

## **Ian Hobson: University of British Columbia – Okanagan Campus**

### **UQ Program: Bachelor of Applied Science**

At the end of my second year of a Bachelor of Applied Science, Parks and Wildlife Management, I decided to travel to the University of British Columbia, Okanagan Campus. The main city of Kelowna is situated along the 70km long Okanagan Lake, and surrounded by pine tree covered mountains. A glorious spectacle especially when the snow arrived in November. The University is situated 15km out of the city, easily accessed on a 20 minute bus ride (free bus travel).

The campus is small, around the same size as Gatton campus, but there were 1000 new entrants at the orientation day. All of us gathered within the gym and cheered as the UBC Dean, Associate Dean and Heads of School were introduced, running out of the Kelowna Rockets Ice Hockey teams blown up Gator mouth, whooping with arms flailing around as they emerged through smoke. Think Super Bowl introductions, & double it.

All professors were extremely helpful as were the International Office staff. They arranged excursions such as a Lake boat excursion, traditional Indigenous Salmon Feast and weekly events. I made friends easily especially in the Collegiate rooms (3 rooms fitted out with couches, fridge, microwaves, TV, Sky, Coffee machines) where I spent most of my time. Although I had to pass five subjects, with the help available I did find it easy to pass.

The main reason for travelling to Kelowna was to work with the Park Rangers. I had an amazing time travelling to different parks, enjoying the scenery, and including the work days on my IWP.

Entertainment within the city was abundant, with plenty of bars providing live music and Jam sessions (the Blue Gator being my local). I also went to plenty of Ice Hockey games watching the Kelowna Rockets. I would also recommend heading to Big White for a ski or snowboard session (50km out of town but plenty of cheap buses and students travelling there from mid Nov-March).

I would truly recommend this Campus and area to anybody wanting to get out of the 'big city' and meet true Canadians. I thoroughly enjoyed my time and just wish I did it 19 years ago.

Ian Hobson