

Schulich School of Business, York University

Chau Sing Lung

Exchange in 2007 1st semester

Introduction

Schulich School of Business is a faculty in Keele Campus of York University. It is one of the best business schools in Canada. Originally known as the Faculty of Administrative Studies, it was renamed in 1995 after Seymour Schulich, a major benefactor. (www.wikipedia.com)

Courses

The School opens a number of courses in Accounting, Finance, Management, Marketing, Economics and Global Business. Among the above, Accounting and Finance courses are the most demanding. In general, students should expect numbers of assignments, projects from the professors. They should also actively participate in class to get good grades.

Exchange students will receive the course outline from the School. It lists out all business courses available to them. It is important to note that only fundamental accounting courses are open to exchange students. (Similar to ACY 1111, 1112) Students have to check if they can transfer credit for these courses with ACY School.

Examples of courses

Finance---Investments, Advanced Corporate Finance, Financial Management

Marketing---Consumer Behavior, Marketing Research

Management---Project Management, Organizational Behavior

Economics---Applied Economics, International Economics

Global Business---International Business

Others--- Business History, Business Ethics, Real Estate Finance

Exchange students can only choose business courses in the outline and no other courses from other faculties

Student Committee and Accommodation

The Open Arm Committee (OAC) is the one taking care of exchange students. They have a buddy programme to help exchange students get used to the life

at York. Before the start of semester, OAC will co-organize with the School an orientation programme to all exchange students. OAC also organizes a number of activities for exchange students throughout the semester. For example, there is a trip to Niagara Falls.

There are a number of halls in the campus. Exchange students will usually have single rooms to live inside them. If you like to live close to the Schulich School and the retail centre, you may choose Vanier and Atkinson. Yet, there is no student activity at Atkinson. If you want to live in a new hall and are willing to pay more, you may choose Pond's Road Residence.

Some exchange students may be offered off-campus accommodation. They may spend longer traveling time for classes.

Weather (in 2007)

September---around 20-25C, sunny for most of the days

October--- getting cooler, may have very little raining

November---snow slightly for 1-2 days, little raining

December---snow, some raining. You may go skiing in this month. There is one skiing centre in Toronto. (Earl Bales Park)

Clothing

Be prepared with clothing for the cold weather. Yet, there is a warming system inside buildings and thus you don't have to wear too much when you are staying indoors.

Local Travel

There are several bus routes that you must know

Viva purple---It takes you to Perimeter station in 15-20 minutes to find Wal-Mart and a Chinese supermarket to buy Hong Kong brand daily necessity.

106/196---It takes you to the nearest subway station to get to downtown Toronto.

Visiting/Traveling

Hong Kong/Toronto

Get ready for the flight tickets 2-3 months prior to departure. Better take CX flight for better services. My experience in AC flight is not so good.

Places to visit

It is nice to join a short trip to Quebec, Montreal and Ottawa. There are several local tours which takes you to these places. For longer trip, you may travel to US cities. Alternatively, western part of Canada is a good place to see snow-cover Mountains and glacier.

Visa

Visa is required for traveling to US. It is better to apply in Hong Kong. For Canada, if you are staying less than 6 months, visa is not necessary. Please check for the most updated requirements

Expenses

Air tickets (Round trip) HKD 12500

Residence fee CAD 2200

Meal plan CAD 1000 (tax exempt)

Textbooks CAD 350

Health Insurance (UHIP) – Mandatory CAD 200

Phone card CAD 130

Local transportation CAD 400

Groceries CAD 150

Traveling (Quebec, Ottawa and Montreal, Vancouver) CAD 1300

Traveling (US) USD 1,000

Shopping & Miscellaneous CAD 100

General Impression

Being an exchange student is definitely the most unforgettable experience in my life. The four-month period passed more quickly than I expected before. It is a pity that I stayed there for only 4 months, but I have already learnt a lot both academically and non-academically!

The Schulich School of Business in York University is a good place to learn. The professors are enthusiastic in teaching. Some of them are running their own business in the real markets and are able to share their past experience in doing business and demonstrate how knowledge learnt can be applied in the real world. In addition to textbook and lectures notes, other learning materials are from a variety of sources. In some classes, the professor went through news articles which are related to the courses. Besides, students in Schulich are more aggressive and always raise their hands up asking and answering

questions. A good classroom atmosphere can be expected, especially in certain open discussion during the class and this is the time that you would learn the most. The school emphasizes on group work. Through working with local students, I became more confident in expressing myself using my second language. It is indeed rewarding though challenging.

The activity outside classroom is the most fascinating thing in my exchange. The students there really like to go partying. Especially during festival, for example, nearly all people will go partying and dance crazily in pub during Halloween. They dressed up specially to impersonate ghosts and vampire. Some students dressed like the famous characters in the films. During the exchange, I also traveled to some other cities in Canada and US. Quebec is the most special city in Canada. The architecture there makes it looks like a European city. The Rocky Mountain area is magnificent and spectacular and the small towns there are lovely. I love that place the most. Cities in US gave me another kind of feeling. New York is crowded and prosperous. The city is always busy and never rests.

On the whole, the exchange experience is so valuable and I missed my time there.