

Majors: English and Mathematics  
Degree: B.Sc.  
Host Country: Canada  
Stay abroad: 29/08/2018 - 01/05/2019 (expected)  
Host university: Bishop's University  
Identification code: CAN-2018-b8u9l-f

My arrival and my first week in Canada were very exciting but also exhausting. Bishop's University has a gigantic Orientation "Week" (it is actually ten days long) which contains some info sessions, but is mainly about getting to know new people and partying. Apparently, Bishop's is the second best party university in Canada and I definitely felt that during Orientation week. Together with your Frosh team, a group of new students led by older students, you attend all kinds of activities and parties that take place practically all day long. Very memorable was the opening ceremony where all teams gathered to celebrate the beginning of frosh week in a crazy enthusiastic atmosphere and field day, which is an outdoor competition between the teams. Bring old clothes and prepare to take a mud bath, have a raw egg cracked open over your head or get pancake preparation all over you! My feelings for Frosh week are mixed. It was an amazing week, it helped me to make friends and I started to feel as a part of Bishop's very quickly. On the other hand, I missed my friends from Freiburg a lot during that week and I felt a bit lost in all the craziness, but all in all I'm definitely grateful for that once in a lifetime experience!

Given the craziness of orientation week, I was glad that I had dealt with all the formalities before leaving for Canada. Together with three other exchange students from Europe, which I had met on Facebook, I had found an old but cozy apartment on the Bishop's housing website and already rented it for the academic year. The Bishop's international student coordinator, who is very nice and helpful, had also asked me to select my courses a couple of months before leaving. However, you can change your classes within the first two weeks of the semester. It is mandatory to buy a health insurance provided by the university, so that was not a problem either. The only things left to do were to buy a Canadian mobile phone contract, which is possible on campus during the first weeks, and to buy some stuff for the apartment.

While orientation week was certainly one of the highlights of the first weeks, I was also glad when my classes began which allowed me to get into a routine and to really arrive in Canada. My typical weekday in the first semester began rather relaxed since all my classes were in the afternoon or the evening. So I didn't have to get up early and I usually

studied a little before going to class at 1 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. I usually prepared food or bought a bagel and a salad in the cafeteria of the library, which is where I passed the time between classes. After my classes I went home again. If necessary I studied or worked on one of my assignments. Otherwise, I spent the evening with my roommates and we would sometimes go to the campus bar, to a restaurant, the cinema or to a pub in Sherbrooke where you can borrow board games.

My timetable in the fall semester:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
13:00		Introduction to Directing		Introduction to Directing
14:30	Opera	Mathematical Problem Solving	Opera	Mathematical Problem Solving
16:00		Choir		Choir
17:30	Studies in Directors: Alfred Hitchcock		Studies in Directors: Alfred Hitchcock	
19:00-22:00		Studies in Directors: Alfred Hitchcock		

As you can see in my schedule, I did not only take classes in Math and English, but also in the drama (Introduction to Directing) and the music department (Opera). As an exchange student at Bishop’s you are allowed to take classes from any department, which was a great opportunity for me to pursue my interests outside my majors. The classes are very different from my lectures and seminars in Freiburg. The classes are much smaller; in my math class we were only 5 students, for example. In my impression the level is a little lower than in Freiburg and the classes are slower but, nevertheless, all my classes of the first semester were really interesting. Compared to Freiburg there were many smaller assignments and exams during the semester, which were all part of the final grade. Because of that I was busy throughout the whole semester and I had to do some homework nearly every day. The relationship between teachers and students is

closer and more personal than in Freiburg and most of my teachers were very motivated and passionate.

My timetable for the winter semester:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
14:30	Gothic Literature	Postcolonial Literature	Gothic Literature	Postcolonial Literature
16:00	History of the U.S. since 1945	Choir	History of the U.S. since 1945	Choir
17:30				
19:00-22:00	French as a second language for Arts and Culture			

One of the greatest experiences so far has been the Bishop's choir. The Bishop's University Singers are a large group of singers which is open to music students as well as students from other departments, teachers and other people that live in the Lennoxville community. The choir is very professional, but at the same time the atmosphere is very relaxed and humorous. Last semester we prepared a big Christmas show that included the world premiere of a new Christmas piece for choir and brass band that was composed by one of Bishop's music professors. I am looking forward to the rehearsals and shows of this semester.

The choir is only one of countless examples of how you can get involved at Bishop's. There are many clubs, the drama department performs plays on a regular basis, there is a film festival, a fashion show, undergraduate conferences and much more. Since Bishop's is so small, you will surely meet students from one of your classes if you take part in any additional activity, which is how you can get to know new people. I believe that getting involved in the Bishop's community is what can make your time here unique and what can make you feel at home.

What I miss most are my family, my friends and my roommates from Freiburg. However, I'm sure that I will miss my friends in and from Canada just as much when I will be back.

Because of the snow and the cold, I don't have a bike here and I definitely miss it, although my roommates and I have bought a used car here in Canada.