1. Essential information about student
   - Faculty: Mechanical Faculty
   - Major: Information and Automation Technology
   - Study programme (UG, G, Ph.D.): UG

2. Receiving Institution
   - Country: Canada
   - Name of the university: University of Waterloo
   - Faculty/Department/Studio: Mechanical Faculty
   - Name of the contact person for incoming students: Tara Dossman
   - E-mail of the contact person from incoming students: sso-sab@uwaterloo.ca

   - Webpage for incoming students: https://uwaterloo.ca

3. Study period
   Academic year: 2020
   Start: 11/05/2020
   End: 31/08/2020
   Duration of your stay: 3.5 months

4. Before Departure
   - Where did you get information about Exchange Program?
     Through university websites and had few friends who already did Erasmus and other exchange programmes.

   - Where did you find information about courses taught in English?
     From the university website.

   - Which documents are needed for admission to a foreign university?
     Acceptance letter and grades sheet.

   - How the acceptance documentation is handled?
     Once you get accepted, you’ll be notified through the email for the further procedures.

   - In what language did you study at a foreign university?
     English
What documents did you have to submit to the study department of the faculty before leaving?
English test results, subject recognition form.

What documents did you have to submit to the Foreign Department of the CTU Rectorate before leaving?
None.

Was it necessary to apply for a visa? (if yes, describe the procedure)
Yes, since my nationality is Indian, I had to get a student visa to enter Canada and I applied for the visa in Vienna, Austria at the VFS visa service. Proof of funds, acceptance letter, passport copies, biometrics are the papers required.

What type of health insurance did you use? (indicative price; advantages, disadvantages; the foreign school requires some special insurance)
UHIP insurance provided by the University of Waterloo which had all the coverage including COVID-19

Did you need any vaccinations?
No.

5. Journey to the destination
Transport to the place of stay, approximate price, tips for advantageous purchase of a ticket or air ticket.
Flight ticket cost approx. 15,000 Czk. From the airport to the stay taxi approx. 40 CAD. Better to purchase the tickets at least a month ahead.

Border procedure - what to have with you?
Acceptance letter, Insurance, Visa

Pick up or separate trip from the airport.

Pick up

6. Study period
Did you change your study plan during your stay?
No.

When and how does registration for courses at a foreign school take place? (Are there some restrictions on course selection; course change options.)
There are some course restrictions: no first-year subjects allowed. Look for course pre-requisite

- Would you recommend an interesting subject / course / teacher?
  Mechanical Design 2 / Cliff butcher.
- Was an internship / practice also part of your study?
  It was part of the plan but had many limitations due to Covid-19
- Describe the method of teaching (theory, practice, projects) and evaluation of students' work at a foreign school and compare with your home school.
  Unlike at the home university, it’s an overall grading system there. Everything you do throughout the semester counts towards your final grade.
- What is the quality of teaching at a foreign school compared to home?
  Better.
- How did you obtain study / work material at a foreign school? (Was it allocated as part of the lesson or was it necessary to buy it?)
  Online. Mostly free.
- How the campus is equipped?
  Very well equipped.
- What is the availability of computers (internet access; need for your own laptop; printing and copying options)?
  Plenty available.
- Does the foreign school and / or local student organization organize any special events for exchange students?
  Yes, they did.
- Were you included in study groups with local students while studying abroad?
  Yes.
7. Practical issues

- Where did you live during your study stay?
  Apartment

- Price of your accommodation - monthly.
  500 CAD
- Describe the accommodation and explain why you chose this type of accommodation
  (indicate the equipment of the dormitory / apartment; internet connection; what to bring; the possibility of accommodation in dormitories in the evening or on the weekend)

  University dormitories are expensive compared to shared apartments. Make sure to have utensils to cook.

- How and with what advance to arrange accommodation?
  Facebook accommodation groups.
- What are the catering options for students at the place of stay?
  There are plenty of restaurants nearby

- What are the indicative food prices? (compare with prices in the Czech Republic)
  A bit more expensive.

- What are the local transport options? (Public transport, bicycle, on foot, approximate prices)
  Buses – 20 CAD

- What formalities must be completed upon arrival (eg residence permit)
  Nothing in particular

- Have you had experience with medical treatment abroad?
  No

- Did you work during your studies?
  No

- What are the conditions for work / work for Czech students?
  Jobs can be easily found if you speak English.

- Tips for using free time (sports; culture; trips; financial demands).
Free times can be spent hiking, swimming, parks or road trips.

**Finance**

- What financial resources did you use to finance your stay?
  University fund.
- What were your average monthly expenses during your stay?
  700-800 CAD
  (a) of which meals
  150 CAD
  (b) of which accommodation
  500 CAD
  (c) of which for travel and leisure
  150 CAD
- To what extent did the CTU scholarship cover your expenses during the stay? (in%) 80%
- How is the scholarship paid and when did you receive it?
  To bank. Approx. 2 weeks before departure.
- Experience with bank accounts / services (you recommend an account set up abroad; using a Czech payment card)
  If staying for longer better to have a local bank account otherwise, an international card would do the job.
- Did you pay any fees to the foreign school (for the student card, insurance, copying, material, etc.)?
  Yes, an incident fees was charged which covered my insurance too.

**Recognition of study abroad by CTU**

- How many credits did you get during the study stay?
20 Credits
• How many of them have been recognized by your home school?
20 Credits
• From which courses were your home school recognized (compulsory, compulsory-optional, optional)?
  All the courses were compulsory.
• Did you know in advance which courses will be recognized by the home school?
  Yes.
• How is the recognition at home school and what problems did you have to face in connection with it?
  Better to ask the respective professors for recognition before departure.
• What documents did you have to submit to the Foreign Department of the Rector’s Office?
  Transcript from the foreign university.

• Evaluation of the stay, advice and recommendations
  • Evaluate the professional contribution of the study stay.
    It’s very promising to have a semester done in such prestigious university.
  • Evaluate the personal benefits of the study stay.
    Contacts, job offers and experience.
  • Evaluate the information and support provided by the home school - in case of dissatisfaction, state the specific shortcomings
    NIL
  • Evaluate the information and support provided by the foreign school - in case of dissatisfaction, state the specific shortcomings
    NIL
  • Would you be interested in another stay abroad?
    Yes
  • What did you appreciate the most after your stay?
    Weather.

• Did you encounter any serious problems during your stay?
  NO
• Link to a photo gallery, blog, etc.
  https://www.instagram.com/aslahphussain/