

## **Interim report**

*Geography (B.Sc.), Canada, 01. Sep. 2018 – 24. Apr. 2019, Acadia University*

I am a third-year geography student and I went to Acadia University in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, eastern Canada, to study there for an academic year.

The first couple of weeks were all about getting introduced to the university, your department and all the other new students on campus. A welcoming week for international students started a couple of days ahead of the welcoming week, which was prepared for all “freshmen”. The Wong International Center organized a shopping trip for new international students, as well as several trips around the Annapolis Valley. Unfortunately, I could not participate in the international students welcoming week, but that did not affect me in any way. The staff on campus would make sure everybody would know about important events.

What I experienced during the freshmen week at Acadia was definitely different to what I experienced during my first few weeks in Freiburg. It was all about hyping up the university spirit and getting involved. Each residence prepared for a big final competition, which included games and little shows.

Acadia does not offer geography as a major, but I was planning on taking elective courses anyway. Most of my classes took place at the science department. The professors were all very nice and would help me wherever you would need their help. I had not set up my final schedule by the time I arrived in Canada, but I was well advised by my department about courses that I could potentially take.

I had decided to live on campus, in residence. On the one hand, because it was the easiest way of finding a place to stay, on the other hand because I had talked to previous exchange students and they had all recommended it. I am currently staying in a single room in the quiet section in “Cutten”. I am happy with my room so far. It is small, but offers everything you need. The best thing about it is, that you are super close to everything. If you stay in residence the meal plan is mandatory. I had the 7-day unlimited dining plan. The food is good for a meal hall and offers a lot of different meals. It is kind of like a buffet and you can go there as often as you would like to. Never than less, the food is differed from what I was used to eat back home in Germany and I would have sometimes liked to eat something else, like “real” bread instead of

toast or a bagel. The good thing is that meal hall saves you a lot of time every day, since you do not have to go grocery shopping, cook or even do the dishes. Also, meal hall is the place where you meet friends every day. Never than less, I do definitely miss some good German food! After going to meal hall for a full semester, I started to appreciate what I was used to eat back home a lot more.

Acadia offers a medical and dental insurance, but I decided to opt out. The insurance I had was called "Care Concept USA" by HansaMerkur.

Since I was going to stay in Canada for a whole academic year, I had to apply for a study permit. Once you get the permit you will be given an eTA as well. You do not need to apply/pay for the eTA separately.

University in Canada is a bit different to the system in Germany. The way the lectures are held is comparable to classes in High School. I would say most cases are comparable to what we know as a seminar in Freiburg. I started to like the interactive way of teaching a lot. It created a very personal and warm environment between the students and the professors. But compared to Freiburg I do also have to say, that I have never been so busy with university before. I took five courses during the fall term. All my geology courses included labs. That is why I had 21 hours of courses every week, which I thought was quite a lot to what I was used to from Freiburg. Specially during the first half of the term I had a lot of field trips, almost one every week. Still, I did like it a lot and being busy did not give me the time for eventually getting home sick or being sad.

I still managed to spend time with friends and to get around in Nova Scotia to see nice places. Over Thanksgiving I went to Cape Breton (north of Nova Scotia) with a friend for hiking and kayaking. It is a beautiful area and the colored trees in fall made it even more beautiful up there. The trip was definitely a highlight during my first few months. Beside going to my courses, to meal hall and hanging out with friends, I also went to the Athletic Complex quite often. The use is free for all students and going to the gym and the pool became part of my weekly routine. On the weekends I liked to go see the Acadia ice hockey or basketball team play.

The first term at Acadia went by really fast and I enjoyed my time abroad a lot. Wolfville is small, but offers many little nice spots to discover. I think, how great a

place actually is, manly depends on the people that you meet, not just on the place itself. I found really good friends here and I think that is a big reason why I do really enjoy my time here ☺

Fall Semester				
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Fri
Time				
8:30am				
9:30				
10:30	GEOL 3303 X1 Spooner,Ian HSH 336	FRAN 1213 X1 Gullion,Salome BAC 201  <b>GEOL 4913 special project</b>	GEOL 3303 X1 Spooner,Ian HSH 336	FRAN 1213 X1 Gullion,Salome BAC 201  <b>GEOL 4913 special project</b>
11:30	BIOL 2563 X1 Avery,Trevor BAC 236	ENVS 3423 X1 Spooner,Ian HSH 336	BIOL 2563 X1 Avery,Trevor BAC 236	GEOL 3303 X1 Spooner,Ian HSH 336
12:30pm				BIOL 2563 X1 Avery,Trevor BAC 236
1:30				
2:30				
3:30				
4:30				
5:30				
6:30				
7:30				

Winter Semester				
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Fri
Time				
8:30am				
9:30				
10:30	<b>SPAN 1023</b>	FRAN 1223 X2 Gullion,Salome BAC 201	<b>SPAN 1023</b>	FRAN 1223 X2 Gullion,Salome BAC 201
11:30	GEOL 1023 X2 Barr,Sandra M. HSH 206	GEOL 1023 X2 Barr,Sandra M. HSH 206	GEOL 1023 X2 Barr,Sandra M. HSH 206	GEOL 1023 X2 Barr,Sandra M. HSH 206
12:30pm		GEOL 3723 X2 Spooner,Ian HSH 336		GEOL 3723 X2 Spooner,Ian HSH 336
1:30		GEOL 3720L X2 Spooner,Ian HSH 336	GEOL 1020L B2 McMullin,David W.A. HSH 018	
2:30				
3:30				
4:30				
5:30				
6:30				
7:30				



**The exchange group**



**Cutten House**



**View from Tower over campus (Minas Basin in the background)**



**Nice little Wolfville**



**Wolfville**



**Geology field trip to Blue Beach**



**Geology field trip to Blue Beach**



**Cape Breton**



**The hike up Franey Mountain (Cape Breton) is definitely worth the view**



**Lunenburg**



**Kayaking**