

## **Exchange Haskayne School of Business, Calgary, 2016**

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For my exchange I went to Calgary, in the west of Canada, where I studied at the Haskayne School of Business, what is a part of the University of Calgary. It was a great experience to study in another country for 4 months and I met a lot of new people. I would encourage everybody to go on an exchange to explore a new country and to meet new people from all over the world.

### **Preparation**

It all started when I received the mail that told me that I was selected to go on an exchange to Calgary. After that, I directly signed up for a room in the Residence of the University of Calgary. They have enough rooms to host all the exchange students on campus, because they recently build a new residence building. Most exchange students live in Cascade Hall and this was also the building where I lived. It was not necessary for me to do a English Proficiency Test like a TOEFL or IELTS, but you should check that yourself now, cause they might have changed that.

It was not necessary to have a visa, because you only need it if you stay longer than 6 months. The only thing that you need to enter Canada is an "Electronic Travel Authorization" (ETA) and you can apply for it on the site of the Canadian Government. I would recommend you to book your flight as soon as possible, because this makes it way cheaper. I booked my flight around May and paid about 1000 euros for a direct round trip with KLM including 2 suitcases. Be prepared for really cold weather in November and December, as it can get -20 degrees in Calgary.

### **Arrival**

I arrived on 7 September 2016 at Calgary Airport. A Canadian friend that I met already in a Buddy Program provided by the Haskayne School of Business picked me up at the airport and drove me to the University. It is also possible to take a cab which brings you to the university for about 25 to 30 euros (depending on the exchange rate). At the University it was easy to pick up my university card and the key of my room. The week before the semester starts is the introduction week of the University. This introduction week is more for the first year students, but there were also some activities for international students which were really useful to meet other exchange students.

### **Courses**

I already chose my courses in the Netherlands, but you can still change them when you are already in Canada. You have about 2 weeks to change them if you don't like them. The courses were taught differently than in the Netherlands in the sense that we had a lot more assignments and midterms. This made it easier to pass, cause the final exam had a smaller weight than what we normally have in the Netherlands. The 4 courses that I took are represented below:

- AMAT481 – Introduction to Mathematical Finance (6 ECTS)  
This was a very interesting course where we used probability and mathematics to analyze different financial assets and derivatives, like options and forward contracts. The teacher wrote everything and did not use any slides, so this kept me motivated to go to the lectures to right everything down. The course was not too hard if you just went to the lectures and made all the assignments. The grade was determined by 5 assignments, a midterm and a final exam.
- PSYC217 – Psychology for everyday life (6 ECTS)  
This course was taught by a really kind woman from New Zealand. It was an introduction course in psychology for non-major Psychology students. We covered different topics of psychology, such as personality, stress and disorders. It was a pretty easy course and the exams were not too hard to pass. The grade was determined by 2 midterms and a final exam.
- ECON495 – Econometrics I (6 ECTS)  
This course covered most of the topics that were already covered in the second year of Econometrics, but it still gave some interesting new insights. We covered simple and multiple regression models, but also time series and panel data. I learned a lot from the assignments that we needed to make. The grade was determined by 5 assignments, a midterm and a final exam.
- ACCT217 – Introductory Financial Accounting (6 ECTS)  
This was an introduction course into accounting and was taught by a woman that had a PhD in Accounting, what was really nice, because she really knew what she was talking about. It covered most of the basic topics in accounting, like the financial statements and journal entries. Despite that it was a first years course, it still took some time for me to study and practice for the exams. The grade was determined by some assignments, 2 midterms and a final exam.

## Finances

Canada is a little bit more expensive than the Netherlands, especially beers and beef are more expensive. However, the exchange rate was really good at the moment of my exchange what compensated a bit for the higher cost of living. In the table below is represented an estimate of the expenses that I made:

<b>Expenses</b>		
Flight	€	1.000,00
Residence	€	2.200,00
U-Pass	€	100,00
Daily life	€	1.000,00
Trips	€	1.400,00
<b>Total</b>	€	<b>5.700,00</b>

The daily life expenses consist of the groceries, sport activities and some other costs for studying at the university. The U-pass gave free permission to the public transport in Calgary, what was really convenient. I did not bought a phone plan, because these are really expensive and there is Wi-Fi on the campus. The trips in the table consist of a trip to Vancouver, 2 days of skiing and multiple day and weekend trips in the mountains.

### **Daily life**

During the weeks I studied, played squash or just chilled with some other exchange students. We had a nice living room in our apartment in the residence what was perfect for drinking a beer, playing cards, or just watching a movie. On Wednesday it was wings night in the Den, which is a bar/restaurant on the campus, where you could eat cheap chicken wings and watch sports. On Thursday the Den became a club where most of the students went to party.

Most weekends we rented a car and drove to the mountains to explore the Canadian nature. There are a lot of beautiful places to see in the Rocky mountains, like Lake Louise, Emerald Lake, Johnston Canyon and lots of other places. During my stay in Canada I also saw lots of wild life like deer's, raccoons and bears. It is also possible to visit bigger cities such as Vancouver and Edmonton, which are relatively close to Calgary. From begin December it is possible to ski in the Rockies. You can buy your ski pass with a big discount at the Ski Club of the University of Calgary and you can also rent your skis and snowboard at the Outdoor Centre at the University.

I had a really great time in Canada and I will definitely go back, cause it is such as diverse, big and beautiful country. I hope that this reports helps you in making your decisions where to go and maybe to prepare your exchange. If you have any questions, you can always contact me on Facebook or [daanopschoor@outlook.com](mailto:daanopschoor@outlook.com).