



EXCHANGE REPORT



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I chose to study in Canada, Toronto, at a college called Humber, due to the structure of the school and their winter semester classes starting January 9. I flew to Canada on the 3 of January to partake in the orientation the school provided. My semester ended on the 21 of April, so it has been less than four months.

This school was available to me as I am a business economics and IT student, it is also known to other students, but this was how I got into the school. I was able to study in Canada during my 5th semester.

I could choose the classes I wanted at Humber before I was there. The official title of the education I am taking is digital business management. However, when people ask, I tell them that I am in the faculty of business as I could choose whatever elective I wanted as long as there were relevant and didn't follow one program, so I feel it describes it better.

Every student attending Humber College must take five classes to complete a semester. I originally picked Business Communications, Leadership, Project Management, Data Analytics & Fintech, and Organizational Behavior. I switched from Project management to Business Information Systems quickly.

Business Communications focuses on how to best communicate in a written and oral work environment. You will be taught to write professional letters and letters and much more which is very relevant for any student as this is something we all must do. During the semester I had to write two different forms of professional communication, do a business research report and an oral report. Like any class, I had to take a midterm and final exam of multiple choice. I recommend taking this class if you can do so.

The next class is Leadership, which is also a class I suggest taking if you have the option. It's important to point out, as you may know, that a teacher is a big part of how much you enjoy the class. I was fortunate to have the same teacher in Leadership and Business Communications, and I like the teaching style. Leadership focuses on the theories, practices, and psychology of being a good leader, and this has given me real-life skills that I think will help me greatly in the workplace.

Data Analytics & Fintech is a class I did not enjoy at all. This is an 8th-semester class, and it is mandatory for every accounting student, so there was a lot of expected knowledge I needed to have. Furthermore, I did not like my teacher, so this course did not motivate me, and I feel like I didn't learn what I wanted to.

My favourite subject was Organizational behaviour. This class focuses a lot on the psychology of people and how that affects an organization, but not only that, the course also makes you analyze yourself. The teacher did this because he wanted us to be better people and be aware of our flaws and how to handle them. Therefore, I grew as a person in this class.

Business Information Systems was kind of boring because I had already learned 70% of the curriculum as a Business Economics and IT. An example is how we were taught about cloud technology, security, and Gantt charts. This course might benefit students from other educations, but I would not recommend it for Business Economics and IT students.

All in all, I recommend Business Communications, Leadership and Organizational Behavior. This is based on many variables that might differ from another student coming here to study.

I liked my receiving school coordinator, Chris Curry. He helped me a lot and was there whenever I had questions. One prominent critique I have for the school is that you only have one week to change any class you do not enjoy. I was lucky that I had a course on Monday I knew I would not like or be happy with, so I could change it. However, I had Data Analytics & Fintech on Friday from 13:30-16:00, which seemed interesting on the first day, but after the second week, I could tell it was not for me. Even if I discovered on the first week that I did not like the class, I would not have been able to change it as both my receiving and sending coordinator would have gone home for the day.

During the application process, I was a little stressed, but this was more to do with my personality than the process, as I wanted to get something right and be able to go abroad. However, Anne Dibbern was helpful and patient when I kept asking a million questions. She helped me with the process, but we also discussed which subjects to choose and how to find accommodations.

I had the opportunity to live in a residence located 5 minutes walk from the campus. This was amazing and allowed me to be lazy and sleep a little more. When I talked with Anne about where I could live, she was accommodating and made finding a place to live easy. Furthermore, many exchange students went to my campus, so they all lived there. This meant we could do many activities together that we might have yet to be able to do otherwise.

However, a significant negative of living in residence is that it is expensive, costs me about 31.000 kr, and has to be paid in total. This is something only some can afford. Also, it was mandatory to buy a meal plan, and after school ended, you would not be able to get the money left on the plan back. I did not enjoy the food they served, so I ended up having a significant amount left, which I lost.

Paying the total amount for living expenses all at once meant that I could have fewer fixed expenses. The only one I had was my mobile, where I used Fido, but I would recommend researching and getting an e-sim, as you don't need a new sim card, and it is cheaper.

I was very fortunate that I was able to qualify for an Erasmus grant even though I was studying in Canada. I received the total amount at once instead of monthly like they do when you are studying in Europe, it amounted to about 16.500 kr. I also got SU throughout my time abroad, and as I only had my mobile as a fixed cost, I spent a significant amount of my money on experiences and fun. Besides Erasmus, I also got a grant from Knud Højgaards fonden, which amounted to 15.000 kr. I applied for other grants, but they did not get accepted.

By getting the abovementioned grants, I spent less of my money than I expected. I also spend less money than what I budget for, and this is because I was very critical when analyzing my expected expenses.

I spent the most significant amount of money travelling in the four months I was in Toronto. I travel to Cancun, New York, and Vancouver. Travelling to nearby countries at a much lower cost than if I travel from Denmark has been one of the biggest highlights of being in Canada.

Canada is English-speaking and a part of North America, so I knew what to expect as we in Denmark are shown much American/Canadian culture, so adjusting was easy. However, the most significant thing I had to be aware of is what I call "Pointless Politeness." This is when you start a conversation when someone, they or you are supposed to ask, "Hello, how are you" and you should answer good and ask the question back. As a Danish person, this was not in my nature as we are very direct, so learning to do that was necessary so I would not be seen as impolite.

The school could not help with this, but they ensured we got different experiences as exchange students. All the exchange students got to go to Niagara Falls, where they had arranged for us to eat breakfast in a hotel on the top floor with an amazing view of the falls.

However, the exchange students in the faculty of business got a lot more experiences and gifts than the other students. We got a water bottle, key chains, and packing cubes as souvenirs. We also got to go on different trips that the others did not. We went to see a Marles hockey game, a Raptors basketball game, a food and drink festival and skiing. Doing these events, we also got food gift cards and snack bags.

The ski trip was my favourite, as it was my first time skiing. The whole trip was paid for, even my beginner's lessons and I only paid for some skiing clothes. Also, before we were informed of the ski trip, we discussed doing it together as exchange students, but that did not happen. Trying to ski was on my priority list of things to do, so if not for the faculty of business, I would not have done it, so I am very grateful.

I advise students who want to be part of an exchange program first to choose easy classes. I know my exchange coordinator will most likely delete this part, but I strongly recommend it. I had chosen some highly technical courses that took great effort to understand, and I had to put more energy into them than I wished. In contrast, the "softer" classes were more fun and intuitive, so I did not spend much time studying for exams and still got good grades. So before picking classes, ask yourself if this course will require a significant amount of energy. If the answer is yes, I would pick something else, especially as I mentioned you would only have one week to change courses.

My second piece of advice is to make a list of what you want to do while in Toronto. These could be things to see in the city and if you want to travel. My exchange program only lasted four months, and even though this sounds like a lot, it is not, especially as you only have 16 weekends to do the stuff you want to do. This meant that because I did not have a loose schedule, 80% of what I wanted to do in Toronto was done in the last week I was there.

And lastly, have fun and enjoy it as much as you can! Exchange is a fantastic opportunity, and you will not regret doing it.