

Away from the familiar Thammasat University, four students from BBA exchange program had begun their journey with the only one destination, University of Ottawa, Canada.

University of Ottawa is located in the heart of the nation's capital with a total population including students, teaching and supporting staff of over 30,000 people. The university's unique programming offers students the flexibility of completing assignments in English or French as the city is not only the political Capital but is also the cultural centre of Canada and is the bridge between the French speaking people of Québec and the English speaking people of the rest of the nation. In addition, The Telfer School of Management who is part of BBA Exchange Program's partnership program has been included in the Princeton Review's ranking of top business schools since 2005. We have learned that study method was similar to studying at BBA, only it required a little bit less effort and participation to get A.



The first impression about the weather was that it was -2°C on the day of arrival (Dec 28). Well, it was just spring during the season as the Canadian said...because just a few days afterwards, the temperature went down to -30°C!! (My Chula friend who was an exchange student at University of Ottawa for the same semester said that it was even colder than North Pole.) Surviving such weather seemed impossible, but in reality it is achievable. Surviving materials are of the followings: Knitting-wool hat, earmuff, woolen scarf, duck-feather coat (recommended as a woolen coat might get wet when snow melts on it), snowboard gloves, long john, woolen socks and snow boots. However, the weather got warmer in April and the last snow appeared around Easter break just before final exams. Along with increasing temperature, snow melted and water-proof shoes would replace snow boots. By the end of April, 20°C-30°C could be reached.



The housing uOttawa had prepared for us was Marchand Residence. It was a dorm especially for international students (both exchange students and students from overseas) and freshmen. Lounges were on even-number floors and pantries were on odd-number floors. There, we had met and made lots of new friends with varieties of backgrounds, for example, Australian who boiled water with stove rather than microwave to make hot drinks for almost every hour, Korean who was about to cry on the last day we were together, Irish who was so fond of Thai food and asked to TASTE it every time we cooked and Canadian who tried to speak Thai with her incredible Thai accent. Moreover, we had encountered with four more Thai exchange students from Chulalongkorn University!



Although Ottawa appeared to be a government city rather than a commercial city and China Town in this city should be named China streets as there are only two blocks rather than a town, we did enjoy ourselves especially with appetite. One of our memorable eating trips began with taking a bus down to China...err town for good Vietnamese Phở in one afternoon after class for lunch and then continue sitting (chill chill), drinking icy bubble tea (ชา



ไข่มุก) in a warm Bubblicity shop while watching snowflakes (snow storm applied too) dropping down outside the shop's window. After we had enough rest, we just went grocery shopping in Asian shop followed by having dinner at Korean restaurant nearby.

Canada seemed to be a place with plenty of wild animals such as moose and beavers and lots of thousands-year maple trees in most of people thought.

Well, the reality was as mentioned above, but not only nature that could entertain us. The city of Ottawa had something for everyone. For those who enjoyed great food and exciting nightlife, Ottawa offered the Byward Market Area which during the day was a bustling farmers market and in the evening transformed itself into a social gathering spot by offering restaurants for every appetite and night-clubs for every type of music lover. In the winter, Ottawa's Rideau Canal became the world's longest ice skating rink (we did not forget to have a bite of beavertails, the most famous pastry, with a sip of hot chocolate during a break from ice-skating.) and it hosted the exciting Winterlude Festival which boasts outdoor entertainment and fabulous ice sculptures.

A little bit away from the city, we took a trip to nearby province Québec to join the not-to-miss winter festival and the breath-taken ice hotel which was all made by ice at Québec city. Moreover, when the semester ends, we took an opportunity to pay Niagara Falls in Toronto City a visit. In addition, a trip to the U.S. such as New York, Florida, San Francisco, Hawaii and L.A. was so unforgettable.



Taking a chance of being an exchange program is not just an opportunity to study abroad, but also is a valuable time frame we had gained experience of living on our own, adjusting ourselves to the differences in culture, language and appetite. As relationship made will not fade away, experience earned will not depart from our memoirs.

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