

Study Abroad: Thompson Rivers University

Name: Rona Meins
Class: Tou09e
Course: Tourism
University: Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops, BC, Canada
Type: Corporate Exchange

Why I wanted to do a study abroad

I applied for the study abroad as I saw it as a good opportunity to get away, experience another place and culture and to be able to study in another University for a little while. As language was not really an issue for me, the experience as a whole was more important to me.

Experiences

When I first arrived in Kamloops I was really surprised by the landscape. When you think about Canada you generally picture the white peaks of the Rockies, rivers, lakes and very green extensive forests. However the region around Kamloops could more appropriately be described as a mountainous desert (as you can see in the background). It is the warmest region in Canada with temperatures that range from 40°C in the summer to -25°C in the winter and it barely gets any rain at all. The University was also a good experience, as it was completely different from the HTW, be it in size, structure or organization. As the University is organized on a campus that includes the university residences it was important for me to find a room off campus and down town, as I noticed that by living on campus you live almost as if in a bubble and rarely go and visit the rest of the town. By living a little away from the campus I could integrate myself better into the Canadian life and make lots of contacts away from the university life, which also gave me the opportunity to make amazing experiences.

Support from the HTW and TRU International Offices

The assistance from the HTW as well as the TRU International offices was really helpful. While preparing for the semester abroad the International Office of the HTW was very supportive and always kept us up to date with the progress and notified us immediately if they had any news for us. Also the offices in the Thompson Rivers University were always open for any questions or concerns and checked back with the international students regularly. As TRU has a very large amount of international and exchange students, their offices are very well developed and they have also created an International Students Activities Program (ISAP) Which organizes many trips and events throughout the semester to allow the international and exchanges students to experience the real Canadian culture.

My thoughts

I think it is really important for everyone to take advantage of this possibility of doing a study abroad. It takes you away from the comforts of home, puts you in a situation of starting up alone in a different country and culture and helps you to become more independent. It is a great opportunity to get to know new things, meet new people and gives you a different perspective on life and your studies. I would definitely do this semester abroad again without a further thought, if I was given the chance.