facilities

There are gym rooms available for Queen's students at ARC. You can also book the courts for ball games and swimming pool online.

14) Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

You can join the activities organized by the QUIC center and most of them are free of charge. You can meet friends from all around the world.

15) Cautionary measures

Always say Thank you before taking off the bus. Moreover, it is not polite to use hand gestures to stop the bus drivers and ask the help from the waiters. It is common to use eye contact and wait for them to come instead.

Part 3 - Items to Bring

Things to bring for the whole exchange program

- Passport
- HKID card
- Admission letter from Queen's
- Mobile phone
- Laptop
- Chargers
- Power Bank Adaptors
- Business Suit
- Clothes (for summer and winter)
- T-shirt, Jeans
- Gloves
- Scarf
- Hat
- Down Jacket
- Umbrella
- Cash
- Medicine
- Rice cooker
- Router
- MacBook/iPad charger
- snowshoes
- scissors
- Jacket
- Camera
- Pajamas
- Calculators
- Towels
- Data Card
- lotion
- socket
- voltage
- chopsticks
- Credit Cards
- Stationery

Part 4 - Useful Links and Contacts

Queen's University International Centre (QUIC)

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

Queen's University – Off-Campus Housing Facebook

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

MyQueen'sU

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

Part 4 - Useful Links and Contacts

Campus Map

<https://map.queensu.ca/?id=1955#!ct/0?sbc/>

International Guidebook

<https://quic.queensu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/QUIC-International-Guidebook.pdf>

Visiting Kingston

<https://www.visitkingston.ca/>

Kijiji

<https://www.kijiji.ca/>

Part 5 - Best Practices of Queens

There are many good resources provided by Queens:

1. There is a QUIC center that can provide a lot of social gatherings for international students to join for free. They will also provide free data cards for students.
2. Walk-home service is provided if you need some schoolmates to go home with you at night
3. There is an accommodation period for most of the courses for all of the students.
4. Exchange students can get a 30-minute extension and bring a dictionary to the exams

If more information is needed, get my contact from SBM Exchange Team by emailing at bmugexch@ust.hk.