

### Intermediate report questions

• **How were your arrival and the first week in your host country? Were you provided with any introductory information and if so, was it helpful?**

Yes, there was a welcoming day and it was helpful to get to know the campus.

• **Were you able to deal with all formalities (course selection, accommodation, insurances etc.)?**

Course selection was difficult. I was not accepted for any of my priority courses and (even more important) I was only accepted for undergraduate courses... Accomodation was quite difficult to find in Vancouver. I was offered a room on campus, but (be very careful with this!) you are not allowed to have visitors in these rooms. Since my partner joined me in Canada we had to look for a place out of town, I can recommend Craigslist for that.

• **What was your highlight of the first weeks?**

The people I met. I tried to spent not to much time among exchange students, but to get to know local people. In the beginning it is tempting to spend time with other Europeans, because the Go Global Office offers so many events, but I'd recommend to also go to other events and to get out of the European bubble at UBC.

Besides, we had a beautiful thanksgiving. It was the first time for me celebrating thanks giving and we invited some new friends to our apartment. We ended up with 12 different nationalities and everyone made a typical dish. This was a unique experience and I think these intercultural exchanges (Vancouver is very international and most students at UBC have different backgrounds) are one of the most important aspects of the Global Exchange program.

• **What do you perceive as unfamiliar, strange and/or different from Germany?**

Different academic culture. Much more personal/friendly atmosphere with professors but in the same time also restrictive, not easy to audit courses.

• **Please describe the course of a typical weekday in a few sentences. In addition, please send us a copy of your class schedule and describe the differences in comparison with your schedule at the University of Freiburg. How will the schedule of your second semester look like?**

Since I got not accepted to the courses I wanted to attend (I had very specialized interests since I was in the last term of my MA studies) I decided to still make the best out of my time at UBC and I participated in all the different services UBC offers (workshops, presentations,...). This gave me excellent new input and also important new connections to other students working in my field of interest. This means that took a bus to UBC in the morning, spent some time in the beautiful Irving K. Barber library (reminded me very much of Harry Potter scenery), attended the courses in the afternoon and in the evening went to talks/workshops.

**• Please tell us about a great and/or formative experience (e.g. a party, university life, food, sports etc.)**

The best aspect for me was that I met a interdisciplinary group of people with whom I started a project. These other students all work on the same topic, but from very different angles and point of views. I learned a lot from engaging with them and it allowed me to better understand how an engineer or an architect would approach the problems I investigate in my research. This opened up new perspectives for me. We organized our meetings individually and self organized, it was not formal UBC course, but I think the framework UBC offers helped us a lot (e.g. we met the first time at a workshop organized by UBC).

**• Please complete the following sentence: ,... is what I miss most.'**

Driving energy of the people surrounding me at UBC. I felt that many students at UBC have a huge entrepreneurial spirit and this creates new ideas, new visions, new dreams.

**Fotos:**



Vancouver harbour



Beautiful nature just 45 minutes out of the city





Vancouver beaches, best places to get rid of University stress



The rose park, best views on campus





Unique experience: Thanksgiving with friends with 12 (!!) different nationalities



Ancient rain forest on Vancouver island, there is so much to explore on the weekends



My individual study/project group. I learned the most from these interdisciplinary exchanges



My favourite study spot on campus: the Irving K. Barber library





My home: base suite in a typical wooden house