

# **Queen's University – Kingston, Ontario – Canada**

## **Fall semester 2015**

### **Study program**

The Faculty of Law of Queen's University offers interesting second and third year courses. The choice of my courses was based on my personal interest and the recommendation of other exchange students. The way of examination was also important for me. I would recommend to follow the first week of class the courses you are interested in, because in the first weeks you can change your courses. I did this as well, and in the end I choose the four courses with a total of twelve Canadian credits.

### ***International Law***

This course was taught by professor Waters and he worked in the Army, so he told a lot of interesting stories during class. For this course I had to write three small position papers and I did an exam. Furthermore, I had to present one of the cases of the position papers with other students. International Law is an introductory course in which the foundations of public international law were examined. The readings were interesting and at the end of the semester there was an open book exam worth twenty-five percent of your grade.

### ***International Criminal Law***

Professor Robinson taught this course and he is an amazing professor. His humour and the way of teaching are great. The three hours class was really enjoyable and lively. The course is a seminar and there is a lot of interaction and participation during the class. Sometimes we watched a video presentation (documentaries), but in a lot of classes there were problem-solving exercises, and advocacy exercises. I choose the examination for this course. The exam was open book, and seventy-five percent worth of your grade.

### ***Legislatures, Legislation & Statutory Interpretation***

This course examined the role of legislatures in the modern state. For every class I had to read two or three readings, and I had to present one reading during the semester. Furthermore every class we discussed several questions relating to legislatures, legislation and statutory interpretation. The participation during class was very important, but also fun. This course was given by professor Kahana and he is great. I really recommend to take a course he is teaching. He also helped me with choosing a paper topic and he is very flexible. I choose to compare a topic in the Netherlands and Canada.

### ***Advanced Constitutional Law***

This course was taught by professor Kahana and I wrote a paper as well. In the beginning the class was hard to follow, because the course was about the Canadian constitution. Professor Kahana was one of the members which organized a conference on constitutional culture. For attending one of the sessions of the conference, we had no class that week. This was a nice opportunity to attend a conference about an interesting topic.

I would recommend all of my courses. Every class was three hours a week. For every course the participation during the class is part of the grade, in most courses this is around twenty percent. In the beginning it was difficult for me to participate, because I am not familiar with the Canadian common law system. The professors knew me personally and they knew that I was an exchange student. The quality of education was really good. The classes were small, so there was a lot of interaction. The professors were always able to answer questions, even by email or during office hours.

### **Language**

In the beginning the readings were hard, but after a few weeks it became easier. Later in the semester I could participate more and I had the feeling the professor really appreciated this. Some professors explained issues especially for the exchange students. For my exams I had half an hour extra and I could bring my dictionary.

### **Contact with Queen's University**

In forward I had just a little contact with the faculty abroad. This was about the courses I intended to attend. Nancy Somers and Jane Emrich helped me with the choosing my courses. They are so helpful for exchange students. Helen Connop arranged a tutor for me. I had a tutor for my Legislation, Legislatures & Statutory Interpretation and Advanced Constitutional Law courses. My tutor helped me with choosing a topic for my papers and with doing research. I really recommend taking a tutor if you think the course is difficult to you.

The campus is a good place to hang out with other students and there are a lot of facilities. The Stauffer Library and the Lederman Library are good places to study. The ARC is a big sport complex which is free for students. Queen's University International Centre (QUIC) is a support service for international students. During the first weeks I spend a lot of time there and I met other exchange students. QUIC helped me with the health insurance and they organized trips and lunches.

### **Housing**

I lived with three other exchange students in a furnished house, about a twenty minutes' walk from the campus. I bought a bike, but I could also take a bus which is free for students. This location was pretty far, the residents and other house options are closer to the campus. It was very difficult to find a place to live for the fall semester, in the winter semester it is better to find a place. We had some troubles with our landlord, so I would not recommend rent a house of Thomas Lappe.

### **Finances**

I received 1200 euro's from the Marco Polo Grant. The cost of rent, grocery shopping, trips and books in Canada are more expensive than in the Netherlands.

### **Recommendations**

I attended the NEWTS Week during the beginning of my semester. It was a good experience to meet exchange students.

I travelled a lot during my stay in Kingston, especially the first two months. I went to Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Quebec, Algonquin National Park, Niagara Falls and, Frontenac Provincial Park. Furthermore I went for one week to the United States. I visited Washington D.C., New York and Boston. Greyhound and Megabus provides cheap bus tickets. If you would like to save money and meet new people during your travels: try Couchsurfing. A person offers their couch for one or a couple of nights and sometimes they show you around in their hometown. I did this a couple of times and it is a great way to discover a city.