

**Jeremy MacGregor: University of British Columbia (Semester 2, 2010)**  
**UQ Program: Bachelor of Creative Arts (Music)**

I've just undertaken a semester exchange at the University of British Columbia, and let me start off by saying that this university is gorgeous. Surrounded by a (clothing optional) beach and a superb view of the mountains, there are countless places on campus that you'll fall in love with. I study music, and I was blown away by how involved UBC's music school was, and the range of courses offered. UBC has an excellent, hands-on ethnomusicology and music technology program, and I found the style of teaching to be very enthusiastic and practical.

A bit about the city, it is COLD by the end of the year - expect your face to freeze. My advice would be (if you're coming for their term 1 / our term 2) to make the most of the few weeks of sun at the start of the term, because that's probably all you're going to get. Bring gloves, and it doesn't hurt to have a giant snow jacket either. If you think you'd like to live on campus, think carefully about whether you want to have a food plan in residence, or live in a unit with a kitchen, because food in Vancouver isn't cheap!

Things to see: I'd recommend checking out North Vancouver; Lighthouse Park is a good spot to get a view of the entire downtown area. Oh, and Stanley Park (of course). Try the seafood at Granville Island, and if you're into pubs, you won't find better than "The Cambie".

Don't stress if the people you meet during orientation week drift away somewhat by the end of term - it happens, so it's best to just embrace fleeting frantic contact with strangers. Final advice, eat a lot of Tim Horton's, and it's probably best to refer to "thongs" as "flip-flops" from now on...

Enjoy Vancouver!



Sunrise at Lighthouse Park (North Vancouver, 20/12/10)