

UWA exchange blogs - Queen's Uni, sem 1, 2017.
(KHUSH, QUEEN'S)

Student Exchange Evaluation

Every student loves to hear of other's exchange experiences. These forms are very useful when selecting your exchange destination.

Please include as much information as possible. Feel free to use additional pages, enclose photos, links to blogs/ videos etc.

<https://vimeo.com/206133550>

1. PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name: KHUSH DODHIA-SHAH

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Name of Exchange University: QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

Country: CANADA

Year of exchange: 2017 (sem 1) Language of instruction: ENGLISH

List courses taken abroad:

FLUID MECHANICS 1 (MECH 241)
MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS (COMM 335)
MARKETING STRATEGY (COMM 333)
BUSINESS FUNDAMENTALS (COMM 200)

2. EXCHANGE EXPERIENCE

How would you rate your overall exchange experience on a scale of 1 to 10?

Poor

Excellent

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 +

Comments:

Queen's was an amazing experience. There is so much to love about that school and its easy to get involved.

3. FINANCES

Total cost: ~\$20000 - 25000 Room: ~\$4000 (in co-op w/ ^{meat} meals)

Airfare to host institution: ~\$3500 - ^{multi-} destination Holidays/travel expenses: ~\$12000

Other: Don't be put off by \$25000 - that is the max it could have cost with my 4 month exchange + 3 month travel after.

Did you spend more than you expected? What was more/ less expensive than you expected?

Overall, for 7 months abroad I probably spent less than expected.



More expensive than expected - books/supplies + maybe Spring-break trip.
Less than expected - Post exchange travels.
+ meals through the CO-OP.

What was the best way of accessing money during your exchange programme?

Australian bank card / Westpac travel card

↳ beware of exchange rates!

Do you have any advice about finances, budgeting or the cheapest way of living/travelling?

→ Work out what is cheaper, using your AUS card or the travel card, for me in Canada, it worked out cheaper to use my debit card.

→ Consider opening a local bank account (CIBC, Scotia, TD) - look into them.
↳ I didn't because I was only there for 1 semester.

4. ARRIVAL

Was there an airport pickup/ buddy service available?

Not for me in semester their winter semester (their sem 2).

It was easy enough to get to Kingston & Queen's though.

I took into QUEEN'S RIDESHARE, and MEGABUS.

5. ORIENTATION

↳ from Toronto mainly.

What was Orientation like? Was it useful? Were there social activities?

Winter Orientation was more low-key than the fall one is, but it was good.

For me the Smith School of Business had an orientation which was adequate, and good for because it included a hockey game, and the QUIC had a bunch of events and tours which were good.

6. ACADEMICS

↳ go to the events to meet people!

What differences did you find between the UWA system and the system at your host university?

Contact hours: Similar

Homework: Queen's Business in particular has more.

Course (lectures, tests, etc.): More assignments/assessments in Queen's Commerce program.

Workload (heavier/lighter) and assessment (harder or easier):

Heavier workload in business but easier grading.

7. FACILITIES

Don't so put off though - WORK HARD

PLAY HARD is Queen's.

What were the library/ Wi-Fi/ email facilities like at your host institution?

Good. ~~the~~ Stauffer

Club Stauffer (Stauffer Library) + Douglas ~~big~~ Library are the

main ones.

8. SOCIAL

↳ Stauffer gets busy!

2 core marketing
had
no
exams

re a good travel card.

or we Westpac card was convenient, but expensive w/ sad exchange rates

Queen's international centre

Commerce classes are 5 hr workshop style which were great!

What kinds of social events were there? Was it easy to meet people?

The QUC ran a bunch of different events at the start of the year + throughout. With that, orientation, stove-houses and clubs, it is super easy to meet people.

Just get involved and you'll make a tonne of friends. — Then go out with them.

9. ACCOMMODATION

Was on campus housing available? What were the rooms like? Were you on a meal plan or did you cook your own food? Are the residences close to the university?

Please add any additional information that you think be of interest with regard to housing.

I stayed in the Kingston Student Housing CO-OP, which was really good. (Google that). I had a meal plan that I (and everyone) contributed to by volunteering 3 hrs a week in the kitchen. On weekends I cooked for myself / with friends.

There is residence options for exchangers, but the only Queen's students in RES are first-years. One residence that say some of my friends stayed at (West-campus) was further away than the 'ghetto'.

10. PRE-DEPARTURE INFORMATION

What was the most difficult aspect of planning your exchange?

Planning and watching core units.
Trying to do 4 core courses on exchange was tricky to organise. I ended up doing 3 core + 1 elective.

What advice do you have for future exchange students?

DO IT! Immerse yourself in the Queen's culture and get involved, it's brilliant.
Join clubs (I joined, Outdoors, Skiing and Climbing clubs which were great).

Enjoy the courses too, I found the Smith School of Business great.

What are the 5 most important things to take with you when you go to your host university?

1. Less stuff. Packed light!! Makes it so much easier travelling around.
2. A good attitude + open mind + a spare small bag for weekend trips.
3. Adequate gear (if going in winter need a coat!)
4. Travel essentials (Passport, visas, travel docs, acceptance letters etc.)
5. Money / a means to access money.

+ Aus gifts for international friends / housemates?

courses in 'Student ghetto'

things some times can't go to plan with it!



11. General impressions

?

What were the most rewarding aspects of biggest disappointments of your exchange experience? How has your perspective changed as a result of your exchange experience?

Remember that students are interested in reading about both good and bad experiences.

Most rewarding:

- The friends and connections I made, all over Canada and the world. ~~It~~ ^{was} truly amazing and I'm ~~now~~ so much better off for going because of that.
- Living out of home and becoming a Queen's student - learnt so much from the experience. Queen's ~~str~~ students (the ones I met anyway, are incredible.)
- The trips + travel. Did 2 snowboarding trips with QSSC (ski + board club) + 1 trip to Whistler in exams. Also went to Montreal, and Toronto with friends during semester. (Cancun and)
- After sem I travelled for 2 months all around Canada, USA, Mexico, Cuba, UK and Norway. Was insane.

Biggest Disappointments:

- Maybe Kingston the town itself? ~~It~~ There's not a great deal going on, but it's Queen's that makes it amazing. ^{that being said the nights out were super fun and everything is so close (walkable - even in winter) so it's handy.}
- Flight cost from ~~Toronto~~ Toronto - Vancouver. HA! Can be expensive so book early.

Perspective:

- After that, I definitely think I can DO ANYTHING and LIVE ANYWHERE. Learned so much and I absolutely loved it.
- Try to live by the idea of DO IT ALL, and if you fail at least you had a ~~crack~~ crack. ^{you're young!}
WORK HARD, PLAY HARD, TRAVEL HARD.
- Make friends and meaningful connections. Will never forget those.

Queen's is the best. I ~~had~~ had an amazing experience and so did many others there, in their own ways.

GO, DO IT and make it your own.

I'm so much better off ~~for~~ for going and can not recommend it enough!!

Thank you for your time.

