



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	Brock University, Canada
Semester & Year of Exchange	Fall (Semester 2) 2022
Otago degree(s)	Bcom in Tourism
Major(s)	Tourism (Major) Marketing (Minor)

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
MKTG4P93 Internet & Social Media marketing	English	MART 308
TOUR3Q97 Events Management	English	TOUR 304
TOUR3P97 Culinary Tourism	English	TOUR 3XX
TOUR2P32 Nature-Based Tourism	English	TOUR 306

Total Otago credits gained: 54 points 72 points 108 points _____

Any comments about these papers?

Some paper's workloads are heavier than others, some are easier. Overall, these papers are rather interesting and well taught. MKTG4P93 was a more advanced course which heavily focused on the professor's personal marketing framework which I felt was not what I was looking to learn about.

How did the academic experience/ workload/ style of teaching differ from Otago?

Personally, I don't think I can comment much about the style of teaching for Otago as I have only had online classes for Otago so far. However, the teaching style at Brock University were more self-learning than professor taught learning. Lots of essential reading materials are given and required to be read before classes or you would be missing out during class and for assignments.

Accommodation

What accommodation did you stay in? What were the pros and cons of your accommodation?

I stayed at Residence 8. It is the newest residence building in Brock University with a semi-suite styled housing where you have your own bedroom unit and ensuite bathroom shared with 1 other student (adjoined).

Pros: The bedroom and bathroom unit is modern and furnished with everything you would need with plenty of storage.

Cons: Walls are thin, aircon/heater vent is loud.

As the bathroom is shared, having a good schedule and rapport with your toilet mate is important to ensure that the bathroom is always clean and tidy. Dorm style living really depends on your personal preference and tolerance level as not everyone have the same mindset and culture as you.

Money matters

Please detail your basic costs, e.g. accommodation, flights, visa, food, insurance

Accommodation for fall semester at Residence 8 costs \$8,171.99 including misc charges and the compulsory 7-day meal plan where students get to dine in any of the 2 dining halls on campus. Flight costs depends on which airline, cabin class and date you chose to fly. Overall, I would say that costs spent on food is rather low as you can dine in at the dining halls as many time as you want unless you are bored of the food they are serving.

What means did you use to access your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, Cash passport, foreign bank account, etc.)

I used cash, debit card and prepaid card to go about my daily expenses here in Canada. There are some places that only accept cards/cash but both can be used pretty much everywhere in Canada. Would definitely recommend carrying both around.

Visas & Insurance

Did you have to apply for a visa? What was the process?

Visa is optional for those who are staying in Canada for less than 6 months, however, it is required if you would like to work part-time while studying here. The duration and process differs based on your nationality and place in which you applied for the visa.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

Yes a Mandatory insurance called UHIP is required to be purchased. The fee is included in the fee required to be paid by students.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

What organised activities were available to students? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students?

If you are a social butterfly, there are plenty of activities to join. Each residence building will also hold their own activity for the residence students.

What was the university/ city like?

Classes were quite nearby. The only public transport available is the transit bus.

Any recommendations for things to do, places to visit, places to eat etc.?

Definitely the Niagara Falls and Clifton Hill during the day and night. No visit to Canada is considered done unless you visit Toronto too.

Any tips for future students?

Come with an open mind, prepare to be culturally different from your classmates etc.

Overall Experience

Please write one paragraph (or more) about your exchange experience. Please include some photos!

Canada was an eye-opener. It is a far away land from my home country that I never thought I would get to visit. Canada is a wonderful place with many scenic places.



Figure 1- Statue of Sir General Isaac



Figure 2 - Niagara Falls in September (Day)

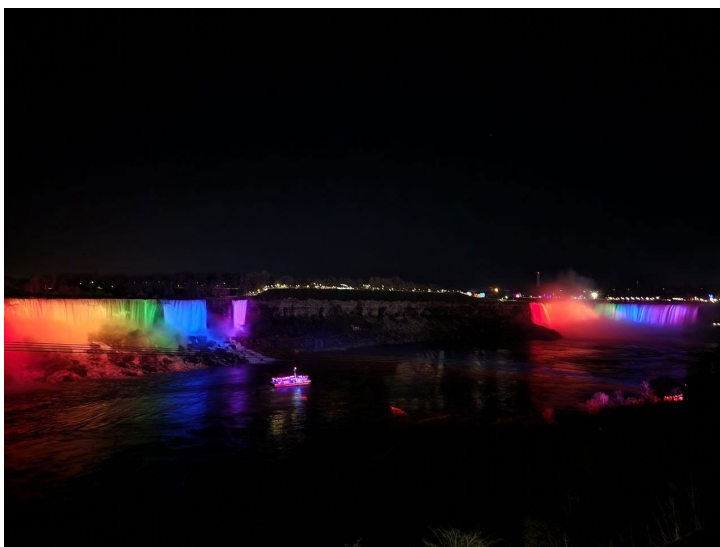


Figure 3 - Niagara Falls in December (Night)



Figure 4 - Autumn vibes around Campus



Figure 5 - Enjoying free S'Mores at Niagara Outlet Factory in December



Figure 6 - Self Toronto exploration before start of Semester

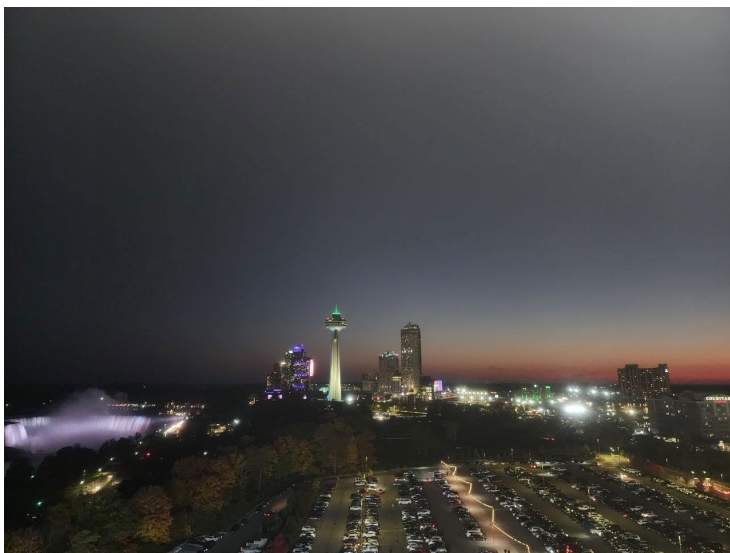


Figure 7 - View while riding on the Sky Wheel at Clifton Hill



Figure 8 - Snow flake catching during one of the few light flurries