

# Dalhousie University

Winter Semester 2016, 3<sup>rd</sup> year BSc (Maths, CompSci)



My Exchange to Dalhousie has been one of the most enriching experiences of my life. I have seen and done things I never thought I would and have made some of the most amazing friends along the way.

Dalhousie itself is a nice, reasonably contained campus with everything within an arm's reach. Located in Halifax, the heart of Nova Scotia, you should have no problem adapting to the size of campus or way of life. It is similar size to Otago and the people are just as friendly. Being in the Maritimes, the people from Halifax are extremely friendly and always there to show you the ropes if need be.

Halifax is also a very University oriented city with 4 large schools in the vicinity of the city boundaries meaning there are lots of people to meet!

## Accommodation:

I ended up staying in residence since I didn't sort out any flatting accommodation beforehand. Although this was a little on the expensive side, I do not regret it one bit. The rooms were small and self-contained but there were endless Canadians to meet just down the hall. You also had to buy a meal plan, but this was used to its fullest as you could eat any time of day and as many times as you wanted.

I had friends staying in a flat situation in the residence, which was good if grouped with nice people. I also had friends that stayed in regular flats. They seemed to really like this set up as the housing is a lot warmer and nicer than any Dunedin flat. It was about the same price as most Dunedin flats so it shouldn't break the bank if you want to go down this route. I recommend looking on kijiji(Canadian TradeMe) for some housing options if you are not sure.

## Money Matters:

Everyone said that I would spend more than what I budgeted and they were wrong! I manage to live within the means that I had set myself as well as doing everything that I wanted to do. I had food already prepaid however, and this is where a lot of my friends seem to spend a lot more than they meant to. Another big expenditure is alcohol. It is more expensive than it is in Dunedin so budget wisely here. Bars seem to be cheaper though with many specials throughout the week.

The most expensive part was travelling by far. You want to see everything you can whilst you are there so why not take every opportunity to travel? I was lucky as there was a group of about 15 of us who travelled together which made mass bookings cheaper but bear this in mind when planning adventures. Don't be afraid to go over budget however, just make sure the bank of mum is there to support you if need be. You can always pay it back when you get home!

### **Making New Friends:**

Making friends was something that I was slightly concerned about but these concerns were quickly snuffed out! Being in a hall, I was surrounded by people from the moment I moved in so I introduced myself to my neighbour and ended up meeting most of my floor pretty quickly. Canadians are a bit shy at first but give them some time and you'll end up making some great friends!

I ended up hanging out with mostly exchange student as they weren't as concerned about classes as the Canadians were and were always up for having a good time! There was a small but tight knit group of us who become like family at the end of it. We travelled together and lived together and now I have friends I can go visit all over the world!

### **Things to do:**

- Ice hockey game
- Citadel hill
- Cape Breton (Cabot trail)
- Dome
- Point Pleasant Park
- Splitcrow Saturdays
- Skiing
- Cape Split
- Value Village in Dartmouth
- Tim Hortons
- University sports game
- Dalplex
- Walk around the waterfront
- Public Gardens



### **Classes:**

Classes actually run on the half hour so luckily, the earliest class that you can be given is an 8:30! I would recommend not taking a class at this time however as it still very early to wake

up. Apart from that, the classes I took were very much the same as the ones in Dunedin. Being a maths and computer science major, I found the difficulty levels and relevance all very similar also. I have heard from a few others that their classes were much easier and that they had participation marks but this was not the case for me. I may have made it harder for myself of course by doing minimal work but just remember that a D is a pass here. Most of the time, there is a higher emphasis on the internal marks so get most of these and your finals will be a breeze!

In all, I would not swap my exchange experience for anything. I have seen the east half of Canada and got to do it with people I wouldn't have met otherwise. Words are not enough to sum up my time in Canada and I hope to see everyone that I made friends with again soon. So if you are still trying to make your mind up whether or not you should go, just do it! You will not regret it and have the time of your life!

