

Exchange Report
St. George College, University of Toronto
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Introduction

The University of Toronto (U of T) is a public research university in the city of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. It is the largest university in Canada in terms of student enrollment. The institution comprises sixteen academic faculties and a collegiate framework of eleven colleges within its principal campus St. George, which surrounds Queen's Park in the Downtown district. It is one of the most widely known and highly regarded universities in Canada and ranks highly in numerous world ranking.

<http://www.utoronto.ca/home.htm>

<http://www.utoronto.ca/commerce/index.htm>

Visa Requirement

If you hold a HKSAR or BNO visa, you are not required to apply for a visa for studying one semester there. Nevertheless, since there is always confusion between HKSAR and PRC passport, you are advised to prepare adequate documents to prove your study in Canada. The letter of acceptance from University of Toronto is a must. In addition, you are also recommended to provide them with the returning ticket and accommodation details.

(If you would like to apply for a US travel VISA, it is better for you not to tell the US Consulate that you are going to study in Canada. It is because it may make the whole application process more complicated and time-consuming. It is hard to apply for a US Visa in Canada. If you want to visit the US, apply for it in HK)

Semester Period

From early September to late December. There is no orientation camp .A half day orientation session will be provided.

Local Weather

Sept: Hot and sunny (Temperature can reach 30 degree Celsius.)

Oct – Nov: Cool and windy. (Around 5 – 20 degree Celsius.)

Dec: Snow (0 – 15 degree Celsius)

Accommodation

If you go for one semester only, you are not eligible to apply for U of T hostel. You can only apply for the off campus housing:

- Tartu college
 - Adv:
 - ◆ Relatively very cheap! CA\$350 per person for a double room and CA\$500 for a single room.
 - ◆ Near campus! It makes it very attractive especially in cold weather!
 - ◆ No meal plan. It is an advantage as meal plan costs a lot.
 - ◆ Near to railway station and streetcar station
 - Disadv:
 - ◆ It is quite full. You have to apply early!
 - ◆ No air conditioner. The heater sucks sometimes.
 - ◆ Some people have seen rats there. It is notorious for its rats.
- Chestnut
 - Adv:
 - ◆ It was a hotel before so the rooms are nicely decorated.
 - ◆ Double beds provided
 - ◆ The meal provided is delicious!
 - ◆ Many exchange students live there, so you can make a number of friends there.
 - Disadv:
 - ◆ Expensive!! It is the most expensive one among all of the off campus housing.
 - ◆ Meal plan is compulsory. It costs a lot although the food there is good.
 - ◆ Quite far away from campus. It takes you 20-30 mins to walk to U of T. If it snows, it is quite torturing to walk to the campus. Taking streetcar is an option for you (CA\$2.75 for one ticket. Monthly Pass: about CA\$90)
- Primrose
 - Adv: nice living environment
 - Disadv:
 - ◆ Expensive
 - ◆ Meal plan is compulsory. Breakfast and dinner provided but the food doesn't taste good.
 - ◆ A bit away from campus. It takes you 15-20 mins to walk to U of T, but it is very near to streetcar and railway station.

Orientation and Activities

The international student centre in U of T organizes numerous activities for international students like “English in the City”, “English Conversation Programme”, trip to Niagara Falls, trip to Algonquin Park, Trip to ski, Thanksgiving dinner, Halloween Party, Movie Night, Barbecue...

Courses

These are the courses I have taken

MGT 321 Auditing – ACY3131 Auditing (CU)

MGT 492 – Mgt4010 (CU)

PSY100 Introduction to Psychology – PSY1000 (CU)

AST101 Sun and its Neighbors (introduction to astronomy) – UG (CU)

There are some year courses in U of T. If you go for a semester only, there are some courses that you cannot take.

You can contact me or go to

http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/ofr/archived/0708calendar/crs_mgt.htm for more information.

Expenditure

I don't exactly remember how much I have spent, but there are some tips to save money. I hope it will be useful to you.

- Books are expensive there. CA\$ 100- 200 per books. There is one old book store on the College Street. You can buy used book and sell your books there. I did photocopy books! (I should not recommend it ... but it is really much cheaper!) There are two photocopy shops providing cheap photocopying service. One is on the College Street and one is on the Bloor Street.
- Travel: It is much cheaper if you join the local tours there from agencies like Taipan Tour. There are trips to Montreal, Quebec, US East, US West, Florida and so on. You can search for its website for more information on the internet.
- Phone: you can buy cheap phone cards in the China town to make phone calls to HK. About CA\$5 for 1000 minutes.

Things to Bring

Laptop

Socket Adaptors

Digital Camera

Jackets, Scarf, gloves, thick socks

Business formal wear

Medicine

Stationery

Cell phone

Umbrella

A pair of water-proof shoes

Final Thought and Reminder

U of T is a very good choice if you want to go to somewhere not very remote. Since this university is in the downtown, the transport is very convenient. Supermarkets, restaurants, and shopping halls are everywhere! You will not encounter the problems that it takes you 2 hours to go to a supermarket, 3 hours to go to a shopping mall, etc.

Besides, there is no racial discrimination there! You can easily get along well with the white, the black and the yellow!