

## **Exchange to London Canada**

During the first two blocks of my third year, I studied at the University of Western Ontario in London, Canada. It's an amazing way to meet new people from all over the world and to enhance your foreign language skills!

### **Preparation**

Preparing for an exchange can sometimes be quite tough and lead to a lot of work. However, Canada is quite easy. As long as you stay in Canada for less than six months you do not have to apply for a Visa. However, Canada just passed a new law which requires you to apply for an ETA(similar to Esta for the US). Like I said, Canada just introduced this new policy so I have no experience with it. Make sure to look into this and apply for it on time, the US is fairly strict with their Esta and they can refuse entry if you don't have an Esta. Canada might be just as strict!

To apply for an exchange you'll have to write a motivation letter and your CV to the ESE. You're likely to receive an email mid-February. From then on UWO will send you emails regarding the application process, which is really easy, housing, courses etc. Make sure that you stick to the deadlines, especially for the courses. Courses fill up really fast so if you want to apply for some interesting courses make sure that you apply for them as soon as possible.

I decided to live on-campus. Off-campus housing is usually two or three times cheaper however, I wanted to experience campus life. On-campus housing gives you the opportunity to meet so many new people instantly, internationals and locals, as these campus residences usually have 300-1000 residents. So consider this carefully. You can also find off-campus housing quite easily and I would recommend finding a place close to the campus if you consider living off-campus.

Don't forget to cancel your OV-card on time(2months in advance). Besides, having a creditcard with you is quite convenient.

### **Arriving at London**

I arrived at London September 2, just a couple of days before the orientation(O-week) started. The cheapest way to travel is to get a flight ticket to Toronto. You can then choose to travel directly from the airport to London(RobertQ) or go to downtown Toronto and take the Greyhound to London. I would recommend the RobertQ, since it departs from the airport. I stayed at a hotel in London for one night and went to the campus Residence the next morning. Upon arrival at the campus I had to sign in in order to get my keys for my room on campus.

The O-week is organized by UWO and allows students to get to know the campus and meet some fellow students. In order to participate you'll have to pay for the O-pass. I didn't and most of the people I knew who did pay for it actually regretted getting the O-pass. The O-week only has planned events during the day. During the night, clubs and bars are packed and you don't need an O-pass for that.

## **Courses**

As I mentioned before, if you want to be accepted for some specific courses I definitely recommend applying for them as soon as possible. Classes fill up quickly and if a class reaches its maximum capacity you will have to wait for someone to drop the course. UWO could deny you for some courses (I was denied for a couple courses which was quite a hassle). I advise you to email the exchange coordinator with an explain that you do meet the prerequisites for that specific course.

UWO requires you to take 4 courses which are worth 0.5 credits which translates to 6 ECTS. To obtain a pass for a course you need 50%, which is fairly easy to get. Note that you can only pick A or F courses!

### **2121A The firm and financial markets**

If you're into finance you may want to pick this course. It teaches you how firms interact and use the financial markets.

### **2124A Economic development**

This course is actually quite interesting. It focuses how countries develop and its process. The course deals with many real-life cases and a couple of third world countries will be discussed in detail.

### **2152A Intermediate Macroeconomic theory & policy**

This course focuses on how countries set their macroeconomic policy and its implications. I would not recommend this course though since it is quite similar to the macroeconomics course of the first year.

### **2191A Risk and financial institutions**

Just like the first course if you're into finance you might want to choose this one. This course deals with risk, hedging, futures, options etc. I found it quite interesting and it was definitely the most challenging course I took in Canada.

## **Finances**

Cost of living in Canada is somewhat more expensive than in the Netherlands. The amount of money you spent is obviously up to you and your plans during your stay in Canada.

Flight €650

On-campus Housing+food(meal plan)	€3800
UHIP, bus pass, student card(mandatory)	€310
Daily life	€1700
Trips(Hostels and return tickets)	€500
Total	€6960

### **Daily Life**

London is smaller compared to Rotterdam, however due to the large amount of students living in London, nightlife is quite big. You can go to bars and clubs pretty much every single night. There's also a bar/restaurant and a cinema on campus. During the weekend there are usually floor parties somewhere on campus or house parties off-campus.

During my exchange I visited Chicago, Toronto and Montreal. Travelling by bus(greyhound) is quite comfortable and relatively cheap. To book accommodation you should look into hostels or Airbnb. If you are travelling with a group Airbnb could be cheaper than hostels.

I would recommend that you embrace the moments that your schedule allows you to travel(also trips to Niagara Falls, New York, French part of Canada are definitely worth it). If you're into nature trips you should might want to join the Outdoors club. I've heard some good stories about their trips they arrange.

Some other memorable events are Homecoming, Halloween and you should definitely consider visiting sports matches such as ice hockey, basketball or football.

If you have any further questions you can contact me:  
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