

After having been offered the spot at Bishop's University I did my online application and after that there was not very much I had to do. I bought my flight two months before my departure (I used AirCanada from Frankfurt to Montreal), but I would recommend buying it earlier if you can. Most of the people I know did not have a direct flight but one with a stopover. These stopover flights tend to be cheaper, but they also take much longer. I wanted to live off-campus because if you live on campus you are forced to buy a meal-plan for the dining hall, which I did not want to do. I know exchange students who lived on campus but also many who lived off campus, so both is possible. In the end it depends on what you prefer. If you want to save some money and/or prefer cooking yourself, living off campus is the best option for you. However, if you want to eat on campus all the time and do not mind paying more, you can apply for on campus residence. I started looking for a place in early June, which was too early. I would recommend checking for off campus accommodation in early July. I found mine via the offers on the Bishop's website. You could also try facebook (there is a group for housing in Lennoxville/Sherbrooke) or check on platforms like Kijiji. AirBnb might also be an option. Apart from finding housing I had to organize my schedule, which was very complicated unfortunately. I had some problems because the contact person did not answer me anymore at some point and when I got my schedule the times of the classes had changed, and my schedule was a complete mess. At this point I figured out the online timetable system myself (which exchange students usually do not have to do) and I changed my classes again. I also contacted the departments of which I wanted to take classes and communicated directly with them, which worked much better than through the contact person for exchange students. I also had to apply for the esta. If you stay only for one semester the esta is sufficient and you do not need any further visa or permit. If you stay for two semesters, you will need a study permit and a

proper visa, as far as I know. I had my visa five minutes after applying for it, it was a very easy process online, so there is no need at all to worry about that. Furthermore, it is compulsory to purchase the Bishop's health insurance which costs 424 dollars.

After arriving, at the beginning of the semester I did not know when I had to be where, so I just went to my first classes and that was fine. By the end of the second week there was an information session for internationals, which I was informed about only a couple of days earlier. So, in general, do not be confused by lacking or very late information. In the end you will get to know about important things via facebook. Orientation on campus comes within the first couple of weeks and then you can just enjoy your time there. Even though Lennoxville is in general francophone, everybody can speak English, so do not worry if you cannot speak French. Public transport in Lennoxville is unfortunately not the best, there are around two busses per hour from Lennoxville to Sherbrooke and back. There is also not that much to do in Lennoxville and Sherbrooke, but I did many weekend trips with friends which made my time there amazing. Bishop's University is very small, but I personally really liked that because it is very easy to get to know the campus and to meet people. The university organises lots of events in which you can participate. There is also an orientation week that you can sign up for during your first days. The O-week is mainly about partying, which is a thing of Bishop's in general. So, if you like partying (and drinking) Bishop's is perfect for you. However, you can also have a great time there if this does not apply to you (this was my case as well).

My highlights during the semester abroad were definitely the weekend trips I did with my friends. We rented a car in Sherbrooke and went to Portland (Maine), to Mount Pinacle, to Mont Tremblant, to Ottawa and to Quebec City. On the Thanksgiving weekend, where we had one additional day off, we went to Toronto and the Niagara Falls, which I can definitely

recommend doing. There are also some offers of Bishop's that you can do during your free time. Sometimes they do trips for which you only have to pay a couple of dollars (I went to an indigenous community in Odanak and to Foresta Lumina) and they have a gym with a pool, which are both free for students. The library on campus is newly renovated and a great place to study or to spend breaks.

Life in Canada is quite similar to life in Germany. Of course, you can buy different things in the supermarket and the language is another one, but they are still both western countries and many things are alike. What is very practical in Canada is that everything is open on Sundays. Below you can find my timetable. I took four classes (Oral Discourse, Four Filmmakers, Second Language Acquisition, Spanish I) and usually I had three hours of class per subject. However, in Four Filmmakers I had five to six hours per week because we had additional film screenings. I always went to university for my first class of the day, and on those days where I had another class, I stayed on campus for my breaks. Usually, I spent my breaks in the library or with friends. If I had a break longer than three hours, I went back home. I had all my meals at home or with friends and for lunch I brought something with me because the dining hall is quite expensive (14-18 dollars per meal for an off-campus student). What I really liked was the offer at the Gym where everyone has free access. I took a Yoga course once a week for which I had to pay a little extra and it was definitely worth it. I also had the feeling that it is not as hard to get a spot in a sports class as it is in the university sports offer of Freiburg.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
8.30 – 10		Spanish		Spanish
11.30 – 2.30	2 nd Lang. Acq.			
4 – 5.30	Oral Discourse		Oral Discourse	
5.30 – 7	Four Filmmakers		Four Filmmakers	
5 – 6				Yoga
7 – 10		Four Filmmakers screening		

In Freiburg I usually have around eight classes per semester and I would say this equals four courses in Canada. A big difference is that in my classes at Bishop's, the final grade consisted of many grades I got during the semester (e.g. 25% Mid-Term Exam, 20% Online quizzes, 25% Essay, 30% Final Exam). This means I had a lot of work during the semester. I had to write three essays and the due dates were within the semester, so I could not just write them in the break after the term, how I usually do it in Freiburg. On the other hand, the advantage was that I only had two final exams and the end of the semester was much less stressful than in Germany. So basically, I had less time and lots of work all the time during the semester, but I did not have very much work at the end of the semester. What I liked a lot, is that I could take classes which are not part of my studies in Germany. I took a Spanish course because I did not need that many courses for my own subject and I enjoyed the class and had lots of fun there. In former experience reports I read that classes at Bishop's are particularly small and that teachers are very personal and close to their students. However, I cannot really confirm this. My classes had the same size as my classes in Freiburg and my teachers were also

more or less the same. Maybe it also depends on what subject you are studying and in other departments the teaching approach might be different.

All in all, I loved my semester abroad at Bishop's a lot and I would recommend everybody to do it. Even though the application process can be quite a bit of work, it is definitely worth it. I did not only improve my English fluency and made progress with my studies, but I also developed personally and got to know very close friends from all over the world.