



IT University Travel Report

Dear Student, this is a template – the aim is to inspire other students who may wish to follow in your footsteps. You are free to give your report the shape you want and to go beyond the questions. You are also very welcome to include pictures and contact information – but you need not.

Note that by filling in and sending the report you automatically consent to publishing it on ITU student.

Host university: Algoma University

Study Programme at IT University: Global Business Informatics

Exchange agreement or Free mover: Exchange agreement

Courses studied abroad:

- **Quantitative Management Decision-Making**
- **Organizational Behaviour**
- **Anishinaabe Peoples and Our Homelands I**
- **Intermediate Microeconomics I**
- **Understanding Society I: Principles and Processes**

Period studying abroad: semester (autumn/spring): Autumn 2024

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here: Charlotte Maria Von Karlsson email: chmk@itu.dk

Your stay abroad

What was it like to study at the university (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)?

The classes are a bit different to ITU. The class size varies from 10 to 100 students, so some defiantly feel more personal than other classes. The evaluation is closer to high school structure meaning instead of a 100% final exam, it is broken down, normally consisting of 10% attendance and participation, 20% presentation, 25% midterm, 25% group projects and 20% final exam. It requires

more work during the semester, but it takes a heavy load of stress related to a 100% final. They take attendance for the classes so you must pass the attendance to be allowed to take the final exam. The academic level is considerably lower compared to ITU but varies from class to class. Some classes were very well taught, and I learned a lot, but others were not very well structured and lacked depth. The course Principles and Processes was very well taught, and I gained valuable insights that I can use towards my degree. The professor was very passionate and made the experience very interesting. The Anishinaabe course was very good and gave valuable insight into the native people of Canada and the struggles that they face. But for the business courses, I cannot say the same. They lacked structure and were not quite up to date with today's understanding of business. I do not feel that I gained much useful knowledge that I will apply to my degree regarding business, but it might be due to cultural differences and the focus on Canadian businesses. The course Organizational Behaviour gave insight into how best to run an organization, but it was very general and brushed over a lot of information without going into a lot of depth. Microeconomics was also very general and mainly focused on supply and demand, but it helped renew my very valuable math skills. Quantitative Management was quite unbalanced and almost two courses put into one focusing on Excel with one professor and decision-making with another. The professors did not communicate very well with each other making the course unclear, half of the course was taught online and the other half in person making it quite confusing. However, the Excel skills I gained from that course are very relevant to my study.

The social life on behalf of the school was somewhat existent, having social activities planned like Karaoke and sport activities but not anything like ITU Friday bar. They had some big event nights like Galas and Balls, but it was a very different vibe to anything at ITU. I was very lucky to have active roommates that liked exploring so there was always something to do. We were around 10 exchange students, and we planned a lot of our own events. The school has a tennis and basketball court free to use and a gym. The school did a great job in connecting the exchange students as well as connecting us with us with full time students.

What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?

I knew I wanted to go on exchange and outside of Europe to experience a different culture, so Canada seemed like a good option out of the partner universities. The experience defiantly puts you outside of your comfort zone as you are very far away from home and Canada has a lot of cultural differences compared to Denmark. My stay did meet my expectations as I made new lifelong friends and grew as a person. I learned how to be more independent and self-reliant as some unexpected challenges arose but nothing that was not manageable.

Please describe what you got out of your stay, both personally and academically, and how do you expect it to contribute to your further studies?

I learned a lot about the Canadian lifestyle and how it differs from the Danish. The experience strengthened my academic ability as it taught me to adapt to different academic structures and taught be different ways of learning as the courses were more collaborative and interactive compared to ITU. The school offers a lot of academic support and provides seminars on how to maximize studying, offers free tutoring and provides academic advisors. On a personal level, the experience made me more open-minded and willing to try new things. I believe that the experience will benefit my future studies and career as it provided me with the tools to adapt to new environments.

Arranging your stay

Please give a short description of the process of arranging your stay:

What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use (if any)?

Everything was straight forward from both ITU and Algoma. Jaden and Heather from the Go Abroad team in Algoma were very helpful and would answer all questions Via email quickly. They also inform you on how to get to campus from the airport and other questions concerning that area. The ITU exchange team was also very helpful when it came to planning and reminder of deadlines and were very quick to respond to any questions.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

All exchange students are required to live in campus housing that the school arranges which is very convenient. I stayed in a townhouse with 4 other roommates, but you can also choose to live in a private dorm room with a shared bathroom but that requires you to buy a meal plan as you have limited access to a kitchen. The townhouse had a full kitchen and furnished living room, but it does not include household utilities like pots and pans, but I was very lucky to have roommates that brought their own and shared with the whole house. The price of housing was similar to Danish student housing prices, I paid around 4000 DK per month but keep in mind you need to pay for the whole stay beforehand so you will need to pay around 16.000 DK before you arrive.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Compared to Denmark I did not find Canada to expensive but the other European exchange students did. A beer at the local pub was around C\$7 and fast food around C\$10-15 and groceries

are similar to Denmark. Traveling around Canada can be quite expensive. We rented a car but had to pay an extra young driver's fee which is quite common but made the rental quite expensive. Tax is not included in most stores like grocery stores or restaurants, so you need to account for that before buying things and they do have a big tipping culture, so it is expected to tip at restaurants and taxis etc. I recommend booking the flight early as it can get quite expensive. Sault Ste. Marie is a very small town with limited things to do so it can be quite expensive planning trips out of the city and domestic flights. The school provides a bus pass included with your stay which was very convenient otherwise each bus ride was C\$4. The flight ticket was around 6000 DK in total for a round trip so defiantly book that far in advance as it can get very expensive.

Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?

Only the ITU Travel Pool as not many Danish based scholarships are available to foreign students (Icelandic) and my home country does not offer any to students abroad.

Recommendations for other students:

I would like to note that around 75% of the student body is international so you do not meet many Canadian students, but you have a great opportunity to make friends from all over. The university is in a small town that is car-centric making it quite hard to get around, and the university itself is also quite small. I recommend saving some money for traveling around Canada and possibly to the U.S as Sault Ste. Marie shares a border with Michigan state. The highlight of my trip was a trip that we had to Toronto and Montreal, so I recommend planning trips with good time ahead.

