

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

Once in a lifetime, you gotta experience it here !

Travelling to Florida

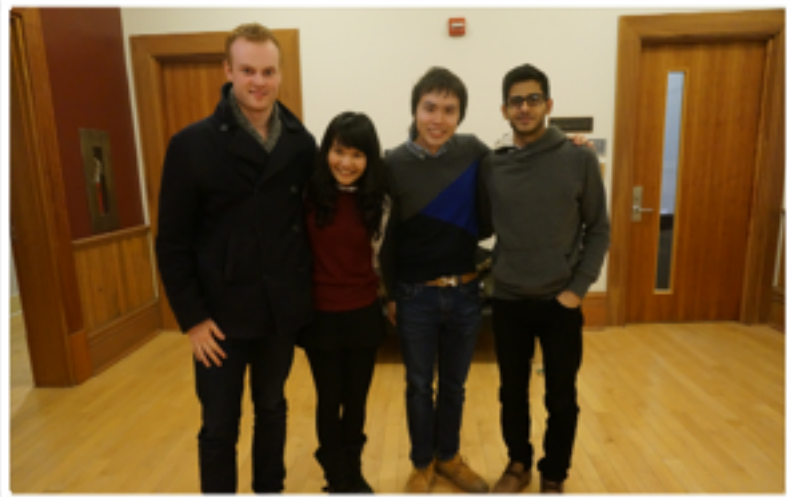
I would highly encourage you to visit Florida during reading week. (The name might suggest you to be reading but luckily, Commerce program would finish all their midterms before that) This period of reading week would take place during second week of February.

Which cities are proximate to Kingston to travel?

Montreal, Toronto, Ottawa are all the places within 2-3 hour reach. Each place offers unique travel experiences

Which restaurants to go when I miss Asian food in Kingston?

All the good restaurants are located in Princess street. I would highly recommend Arisu for Korean food, and Stages for nightlife experience Don't forget to try the traditional Poutine which is located right to Arisu. And if you do miss Thai food, cook it yourself so bring Thai ingredients from Thailand !!!



Do you have these following desires?

Academic excellence, global friendship opportunities, extreme winter sport experience, picturesque scenic scenery, case-based learning atmosphere and developed, yet; peaceful land to try living in.... If any of these triggered the desire for you to be impressed with, look no further since Queen's University can offer it all, what's more; offer it well !

Surviving the first week

To understand it best, let's see what you'll have to be spending your next semester in. After flying to Toronto, Canada, you'll be spending your time in a tranquil college town, called Kingston, Ontario. You could transport there in three





Things to bring

- Winter clothes (gloves, scarfs and other essentials)
- Business attire (Suit and tie are required for you in the presentation)
- Smart Casual clothes; you'll be hanging out with other foreigners a lot.
- All the medicine you would need during winter (Trust me! Prescription in Canada isn't an easy thing to get)
- Adaptors and ปลั๊กสามตา
- Sunglasses
- Sport clothes (the ARC, Queen's fitness facilities are extremely great)
- Some gifts from Thailand to give to your professors and other exchange student friends
- Other personal things you would need to survive

approaches; by plane (Aircanada is recommended), train (Via Rail) or bus (Megabus). Just visit the three renowned companies as suggested above. I would highly recommend the bus since it's directly linked from the airport and you would be transported directly to the university. You are highly encouraged to plan to arrive Kingston 2-3 days before the actual orientation since nothing is really predictable for Canadian winter. There might be an avalanche which causes you an incapability of getting there. And yes, you would be living in one of the coldest places in the world. Be sure to anticipate the extreme coldness up to -30 degree Celcius. (For winter jackets and other essential winter stuffs, I do recommend you to shop in Toronto Airport) For accommodations, wait for the confirmation email from Queen's University. It entails detailed information. Let's not frighten you any further and see what kind of activities you could get to try.



- How to prepare for study -

By the exchange “student” title, you’re required to manage your time effectively to yield a highly favorable academic result. At Queen’s, your schedule depends solely on how you manage. The way I would advise you around this topic could be done in the following sections;

Enrolling for course;

Since all the subjects you would be enrolling can be freely chosen, you’ll be competing with others to get the section and subject you would like to participate in. I highly encourage all of you to pay close attention to the emails and all other information Queen’s provided so you can get yourself in the right and desired time schedule. Note that the organized time schedule could help you manage time around better; thus, allowing you more time to travel.

Before you start the class;

You need to change a perception a bit in order to blend in well with the cultural diversity Canada and Queen’s have gotta offer. In many classes, participation in class is required. By participation, I mean actively interact with the instructors and other classmates to yield a favorable learning atmosphere.

From time to time, you would be assigned with certain case readings. The quantity of pre-assigned reading depends on the nature of each subject you’ve enrolled in. For example, I studied international business strategy. I was required to read an Ivey case almost every week and doing such is compulsory since the class would be conducted in line with the case. The instructors assumed you read the case every week and came up with certain activities such as role plays and impromptu individual discussion. So, manage your time well to allow these academic preparation before attending the class as well.

During the class;

Study! Participate! Ask questions! All of these basic things we know are required for yielding successful academic outcome should be practiced. My recommendation is that the more active you are in the class, the fewer burdens you’re left to work with before exam. In case of project-based class, you’ll be working with other people. So, my recommendation is to find some friends so this would pave the way well for team formation while promoting great working experiencing among the team. Note that for project-based classes, for instance; marketing and new business development, the score allocation leans drastically towards the project. Hence, having a great teammates would help a lot for your study.

After class;

Just review basic documents given or talk to your teammates to plan ahead for projects. Time management skill is extremely vital for you would have to balance between leisure and academic focus.

Lifestyle

Living in Canada during winter semester was quite challenging. With the temperature below -30 degree Celsius, staying outside for too long was not a smart idea at all. Hence, most of the days were spent inside the building between home, university, grocery shop, Downtown area, and some friends' houses. The most important thing that we had to do every single day was checking the weather before leaving home.

We lived in the apartment #142, Albert Street which took only 5 to 10 minutes walking to the commerce building, Goodes Hall. Routinely after the class, most of the time we met some friends, attended the group project meetings and stayed at the library studying. On the day that the weather was unfavorable, we could just stay inside Goodes Hall and had some nice and warm coffee as the Starbucks coffee shop is located on the ground floor.

Our everyday-concern was "what should we eat?" There were 2 answers, cooking or dining out somewhere else. For cooking, we had a full-option kitchen available at home. The only thing that we had to prepare before that was going to grocery shopping. We always went to grocery shopping at Loblaws on Tuesday as we received 10% student discount. We had to take the bus to get there which took around 30 minutes from our place. In the case that we did not have enough time, there are Food basic and Metro available in Downtown. For Downtown, it took around 10 to 15 minutes walking, or maybe more in the case that the walkway was covered in snow. We normally had lunch or dinner with some friends there.

Activities

There was a Facebook group called "ETC" which was created and managed by Queen's students who wanted to help all the incoming exchange students in getting used to the life at Queen's. They sometimes organized some events or hosted the house parties.

The norm for Thursday night was clubbing. Only one club is available in Downtown Kingston which is the place where all the students gathered around, hanged out, relaxed and made some new friends. After a long socializing night, poutinery is the next stop before heading home. Poutine is a typical Canadian food comprised of fries and gravy sauce with various toppings.

For the regular activity, Queen's students love working out. They usually go to the Arc, the place where the gym and canteen are located, after the class.

Queen's also organized an event called "Cultural Night" which was held during the period before final exam. They divided all the exchange students into groups by the country of origin. We had a chance to meet Queen's students who chose to come to Thailand on exchange in the next semester. We had a chance to talk and present them about Thailand in many perspectives and help them in preparing themselves before coming here.

As Kingston is located in the middle between Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal, we had a chance to travel to these places during the weekends. Both train and bus take 3 hours to each place. There is also a reading week during the winter semester which is the week after the midterm exam for all the commerce students. It's a perfect time for traveling to the States or the west part of Canada.