

University of Alberta, Alberta, Canada



If you want to have a glimpse of how a polar bear might feel like in the North Pole, or to have a South Pole penguin experience, University of Alberta, Winter Semester is certainly on your list. In winter, the temperature goes down to as low as minus 40 degrees Celsius, plus the wind-chill factor that would make you feel even colder. However, a semester there reminds me of a prawn-cracker ad, something like "In a very cold place, the warmth is yet even warmer."

Since the very first day I arrived at Edmonton, I received such a warm welcome from TSA, Thai Student Association. P'P' from TSA picked me up from the airport, had me stayed with them for the night, took me to shop the necessities and told me everything they think necessary for the new-to-town like me. During the stay, thanks to TSA again, I never missed Thai food and Thai songs because of the potluck party and karaoke night that being held every month. Thus, for those who decided to go to University of Alberta, contacting TSA in advance of your arrival is recommended and TSA activities enjoyment and fun are guaranteed.

During the first conducted the students adjust their also to create the another. The many interesting visa tune-up clinic, English conversation International Centre were very nice and were of a very great help.



week, the International Centre also orientation to help International life into this new environment and opportunity for us to get to know one International Centre also provide events through the term as drop-in tour to the winter light festivals and groups. The consultants at the

The academic life at University of Alberta is similar to that of BBA Program. I still had to study hard in class as well as attending lots of group meetings and doing weekly assignments. However, as long as I could finish reading the assigned materials before exams, the results seemed to be in the satisfactory range. There is one excellent thing about the courses at University of Alberta; since almost all of the courses are taught in English, I was free to elect any courses I wanted to take as long as I passed the prerequisite requirement which is nothing at all for the low level courses. For those who will be going for the fall semester or the first semester, many language courses are open; you might find yourself in one of the language course you have never heard before in Thailand.

For the accommodations, there are many alternatives; In-campus residence and out-of-campus residence. For the In-campus residence, there are HUB Mall, Lister Center and I-House.

Each residence suits different life styles. For example, HUB Mall is right for those who need convenience since it is linked to the bus stop, the train station and the business building. Lister center and I-House are for those who like lively environment and want to make lots of friends and do lots of in-residence activities. Out-of-campus residence can also help improve one's English since the communication with the housemates cannot be avoided. Moreover, it is the best place to practice the Universal body language when the condition does not allow you to practice the speaking skill.

The food in Edmonton is great. There are tons of restaurant near campus and around the White avenue. My favorites are Yokozuna, a Japanese restaurant opposite to the University hospital, Bulgogi House, a Korean restaurant out of town, Buddy, a Chinese restaurant and a small Lao restaurant near Lucky in China Town. However, I normally cook the meals myself; I went groceries shopping at Chinese supermarket in West Edmonton Mall, Superstore shop in Clareview and Lucky, another Chinese supermarket in China Town. One great thing about

cooking my own meals is that I usually got sick of the smell when I cooked, and thus, I ate less. >o<"



There are many activities and many clubs to join in the campus. Join Outdoor club if you want to travel a lot, join Accounting or Finance Club if you want to get to know more of these issues in Canadian perspectives. During the free time, you can also access many campus facilities using the student card, i.e., the Butterdome near Lister Center which is the center of all recreational activities, the gym, the swimming pools and indoor track

field and sports rooms. There are also many libraries located in different part of the campus with any kind of books you want, I recommend you switch the library to study for you to always feel excited and energetic in the different environment. Outside the campus, West Edmonton Mall is the center of many fun activities, i.e., the thrilling water park, the ice skate rink, the movie theater, the bowling shop, and the "Sea Lion Rocks" show, my favorite.



There are many famous tourist destinations recommended. First of all, the Rockies, which are the mountains that you can go hiking, skiing during winter and sightseeing all year round. I personally like Lake Louise, a beautiful lake located in the Rockies. I went there in March when the lake is frozen and people can skate on it. There are also many ski resorts in the Rockies, and beginners are also welcomed. I believe no one has good enough excuse to not visit the Banff town in the Rockies; it is a very charming

small town. If you have time, Vancouver is one of the nice towns to go; it is the trading town

that is full of interesting shops. You can also visit your friends in different Universities in Canada as well as the U.S. but of course you need an U.S. visa for entering the country. My advice is to plan ahead and enjoy your trip.

I would like to thank BBA Program for this unforgettable opportunities and Mom and Dad, my biggest sponsor and most loveable mentor of all time.

Lalipat Farnpiboon, BBA#15



@ University of Alberta, semester 2/2008