

# Final Report

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## **a) General Impressions**

I had a good time in Canada. I can generally say that the study atmosphere and the relationship towards the lecturers and professor were more casual than in Germany. On the other hand, studying felt more like going back to school which had its good and bad sides. Because of non-stop homework I was encouraged to learn and work with the courses' content, but sometimes because of the amount and not because of the difficulty the homework seemed to be unnecessary or overwhelming.

The relationship towards my fellow students was also casual. Often the students knew each other already because I rarely took a first year course. I always tried and recommend to get in touch with your sitting neighbour. It helped me to get in touch with new friends, if I had problems to organize something or had questions about the course.

The study conditions differ. I had big courses with hundreds of people attending and small seminars. I also experienced different classrooms from new to old. Overall, I did not like the architecture of the Campus. It seemed to be designed for function and not for aesthetics and the Campus looked old, but not the good old. Rather plain and ugly. The Library was nice though. The quiet area on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor was one of my favourite places on the campus and the rooster-cafe was a good place to hang out and meet friends.

The international bureau and my fellow students answered all my questions if I had any. Usually I went directly to their office and they happily answered my questions.

Because I went to a new place, I purposefully did not do a lot of extracurricular activities. So that I could better concentrate on studying and completely arriving in Canada. I wanted to visit some events of the political faculty, but I sadly missed the date. I recommend going though, because many of those events are for free and you also get free food.

## **b) Content of academic exchange**

The study culture is, as I said earlier, different than in Germany. You are constantly motivated to learn and to keep up with the course content because of Midterms and various assignments

during the semester. Your final mark is therefore more spread out and not depending on a single exam. This study culture is not better or worse. It is just different.

Overall, I thought the study difficulty was easy, but the quantity was overwhelming sometimes. Especially at the end when you had to hand in lots of essays and learn for final exams. The professors really want to give you good grades and provide you with plenty of opportunity to do that. Often you get an A in participation simply for just raising your hand and stating your opinion. When the final exams were approaching, I usually freaked out and stressed myself too much because of the quantity I had to learn. But even the midterms and final exams were fairly easy. But I never learned out of my mistakes not to freak out during the exam period. Maybe next time.

I learned about the existences of the study field: International Political Economy (IPE), which sparked my interest and I want to focus my study on this academic field. Therefore, this academic exchange helped me to focus my academic interest and to appreciate different study cultures.

### **c) Criticism and recommendations**

I recommend every student this academic exchange. It helped me to focus my studies and find new friends hopefully for life. My take-away-values are the importance of friendship and to relax during heated moments in life. It will all work out somehow. I suggest to other students to just do the daily assignments for the courses and you will be all fine. Remember the Bonobo-principle and you will be fine.