

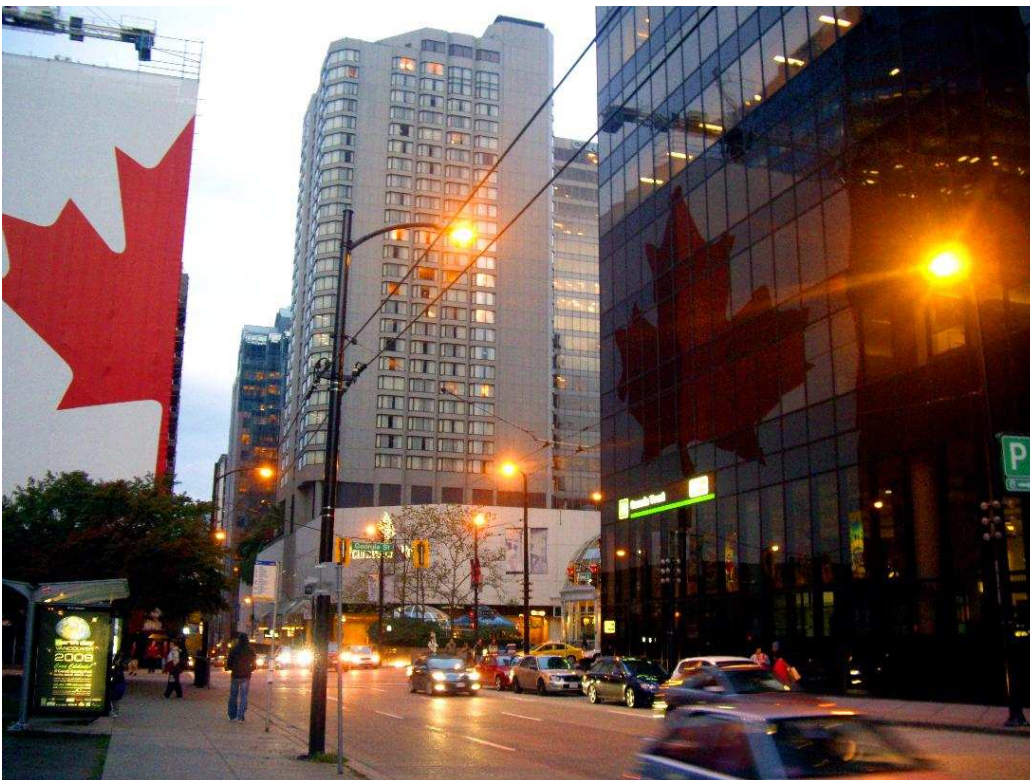
Dané Hill (Environmental Science, 3rd year) on exchange to UBC, Vancouver.

Student exchange is an unforgettable and absolutely thrilling experience! I would strongly encourage anyone who has this opportunity to go on exchange!

UBC is a top-ranking university and seems very desirable as a place of study to people from all across the world. In my very first week at UBC in Vancouver I met so many wonderful people, and had no idea at the time how special and significant they would end up becoming to me. During the exchange, specific grades were not a priority as long as every course was passed, thus allowing the focus to shift from serious study to making the most of this exciting time abroad. Despite this 'break' which I thought I really needed, I found myself re-motivated within a new environment where libraries are open 24 hours a day and study desks look out high over the beautiful campus and snow-topped mountains.

The site of UBC's Point Grey campus is probably one of the prime locations in the world. It is surrounded on 3 sides by a huge ocean bay, the Strait of Georgia. Wreck Beach is a popular place for taking a break, whether to enjoy the peaceful environment or the company of friends around a camp fire. The vast campus provides for anything you'd need, and includes the Student Union Building, a diversity of libraries, restaurants, cafés and chill-out spaces. The sports facilities comprise an indoor and an outdoor pool and the UBC Thunderbird Arena with ice rinks, and this is where many Olympic ice hockey games actually took place! And although UBC is so well equipped, it was well worth venturing off campus. Whistler - a well known ski resort- is only an hour from Vancouver itself and the local slopes at Mt Seymour and Cypress Mountain are even closer. Staying at Whistler during the Christmas holidays was amazing! I was also lucky enough to be there for the Vancouver 2010 Olympics!

I would highly recommend going on exchange to anyone! You will expose yourself to new cultures, participate in different opportunities, learn a hell of a lot and experience something unique. For me personally the exchange experience was life-changing and irreplaceable.



Downtown Vancouver!



Olympics ice hockey match!



Exploring Vancouver!