

CANADA - ALBERTA

Field report of the exchange studies at Mount Royal College 2004/05



This report should be a first marker for descendant students

If you have doubts or questions like :

“Am I able to follow the courses?”

and “Are my English skill good enough?”,

be sure this will be easier as you think. The kindness which I received as I arrived and the mentality of the Canadian at Alberta is not matchable with the cold Europe. YOU WILL FIND NEW FRIENDS SHORTLY.

International Office

Your first contact at college should be Buffy (Buffy St.Amand) of the International Office (Or your contact person in Calgary). On my arriving date I was picked up at the airport and I was brought to the residence. As soon as possible you know that you are taken for this program get contact to the international office and clear questions.

Arrival/Flight

Try to arrive one week before the semester starts. There will be introductory courses for incoming new students. I found a ticket price for 830€ for outward and return flight at Travel Overland. I saw cheaper flights but already booked up. Good luck.

Which courses should I take

You will be able to take 5 courses. Arrange with your University what will be accepted. If you do not want to learn most of your spare time try only to take 3 or 4 courses. It is a lot of work to do tutorials, quizzes and up to 7 assignments for each course. Not included are intermediate and final testing. The theoretical part will be a little bit easier than here. But do not underestimate it. There is a very good working between teaching staff and students.

COMP 1276 – Database

If you do not know database at all, this will be a really good choice. The instructor Shoba explains MySQL and ORACLE. Good lecture but a lot of stuff to do.

COMP 1373 – Internet developing

Instructor Bill Peterson teaches a design course for Internet developing. You will learn topics like HTML, Stylesheet, Java, ASP and Flash. Be careful, you have to finish a semester project which is a hole Website with database access, ASP programming and flash animation. That is a lot of work at the end.

COMP 4405-Emerging Technology

Also by Bill. A webservice should be programmed with c# or VB and technology papers should be built during the semester. Topics are Webservice, VoIP, SOAP and much more. The final exam was a little be dodgy.

ASTR 2203 – Astronomy

There are two different kinds of courses. One is easier as the other one. Just for decision: If you want to take it easy choose the lower one. You will not leave our system. The other one discusses black holes, novas and so on. In this course the instructor really lift off. But it is very interesting. You have to make observations during day and night.

SPAN 2201- Spanish I

There is nothing to say. Its Spanish. Try to get Ms. True. Besides have fun.

Not all courses are offered at the winter semester. Make sure to get one which are hold during your term.

Das College

The campus has a huge sport facility including 2 big gyms, 3 soccerfields, 5 tennis-, 2 beach-volleyball- and 7 squashcourts. Impressive is the swimming area with pool, whirlpool and sauna.

If you want to play for a school team you should register as fast as possible at the beginning of the semester.

You can find a post office, a general store and several food stores at the Whickham house. You can find also a bookstore and a library in the main building.



Books

TIP: Do not buy every book as you should do. Let the semester begin and try to work with the books in the library. You will find everyone there. I bought all the books, but finally I really used only the Spanish one. You need to read the chapters in all courses, but do that in the library. Full prize up to 500 C\$.

The bookstore really sucks (Sorry for that). When you buy the books they tell you, that you can have 50% of your money back at the end of the semester. At this time, they tell you that they can only pay a few bucks(dollar) or 30% for the books cause of not holding the courses or some else bu..... . I was really annoyed about this.

There are used books to sell at the bookshop as long as stock last. Hurry for that.

IMPORTANT: Below the Wickham House, there is a copyshop which act as a broker for your books. Take a look.

Residence

You have to stay at the residence. I payed 2000C\$ for the hole semester at a four-story building with 3 room mates. There are also bungalows for 2 or 4 people, but you have to pay more for that. It is a good choice to take the accommodation with more people. You will learn faster to speak English and you will have more fun.

Think about this:

Power Outlet:

Take Amerika outletadapter with you for electrical devices. Be careful with different voltage and frequence.

Clothes:

Temperatures from -30°C until $+25^{\circ}\text{C}$ are possible. Height minus Degrees are only reached at night. Take the same clothe choice like in South Germany for this term and add some short stuff.

Equipment:

Every room has its own telephone number.(incl. Phone) For internet access use a Ethernet-network Card. Bring pillow, bedcover, blanket and personal bathroom equipment. Please check online for more details (www.mtroyal.ca).



Money:

No problems with MasterCard. Visa is mostly accepted.

To draw money use your EC-Card. It is cheaper for big amounts.

Phone:

You have to use phone Cards for making a phonecall. It is free to phone to a number in the area of calgary. Best place to buy these cards is the Wickham House in the main building of the campus. (Number for Germany is 01149)

Cheapest way is to use Voice over IP. Please read documents under www.skype.com or something else to see how it works.

Sending Voice and video streams only work with www.tiscali.de even when it is not the best one and fastest one.

(Firewall block normal ports for v. stream) .

The next one who wants to flight to Canada can ask Mr. Köhler how to contact me if you have further questions.

Good luck!