

Dear future Bishop's students,

wow, where do I even start? I am excited to share my experience from my exchange year in Canada at Bishop's University, which was truly life-changing. Studying as an exchange student at Bishop's University was the best decision I made, and I highly recommend it to everyone. I stayed on campus where most events took place throughout the year. The campus was alive with activities, including the winter festival, which was a standout event, featuring live music, and freestyle skiing. There was a party room that hosted its own events, including weekly gatherings like pajama parties and a Great Gatsby-themed night.

Academically, I found the courses to be challenging yet rewarding. The English classes were especially creative; I even had the opportunity to write my own short story, which made the assignments much more enjoyable. One of the best parts was that the professors knew our names since the classes were small. This really helped create a sense of connection, and we often grabbed coffee together after class to chat and share ideas. The engaging discussions and collaborative projects enhanced my learning experience and encouraged me to think critically.

If you are sporty, you will be in great hands at Bishop's University! As an exchange student, your student ID grants free access to the Sports Plex, where you can play basketball, hit the gym, swim, and even box. I took full advantage of this and participated in a figure skating course, which was an incredible experience. We even had a show at the end of the winter semester featuring a wonderful choreography themed on Disney. It was a fantastic opportunity to showcase our skills and creativity while bonding with fellow students. Whether you are a casual athlete or a serious competitor, there is something for everyone to enjoy!

The friendships I developed during this year are invaluable. From late-night study sessions to weekend adventures, and movie nights, the memories we created together are ones I deeply appreciate. This experience taught me the importance of community and the value of diverse perspectives.

When it comes to finances, there are several options available to support your exchange. If you receive BAföG, I highly recommend applying for Auslands-BAföG, as the chances of receiving financial support are quite high. You can also apply for PROMOS, but keep in mind that their capacity is limited, and they may not be able to

support every exchange student. Personally, I saved up most of my expenses before my stay. Overall, I estimated that the costs for two semesters, including living expenses and food, would amount to around €18,000; about €11,000 for living and food, with the remainder for personal spending money. The meal plan allows you to eat as much as you want based on a buffet system starting at 7 AM. However, if you are staying in the Paterson building, you will have your own kitchen and are not required to pay for the meal plan, as you can buy your own groceries and cook your own meals. Planning ahead and budgeting wisely will help you make the most of your exchange experience!

As I reflect on my time at Bishop's, I carry with me not just knowledge and skills but a deeper understanding of myself and the world around me. I encourage you to embrace every moment of your exchange experience. Take advantage of opportunities, build connections, and make the most of this incredible journey.

Wishing you all the best in your future pursuits!

Sincerely,

Serena - Bishop's student winter 2023/2024

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