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UQ Program: Bachelor of Arts

I attended UBC in the Winter Session as a third year Arts student majoring in History and Ancient History (Classics). I met so many people and made some amazing friends. Vancouver is a great city to live in. There is always something to see and do. Vancouver is also a great base city to live in to facilitate travel elsewhere. I made several trips to Whistler, a trip to New York and on the way home went down the US West Coast to Seattle, San Francisco, San Diego and LA. You can get some major bargains on the flights to the US or often it is cheaper to get the Greyhound to Seattle and fly around the US from there as it is then a domestic flight.

Just before you go you will have to option to buy a UPass which gets you onto most public transport. It is great – get one. I used my UPass pretty much every day. Budget wise be aware that Vancouver is an expensive city – especially for groceries. Safeway and Save on Foods are close to campus and at Kin's Fresh Food Market you can get good fresh fruit and vegies and you get a 10% discount as a UBC student.

I lived in Gage Towers on campus. I have friends who lived in Fairview and Rits. All have their advantages and disadvantages. The aspect I liked the most about Gage is that it is right across from the Bus Loop and the SUB (Student Union Building – which has lots of places to eat, a cinema and the Pit Pub). I found that people's attitude towards their res was largely dictated by their roommates. It really is the luck of the draw.

Academically it was a bit of an adjustment from UQ as we were required to take on five subjects. It took a while to get it under control but it ended up being manageable. The enrolment process at UBC is a lot different to UQ. In the Arts faculty there are very limited spots and classes fill up quickly so get your enrolment form in as soon as possible. I met many students at UBC who were unable to get into the classes they wanted.

Top Tips

1. Make the trip to Whistler at least once – there is so much to see and do both in ski season and in the off season.
2. Halloween is a blast in Vancouver – go Downtown and see thousands of people dressed up and massive parties all over town.
3. Go to an Ice Hockey game – the Canucks if you can afford it or the Giants if you are on a budget which is just as fun in my opinion.
3. Check out Stanley Park. Hire a bike and ride around. It is beautiful in Autumn. There is also an Aquarium there which is worth checking out.
4. Explore campus – Wreck Beach, Nitobe Japanese Garden and the Rose Garden are all worth checking out. Also, Sprouts is a great shop in the SUB which is run by student volunteers. It is an excellent place to get healthy food and every Friday they have a good healthy lunch for a donation.



By far the best thing about exchange is the people you meet and the friends you make. I was fortunate enough to meet some amazing people, both at UBC and elsewhere, and to make some friends for life. I think that you would be hard pressed to find anyone who completes an exchange at UBC who would not recommend it. Vancouver is an amazing city to experience and UBC is a great university. Exchange at UBC = DO IT!