

**Partner University:** University of Bath

**Major:** Business (Concentrating in Accounting and Human Resource Management)

**Term of Exchange:** Spring 2019 (February to June) (0.34d) ( )Tj EMC /P <</MCID 2 >>3DC /TT0 1 Tf -  
MN20598 (BUS 4XX)

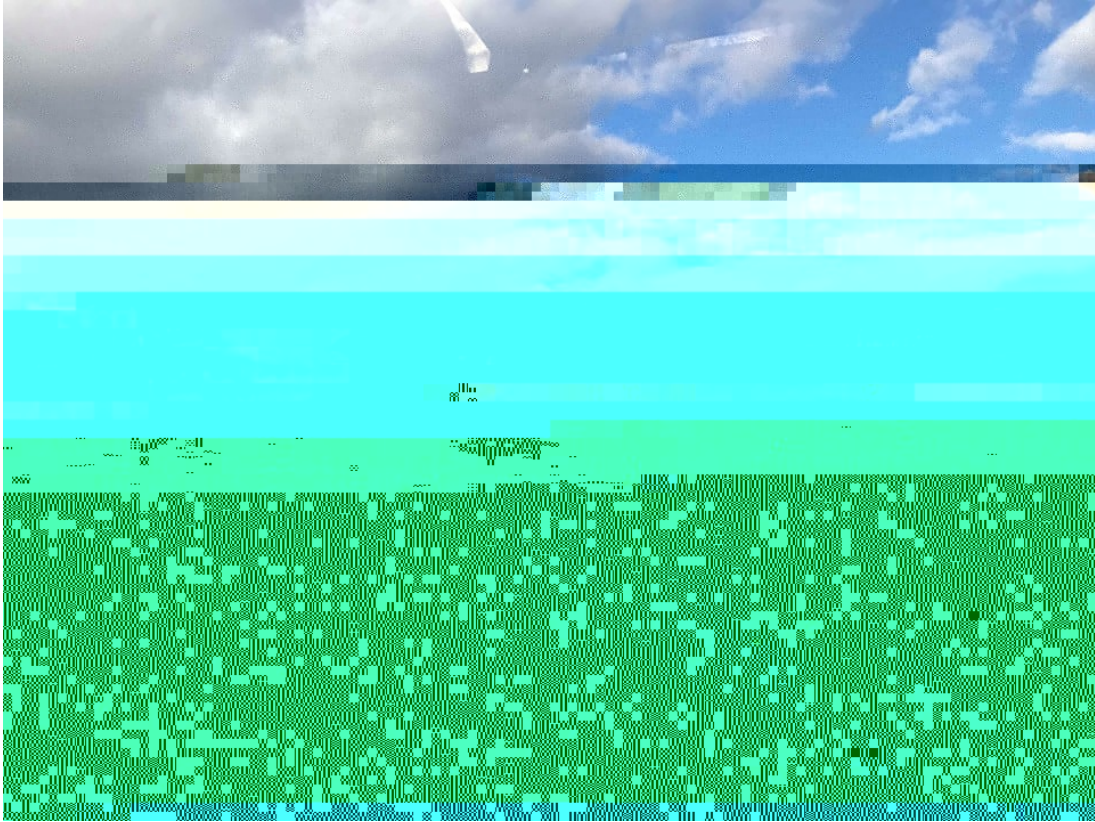
### **Preparation for Exchange**

Three of the most important resources that I found to be helpful when planning my exchange was the University of Bath website, the Exchange Student Experiences reports found on the SFU study abroad website, and the Beedie Course Planning Database. On the University of Bath site, you can find information about various things such as accommodation, courses that are being offered during the semester you'll be studying at the university, as well as the required visa you will need. In addition, the SFU student experience reports provide further information and tips regarding travelling, packing, local hotspots, finances, and overall university life in Bath. In terms of deciding which courses to take abroad, I found the Beedie Course Planning Database to be the most helpful as it displays the various courses that have been taken by students while they were in Bath, as well as the respective SFU equivalent to the course taken abroad.

When packing it is important to realize that the weather in the UK is very similar to the weather we experience in Vancouver (so be prepared for a lot of rain, some sun, and possibly a day or two of snow). Therefore, it's important to have the right balance between packing warm clothes (such as jackets, gloves, toques, and boots) and spring/summer clothes if you are there for the spring semester (such as shorts and t-shirts). When I was in Bath, the weather was quite cold up until the beginning of April, where it was mostly sunny for the remainder of my exchange. Given the limited space in my luggage I didn't pack any bedding or towels for my dorm and instead purchased them in Bath. Unless you do end up having room to pack such things, I definitely suggest going to Primark (kind of like a UK Walmart) for affordable bedding, towels and various other household accessories.

To get to Bath, I took a nine-hour flight from YVR to London Heathrow and then travelled three hours by coach bus (the bus company was called National Express) to Bath from Heathrow. Taking a train from Heathrow is another option but, although being quicker, taking a





With regards to course selection, I found it to be stress-free as the academic advisors register you into your courses for you by looking at your first choice and reserve courses that you stated in your University of Bath application. In addition, the first week of classes counts as a “taster week” where you can attend various classes and see which ones you like or dislike. So, if you decide that you don’t like one or more of the courses you put down on your application and want to switch or drop them, all it takes is a quick visit with an academic advisor at the end of the week to get your schedule sorted out and finalized. In terms of lectures, they are very similar in format to SFU. However, professors relied a lot less on textbooks as the main sources of course material were online articles. The main academic difference I found was that the workload at the University of Bath was much lower compared to SFU. For instance, I found the courses to be evaluated through having either two assignments (like a paper or a presentation), an assignment and a final exam, or solely a final exam.

One of the many amazing things about Bath is that there are so many fantastic things to see that are all within walking distance from each other. Some of the top sights that I recommend visiting are the Roman Baths (free entry with your University of Bath student ID), the Royal

Crescent, the skyline walk, Prior Park and Victoria park. In terms of nightlife, there are many amazing pubs and nightclubs such as Bath Brew House, the Cork (if you like soccer I highly recommend watching games here), Saracens Head (Bath's oldest pub), the Raven, Weatherspoons, Po Na Na, Moles, and Komedia (best on a Friday night). I also highly recommend going to an event called Score which is a nightclub event held every Wednesday on campus by the University of Bath Student Union.

Bath is also close to many other amazing UK cities such as Bristol, Cardiff, London, Reading and Bournemouth, which can all be reached from Bath's bus and train stations. If you plan on travelling around England, I definitely recommend getting a 16-25 railcard which can be purchased at the Bath train station (bring a passport size photo with you for the card). With this card you save 1/3 of the regular train ticket price for any destination in the UK.

When it comes to international travel, the three closest airports to Bath would be Bristol (this is the closest to Bath), London Heathrow and London Gatwick. Discount airlines such as

Ryanair and Easyjet fly out of these airports to many places in Europe at a very reasonable price. So, if you're interested in travelling to places around Europe (which I highly recommend), check out the Ryanair and Easyjet websites regularly for deals. In addition, Google Flights and websites such as Skyscanner and Rome2Rio are very helpful in finding the best and cheapest flights to your desired destination.

### **Reflection**

Overall, I can confidently say that going on exchange has been the best decision I've made in my life so far. I've got to meet so many amazing people that I know I will be friends with for a lifetime and got to see so many fantastic places that I never thought I'd have the chance to visit. My greatest advice is to fully live out this amazing opportunity by going to as many university run events as you can to meet new people, get out of your comfort zone and immerse yourself in the foreign culture, and take the time to travel to all the places you've

always wanted to go to. And although the lead up to going on exchange can be nerve wracking, I promise you that making the exchange to go abroad is a leap of faith that is well worth taking.

