

## 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/>