

**Exchange Study Programme**

**Exchange in Tampere University of Technology, Finland**

*CHOW Chun Hung*  
*BEngCE, Yr-3*

**Just Arrived...**

The daytime is extremely short in Finland's winter. I arrived Tampere at around 4pm, but it looked like 9pm. It was awful to carry your huge luggage in heavy snow during 'night time'. And in a place you are unfamiliar with, to get to anywhere became much more complicated than you expected. But thanks to my schoolmates, I managed to pick up my key right before the Residence Office was closed. At the time I stepped into my apartment which was my new home, I was exhausted.

**My Place**

The apartment I lived in was assigned by TOAS, an organization responsible for student residence in Tampere. There were six people living in one apartment which was spacious enough for us to invite lot of people to hold a big party. And I shared a bedroom with a student from Ukraine. All of them were nice playful guys. I had lots of wonderful times there!

**Orientation**

First came an orientation week. The International Office organized a number of seminars to provide all kinds of information that I needed in Finland. Students were assigned to different tutor groups. Having regular meetings with my tutor and group-mates helped me adapt to the new environments and make new friends quickly.

**My Classes**

The teaching style in Finland is more or less the same as CityU's - lecture, tutorial and experiment sessions every week. What a difference there was students' enthusiasm. They actively shared their opinions and questions, and therefore classes were never boring. Besides, I took a Finnish class, in which we had a taste of Finnish music, food and traditional customs. It was quite different from the language classes I had taken in Hong Kong.

**People I Met**

Most of my friends are exchange students from different countries. There I also met my Finnish friends who had been exchange students in Hong Kong the year before. Not only they showed me around the city, but also prepared an unforgettable Finnish dinner for me!

**Out of Classroom**

What is the common language in the world? Soccer! Students formed different teams to join the league game, and there was a match every week in the indoor football court where my team-mates and I had lots of great time. Besides soccer, winter sports such as skiing and ice-skating are very popular in Finland. Ski trails can be found everywhere in the neighborhood.

**Goodbye**

The magnificent landscape, relaxing living pace and friendly people makes Finland always a desirable place to stay and live. What was I sad about? Time was passing fast there, and I was leaving soon. But I would not let it ruin my mood. The last few weeks were probably the best moments of my journey. All classes and exams were finished, so we had a lot of free time. Like what the local people did, we had picnic at lakeside, we enjoyed the sunshine, and we visited the cities nearby. It was all very nice.

**Home Sweet Home**

The best part after all is all the friends I have made. How exciting it is to make friends with people from different cultural backgrounds! After we have returned home, we still keep in contact, and hope that we will meet up someday. That semester was definitely one of the most memorable parts of my university life. For sure I would regret if I have not seized the opportunity to open up my mind and explore the world.





## Exchange in Concordia University, Canada

*LIU Kai Tim*  
*BEngECE, Yr-3*

### My First Week in Montreal

I arrived Montreal one week before school day started to adapt to the environment, and weather was the hardest part for me. It was extremely cold that the temperature was around -10 to -20 Degree Celsius whereas room temperature was kept at 25 Degree Celsius.

I lived with a homestay family, which was very far away from downtown. I had a room in the basement by myself. My housemates were local Canadian landlords and other renters from all different places round the world, French, Brazil, Peru, Holland and Koera, etc. What a mix of cultures in a house!

### My Classes in Concordia University

When I first came to classes, my classmates did not realize I was an exchange student. I took up my courage to introduce myself, and most of them were very nice and willing to offer help.

I took four courses, two of which were challenging to me. Most courses did not include any tutorial session, and students were required to be very self-disciplined to study by themselves.

### Unexpected Things

It was my first time to celebrate New Year Eve in a foreign country. The atmosphere there was absolutely fantastic, not a bit worse than that in Hong Kong.

Since the Quebec province government planned to increase the tuition fee of Universities, many students went on a strike against the proposal, and some classes were therefore cancelled.

Canadians have dinner early like around 6pm. After the meal, they had plenty of time to gather with family members such as watching movie together.

### My First Times

Hockey Game: Concordia University vs McGill University. The hockey game was very exciting especially when two players smash into each others.

Skiing: My landlord took me to a ski field. They helped me hire a tutor to teach me how to ski. I had so much fun in it.

### End of My Exchange

After the final examination, I spent about a month on traveling around US and Canada with my friends. We planned our routes and visited many cities, which made a perfect ending of my exchange semester. In addition, I have now become more confident, more adventurous, and more independent.

