

1. McMaster University

Overview

Macmaster University is known as one of the best universities in Canada, it has ranked in the top 5 for many years. It is a public research university that has six academic faculties: the DeGroot School of Business, Engineering, Health Science, Humanities, Social Science, and Science and its Health Science faculty is definitely one of the top choices for those who want to become a doctor, sometimes Canadians even prefer it over University of Toronto. McMaster is not a big university compared to University of Toronto or British Columbia but it has approximately 25,000 undergraduate students and 4,000 post-graduate students and the campus isn't that big as the others. However, do not underestimate it because what is size middle in Canada is size large in Taiwan. The most spectacular side of the campus is that it has its own lake, forest, and trails to explore just at the back of the school, and be prepare that you will encounter deer and raccoon wandering around campus at night, DO NOT FEED THEM. The campus has four libraries for you to meet up for group project or just to hang around with your friends for studies. Mills library is the main library such as 總圖, Innis is the library of Business Faculty and it is the smallest one, Health Science is the one next to the hospital, and the last one is Thode one which is the one close to Keyes Residence and Engineering Faculty. Something different from Taiwan is that you can eat and talk in the library! As for food on campus, you have to try the hot dog stand in front of the Student Center, student usually eat at Student Center, Keyes, or Centro, and last but not least, you can grab your coffee at Starbucks inside Student Center or Tim Hortons.

Courses

When selecting the courses you might receive email from McMaster saying that level 4 courses might be hard for exchange student however from the courses I have taken I found it quite alright so don't be scared right away. The minimum course number requirement is 3 and the maximum is 5. You have to first send the courses you are interesting in to the supervisor for approval then you can begin to choose courses. I suggest to send more than 5 courses for approval because you might not be able to get enrolled in the courses you want since there is limited amount of space. If you have backup you don't have to be worry to get more approval at the last time since it takes some days to get the approval back. I also highly recommend taking courses out of your faculty such as some religion or moral issue courses because other exchange students took them and they loved it. The exchange taught me to broaden your knowledge in every aspect of life, this will make you more interesting and learn what life has to offer outside academic or those job title that we seek.

4MB3 Consumer Behavior

This course is very interactive and my favorite one from the exchange. The professor is very nice, encouraging, and always trying to see what the students have to say. In this class the professor teaching method is more like a discussion class where he will go through the slides and asking question along the way. All the students have to contribute in order to get participation point. What I like about this class is that is that you don't have to memorize anything or better say you cant but understands the concept behind it. The exams are case study where you can't really study but just go to the exam trying your best to combine your logic and what you gain from the class. It prepares you for the real job field. My personal recommendation is that if you are not those people who really preview or review the textbook then do not buy it but only the case study booklet. The professor will upload the PowerPoint slides after the class and that will simply do if you want to review those important concepts before the exams. Also, I highly recommend not to spend too much time studying for this course and just pay attention in the class and try to do your best on the case study assignments, which will be enough to prepare you for the exams.

4MH3 E-Marketing

E-marketing is taught by a very nice Chinese Professor however I didn't really like the course because the way that was taught was not really approachable for me. But if you are interesting in SEO this class will give you some insider information from the professor, well know business guess speaker, and from some of the classmates that are really into this subject. For this course there in no exams but group assignment, I would say it is easy to get a high score in this class and there is no required textbook for this course.

4SA3 International Business

This course is very well organized that covers wide range of country business culture and the fundamental principles of international business. Half of the course is lecture given by the professor and another half consists of country presentation and Business Company presentation. This class takes attendance and participation really seriously, therefore if you are those who like to skip class you might one two think it twice before choosing this course. You don't need to buy textbook but only the case study booklet. This course is not hard you just have to do two presentations, one individual case study, and the final exam.

2. Exchange & Cultural Experience

To be honest I never thought I would feel a little bit out of place during the exchange since I have been living abroad basically my whole life and always moving to another country. However, I felt I didn't fit it from the first day up to the last two months. First of all, I felt that being Asian people do have some stereotype image on you thinking you are a straight A student who does not go out. Therefore, the way the other western exchange students will interact with you in another way that how they do with the others, they will just have those polite talk and that's all. I do not blame them because who would start by saying all those crazy party stories to you the first time you me. From that on I keep my distance even though they always invited me out but I thought I had nothing in common. However, every time that I did go out with them I felt that they do treat me as others and there is so much things to learn from them. The things they talk are nothing similar to what I used to here, be more about races, arts, and other topics close to people life. This is when I felt even we are an advance country we lack culture, I saw what rich culture can do to people, they know how to enjoy life and pursue what they like without self doubting. Therefore, I just want to say don't be discourage by those first awkward times, the more you hang out with them the more you will be part of it, at the end you really feel like a family, I hope you don't realize that in your last couple of days. Do go out of your comfort zone because one you see the bigger sky and greener grass you will never want to go back where you were.

I told you what I felt now let me tell you what the exchange life look like. First of all, you will have the exchange orientation on the first day of class where you will meet all the exchange students and get to know the campus. After the first day, you will start to be bombarded by Facebook exchange group message asking people for coffee, lunch, dinner, and most important of all what is the plan for tonight. Most probably it will be going to a club such as club 77, Motown, etc, going for karaoke at boston pizza, or some house party. Be prepare for improve your alcohol tolerance because they will be pre-drink before the night outs. However, the most surprising thing is that my friends party hard but also have a very productive daytime. They go to the gym the next morning and some of them even go to the library. Therefore, I learned that you could really have it both, which is more like a balance lifestyle. Also they are not only into party but outdoor activities, we always go to hiking on Sundays to see the waterfalls (Hamilton is known as the waterfall city) and then to have brunch at Pancake House which became a Sunday Tradition. Also we had two three-road trips to Montreal, Killarney Park, and Bruce Peninsula to enjoy the French colonial and the mother nature. Of course for those lazy days that you don't want to go out we just hang at some ones dorm order pizza or cook some pasta and watch movie, I think hanging at the residence in my pj is my favorite

time, because it the coziest time with my friends. I still remember the time of girl's night where we dyed our own hair and eat ice cream while watching 10 things I hate about you or the time we took care of other because he or she was to drunk, last but not least the couple of time you skipped your morning class just to have a slamdunk (two slides of buttered toast, two sausage, two pancakes, two eggs, and one hashbrwon) with your best friend and talk about relationship and exchange gossips.

To sum up, my exchange brought my hope back that I lost when I started to grow up and it gave the life that I seek but that never had before. I want to know more about different culture and have a lifestyle that is not affected by society expectation.

3. Exchange Information

Application Process

After being nominated by Chengchi University, McMaster will send you an official Nomination email that will give you the instruction for you to follow which consists of completing an online application. After completing the submission, you will receive an "Acceptance Package" via email and a copy to your exchange office. This will include a Letter of Acceptance, a Letter to Immigration authorities, information on course registration, health insurance coverage, on and off-campus housing.

Mosaic

Is the website for all of your course enrollment and status update, you will get further instruction for how to register after the approval.

Course Registration

You must register for courses during the time assigned, as seats are limited and on a first come first service basis. It usually happens around June for both semesters. However you have to send your desired course list to McMaster advisor for approval before registering for the course, other wise it won't be valid. You are not permitted to take a course and its prerequisite in the same term. Each term, you are permitted to take a maximum of 5 courses or a minimum of 3 courses. The majority of courses (2 or 3 courses) MUST be from the Commerce list of courses in Level 2 or 3. You can take level 4 courses, however as they are final year courses, they might be more challenging.

Payment of Fees

All students must pay the University Health Insurance Plan (UHIP) fee. Information on the various payment options available can be found at the Payment Methods section of the Student Accounts & Cashiers on Mosaic.

Housing

On Campus

Exchange students usually live in Bates Residence. If the number of application exceeds the number of available rooms, a lottery system will determine the final offer. Meal Plans are mandatory when living on campus.

There are three residences that you might choose on campus: Keyes, Bates, and Brandon. Keyes is the newest one it is a four individual bedrooms dorm with 2 bathrooms, a kitchen, a small living room. At Brandon has individual bedrooms but share bathroom and kitchen with the whole floor is less spacious and does not have priv. Bates dorm is bigger than Keyes but there only one bathroom for four bedrooms.

http://housing.mcmaster.ca/Residence_Admissions/index.php

Off Campus

You have to reach the owner by yourself from the following website:

<http://macoffcampus.mcmaster.ca> reasonable price range 350-550 CAD

Student Card

Student must upload a passport-sized identification photo on MOSAIC (mosaic.mcmaster.ca). Access MOSAIC> Student Center> Personal Information> Upload Photo. Once you arrive at McMaster, you can pick up your Student ID Card from the Office of the Registrar, located in Gilmour Hall Room 108.

Transportation

Toronto Pearson International Airport is located about 45 minutes away from McMaster University and the cab fare will cost you around CAD\$100. Another way of getting to Hamilton is by taking GO Bus but it doesn't have stop at McMaster, you will have to make a transit, which is less convenient.

HSR is Hamilton city's bus system. McMaster student do not have to pay CAD\$2.25 fare by showing you student card to the bus driver.

Holidays

If you go during the winter semester, you will get an approximately one week break called the Reading Week. Take advantage of it by planning a trip to the US such as New York, Washington, Boston, or Chicago.

VISA

Exchange students to Canada for a study period of 6 months or less do not require a Study Permit.

Phone Account

The biggest company is Fido. I recommend you to get the 1G for data plan since you will have Wi-Fi at school. You will need to open a bank account in order to get a phone number.

Bank Account

TD or CIBC, you will need your passport, study permit, credit card account.

There is TD and CIBC at Westdale Village close to the campus but only CIBC's ATM on campus.