

LAS

B(S.)

Canada

09.19-04.20

Acadia University

Canada-2019-wx784-k

The arrival part was fairly awkward because there was only one day during which people were supposed to come, and that, together with the irregular schedule of flights departing to Halifax, made planning the journey there quite difficult. I arrived in the middle of the night, and the international welcome week program began the next morning and basically went on for 24/7 without any pause between it and the regular welcome week for Canadian students. While a lot of the information we received during that introductory week was kinda useful, most of it were academic tips clearly directed at first year students and yet still mandatory, which meant spending a lot of time listening to information all the exchange students already had. The schedule was also very brutal and included for example being waken up by a complete stranger in your room at 7am in order to participate in some weird bonding activity. Lastly, while there were a lot of so-called international ambassadors trying to help international students, many of them seemed like they were only there for their resumes or something and were not actually trying to help people.

There was very little information provided by Acadia in the beginning on how the administrative processes would work. I was given a timeslot during which I should choose my residence and sent an email with which courses I'd like to take, but zero information on how the resident life website and the course catalogue actually worked. As the timeslot that I was given for both of these things was very late, I could only get into a first years party residence and take some courses that I wasn't actually interested in at first, however, once I get there and could talk to people in person both of these circumstances could luckily be changed, and the university staff was very nice and helpful, unlike the online processes, which were a literal nightmare.

One of my favourite activities during the first week was a dance competition held between the different residences during the welcome week. All of the residences participated and spent many hours practicing a choreography with groups as big as about 150 students and all wound up performing their choreographies in front of basically all the students cheering them on, which was just a lot of fun and very different from all I experienced during welcome weeks in Freiburg.

There are so many differences, from really big ones to ones that are tiny but still throw me off massively until today. There is basically no way to prepare food expect for microwaves in the residences, and so there is only the choice between meal-hall food which is often not very good, and take-out, which is really expensive. There is basically no real bread, and breakfast usually consist of either toast and pancakes, and I really miss being able to just go to a bakery whenever I want to. The traffic lights do not make any sense at all, and after being here for over 4 months I still so relieved every time I am able to cross a street without being run over. Another big difference is the age of students, which basically all first years being 18, and being the oldest student even in 4<sup>th</sup> year classes.

Stores are like 4 times the size of what they usually are in Germany, and I have been completely lost in a Walmart on several occasions. Finally, while people here are very open towards strangers, I still have the feeling that they, students in particular, are much more conservative than what I am used to, for example in terms of climate change, homophobia, and other issues.

I usually get up at around 8am, take a shower, and go to mealhall. As I do not like the breakfast choices it offers, I most often end up just eating some fruit and drinking some coffee. After breakfast I have a combination of either class, work as a German tutor, or free time that I mainly use to study, until I have lunch with some friends. After lunch, it's the same program as before, usually until dinner at around 7. After that, I study some more and that spend the evening with friends most days, watching a movie, playing games, or going to intramural sports or to club like pride or the boardgame club. My schedule is fairly similar to the ones that I know from Freiburg, with the only exceptions being the very short 1h classes and the fact that some courses last till 10 pm. My schedule for next (well to me its's rather this) semester will be added to the one from last one. In addition to the courses featured on the schedule, I will also be taking an intensive course at the end of the semester.

One of my favourite experiences was seeing "heathers" performed by the students of the theatre faculty. I was there with some friends and another friend of us was actually acting, and it was just so much fun to sit there in this cramped, tiny room and watch this amazing performance. It was completely live with an orchestra made out of music students, and while so of the singing was completely off key and stuff, it was just great to see how much effort everybody had put into it and how much fun the people on stage were having.

**One should definitely try** taking a walk at the ocean and then going to a live music show in one of the local pubs.

**As a foreigner one should not** make fun of poutine, most Canadians are deadly serious about that.

**The most important vocabulary is** eh? **And it means** right?

The people that I'm close with back home **is what I miss most.** (Cheesy but true... also bread and good vegetarian food..)

# Winter Semester

show FALL SEMESTER

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
8:30am		BIOL 3753 X2 Mallory,Mark		BIOL 3753 X2 Mallory,Mark	
9:30		Laurence KCIC 012		Laurence KCIC 012	
10:30		BIOL 3143 X2 Shutler,Dave		BIOL 3143 X2 Shutler,Dave	
11:30		KCIC 012		KCIC 012	
12:30pm					
1:30		BIOL 3140L A2 Shutler,Dave			MUSI 3243 X2 Hennessy,Jeffrey James HDH 226
2:30		BIO 210			
3:30			ENGL 3723 X2 Rose,J Coplen BAC 424		
4:30	ENGL 3723 X2 Rose,J Coplen BAC 424				
5:30					
6:30					
7:30			MUSI 3240L X2 Hennessy,Jeffrey James		
8:30					
9:30					
10:30					

Print Page

# Fall Semester

show WINTER SEMESTER

Time	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
8:30am				ESST 3513 X1	
9:30				Elshof,Leo J.	
10:30				SEM 229	
11:30					
12:30pm	HIST 2283 X1 Duke,David Freeland BAC 234		HIST 2283 X1 Duke,David Freeland BAC 234		HIST 2283 X1 Duke,David Freeland BAC 234
1:30		ESST 3003 X1 Boates,John Sherman SEM 229		ESST 3003 X1 Boates,John Sherman SEM 229	
2:30	PSYC 2163 X1 McLeod,Peter BAC 142		PSYC 2163 X1 McLeod,Peter BAC 142		
3:30					
4:30					
5:30					
6:30					
7:30					
8:30					
9:30					
10:30					

Print Page