

Program at UQ: Bachelor of Engineering / Bachelor of Science

I'm sitting here, staring out the window watching the snow settle on the buildings of the University of Alberta, and the only regret I have about my entire exchange is that I only came for one semester. I feel settled, love my friends and what I study, I know where to go out and the sports I want to play next semester – except I'm leaving in a week! This semester, living in residence and getting to know Canadians and other Exchangies alike is something that I will always treasure!



On a trip to the Rockies – feeling on top of the world!

I study Mining Engineering and Geology at UQ, and halfway through my degrees seemed like the perfect time to have a bit of a break and go on exchange! Academically, I chose the University of Alberta because it is known for its strong mining and natural resource departments – being situated in the oil fields will do that to a place. I took two engineering and two geology courses while here. The most interesting subject by far was 'The Geology of Western Canada' – there is really something special about learning about how the Rockies were formed on Thursday, then visiting them over the weekend to see for yourself!

The great thing about being on exchange was having the time to do weekend trips and explore new parts of the world. I joined the outdoors club, something I'd greatly recommend, and through them had many opportunities to travel to the Rocky Mountains, to hike or simply marvel. I also joined a few sports teams, the most surprising of which was an AFL team (in Canada? I'm confused too). With them, I had the opportunity to play at the US National Australian Football Competition – something that I definitely would never have imagined I would experience! Living at Lister Residence also gave me the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities, most of them involving drinking and all of them fun: scavenger hunts, pot luck dinners, movie nights, sport competitions, music festivals, and many many nights at Champs or other bars are just a few of these. The experience is indescribable; if you are coming here, stay in Lister if it is at all possible – you won't regret it! My floor here became my best friends, my family and my home.



With some of my 'family' – 7 Schaffer is the best! (I'm in red)

The main thing that I learnt this semester was to be involved in absolutely everything that I could be! It was through saying yes to things I might not normally that I met so many amazing people and discovered a few key life lessons: Dodgeball is just about the greatest sport ever invented, spontaneous road trips provide laughs for months to come, and even just hanging out at the bar across the street can turn into a truly epic night if you let it!