
Exchange in Huron University College, Canada

WONG Wai Ting

BENG3-INFE, Yr 4

My Pre-departure Checklist

- Make sure to apply for student visa
- Double check the expiration date of passport
- Contact your department, college and MEAO for more information about the sponsorship and maybe even SDS for exchange loan

Just Arrived

Felt excited on the first day. Everything looked new and different. My host institution organized an orientation breakfast for all exchange students.

The weather was colder than I expected. The freezing weather had lasted for at least three months.

Orientation

I joined the orientation day which was organized by the host institution. The volunteers helped us a lot — showing us around the campus, reminding us the important dates, telling us what kinds of service we could have, and helping us get our Bus Pass.

All they have done were super useful.

My Place

I lived in an on-campus house. It has 7 to 8 single rooms and I am staying in one of those. It has kitchen, bathrooms, basement, living room and storage rooms.

At first, I did not feel safe at all because my room is one of the emergency exits in the house. Therefore, there was no lock in my door. And I really did not like it, but then I got used to it. And, no one would like to take three level stairs to go to my room. We usually hung out in the living room.

My First Class

Students in Canada were more willing to ask questions during the class. And the lesson was more interactive as students responded actively to the questions raised by the teacher. Students loved to sit

close to the teacher. They paid good attention in class.

An interactive atmosphere was good for students to gain knowledge.

People I Met

Canadian is so friendly and nice, so it was easy to get around and be friends with them. I made some local friends. We did group projects together, always hung around and lunched together.

The way they did project is different from ours in Hong Kong. The group stayed together for whole day long to work on the project, instead of splitting into individual parts for completion separately.

Out of Classroom

There are many extracurricular activities available for students — badminton, table tennis, yoga, you name it.

There are numerous voluntary services and internship opportunities. You just have to check your email box more frequently as the information was mostly sent via e-mails to student. I did a voluntary service once for the Cigarette Butt Campaign. It was so much fun and I met some more new people.

Money

I thought I have already paid all the residence fee, but then I found out actually what I have paid was deposit only and the residence fee was around 4000 CAD.

The orientation fee was overpriced as well. It costed around 150 CAD.

Goodbye

I had a mixed feeling – I missed home and wanted to go back, but at the same time, I missed my friends in Canada.

Getting to know more local people and be friends with them is the most rewarding part of the exchange. That makes me understand their culture better.

Home Sweet Home

I become more independent and open-hearted. Learning to take care of myself is not easy at all. And I become more interactive

during class and try to be more attentive as well.

Sharing

- Make sure to immerse yourself into their culture.
- Don't just focus all your time on studying. Spend some time to hang out with local friends.
- Go out more instead of just staying in the residence.
- Be brave, never be afraid to ask questions.

Overall Rating

The overall exchange experience is 4 out of 5. I enjoy my exchange programme in Canada so much, and thanks to CityU for picking me to join the exchange in 2014.



Overseas Internship Scheme

My OIS Experience at University of Saskatchewan, Canada

CHANG Chen Yi
BENG3-ECE, Yr 3

Description

Having an overseas internship in Canada was a special experience in my learning. I was under the supervision of Dr. Li Chen at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. His researches mainly focus on radiation-tolerant memory devices and microelectronics. Therefore, my task in the internship was to help implement a memory controller for radiation-tolerant testing.

Initially, I did not feel that I was qualified with this job because I had little knowledge about DDR3 SDRAM and how to operate it. Therefore, in the first few weeks, Dr. Chen arranged some experiments for me to get familiar with Hardware Description Language (HDL). Before implementing a memory controller, he also asked me to make a presentation about DDR3 SDRAM. I believed that those background knowledge and practices are necessary for me to implement a memory controller.

In addition to learning more knowledge about memory devices and logic design, I also had a chance to discuss with my colleagues about the latest development in electronic engineering, getting more ideas about my future career. I found that the development of an electronic system is somewhat like doing a research. Developers need to try many different methods and to examine their results. They do it again and again until the best solution is found.

I think that I did learn a lot in this summer. Not only was this internship an important experience in my learning about logic design, but it also inspired me to make some changes for my future career development.

Importance of Work

This internship was very beneficial to my learning and skills in electronic engineering, in particular FPGA design for developing a customized embedded system. The task assigned to me gave me no choice but to explore thoroughly about memory devices which