

University of British Columbia, Sauder school of Business

September – December, 2011

Introduction

Welcome to the University of British Columbia! Located on the western tip of Vancouver, surrounded by oceans and a golf park is the 40,000 student campus. Add to this a beautiful botanic museum, garden and archeological show and you'll find there is plenty of eye candy on site.

This academic establishment is improving in terms of global rankings. Constantly ranked as the 2nd best university in Canada, it was recently called as the 22nd best university in the world according to Times Higher Education¹.

The University is famous worldwide throughout movies and sitcoms it had been featured on.

When I was attending, I got to see two Hollywood features being shot by the business school. Other attractions include Wreck Beach, a famous nude beach by the Marine Drive residency, and the flag observatory overlooking the Downtown Peninsula. The Ubysey, UBC student paper, even uploaded [a video](#) listing the “93 things you should do before you graduate”. I did not complete the list.

Academic life

The university is very well prepared to host exchange students. When I was attending, I had the privilege to study with exchange student from mostly European countries. Most of which were from France, but also



Sauder Business School

¹<http://www.ubc.ca/about/global.html>

Spain, Denmark, Germany, Austria, Poland and Switzerland. Other countries included Australia, India, and China. There were two Israeli exchange students (including myself).

The school requires all students to register for four classes each period. As an exchange student, you will join the 2nd year MBA students at their final periods, 5 and 6.

I tried to focus my graduate studies on marketing related topics. My curriculum consisted of the following courses

- **Two Party Negotiations**
- Managing Information Technology
- Business Intelligence for Management
- Corporate Social Responsibility
- **Brand Management**
- **Managing the Family Business**
- **New Product Development**
- Internet Marketing

The courses I enjoyed most are in bold. Specifically, I recommend Mr. Tim Silk and Mr. David Bentall; they are excellent professors.

Other courses that were offered when I was studying at UBC are listed in the end tables. Note these modules may vary.

The classes are not extremely difficult and the atmosphere is helpful. A lot of student participation is expected as well as presentations and public speaking. Much like most other MBA programs, a lot of team work is incorporated into the mix and where you and other students live may effect on who you want to group up with.

Whichever course you choose to take, be prepared to do a lot of readings. Books are occasionally available at the David Lamm library for free, but more often than not students are expected to purchase the course book. You could probably do without buying these, but course packs are mandatory as each lecture usually requires you to read the case study that will be discussed.

Vancouver and living

There several dormitory options on campus. I was staying at Marine Drive residency; the newest buildings at that time. These are mostly suited for older students and are relatively close to the business school. You can choose to stay at a private studio or share your room with other students.



Marine Drive Housing

Marine Drive is usually quiet compared to other dorms; especially notorious is the Fairview Crescent.

The UBC housing services offers a [Choose the Right Residence](#) table which helps navigate through the options. There's also the MBA house that offers rooms, but this is considered a separate option off campus.

The city of Vancouver in itself is packed with living and traveling options. The closes locations are Westbrook Mall. A friend of mine found a beautiful flat with one roommate for \$850 each. This is same neighborhood where the MBA house is. It is close to a major grocery store and coffee shops and is a 35 minute walk from campus.

Kitsilano and Downtown are also options for anyone who does not want to live on Campus. You'll definitely experience the city better, but be prepared to commute to school every morning. When it rains, and it does quite often in the North Pacific, this could be a pain.

[Padmapper](#) is a good place to look for vacant rooms. [Airbnb](#) is great for short term rentals and there's [Craigslist](#), of course.

For a general idea of expenses, be prepared to spend between 1500 – 2500 USD per month.

A few banks offer a no commission account for students. I used CIBC, but Bank of Montreal, Vancity and a few others are also available at the UBC village. Make sure you issue a debit card, using your international credit card will be expensive.

Wind is the cheapest cellular carrier, but because Canada is a large country don't expect full coverage. This might also mean you'll have dead spots within campus or in your dorm (!).

I was using Bell Mobility and reception was not a problem. A word of warning, though; it seems cellular carriers are difficult to work with worldwide. Try to rely on their services as least as possible. If you have an old Nokia phone, bring it with you just in case.

Recreation

If you enjoy sports, Vancouver is definitely the place for you. The city is crazed with Hockey championed by the Vancouver Canucks. Other popular sports are football, Basketball, Curling, Swimming, Volleyball, Rugby and Soccer. The campus offers many locations to play and work out. Every dorm offers an office where you can lend games equipment for free.

The Thunderbird Arena hosts professional matches between Canadian universities. It is definitely advisable to check out UBC play against a visiting team and share the excitement. For as low as \$15 you could purchase a season ticket, a much cheaper



alternative to Downtown's Rogers Arena which hosts the Vancouver Canucks and charges NHL fans approximately \$100 for attending.



Vogue Theatre on Granville

Vancouverites also love movies. I mentioned earlier that it's not rare to see a big Hollywood production being shot on Campus, but local's love for movies does not end there.

Cinemas, especially those around Granville St., constantly screen features next to smaller indie movies. The Vancouver International Film Festival also draws a lot of attention.

Walking down Granville Street in Downtown, you will see a lot of bars and night life. This is definitely the place to go for night birds out in

town. However, don't expect too much excitement in Vancouver after 11pm. Most stores are closed, except for the occasional 24Hr McDonalds. Furthermore, drinking in itself is very restricted. Alcohol can only be purchased in liquor stores and bars are not as commonplace as in Tel Aviv. On campus, you can only get a beer at the Pit or Mahoney and Sons over at the village. Most drinking and partying goes on in people's homes or fraternity houses.

Chinatown is a must see destination. More than 50% of the city's population is of Chinese decent. This means Canadians are actually the minority! There's nothing special about Vancouver's Chinatown other than its size and diversity. This is obviously a result of the population mix

Granville Island is a peninsula (not even an island) with a beautiful marina and incredible fresh food market. Try the doughnuts, fish and fruit. It's also the location of the beer brewery carrying the same name, and a few famous bars and restaurants.



Granville Island Market

Around Vancouver

Welcome to the North Pacific. Although Vancouver is a beautiful city with heaps of attractions, I personally found the areas surrounding it to be of most charm.

Literally every turn you take once you cross over the Stanley Park Bridge will lead you to a scenic green forest, likely to inhabit bears, squirrels and various exotic plantations.

If you like Ski, Whistler Blackcomb was the hosting park for the 2010 winter Olympics. It's an amazing resort, but make sure you stay at the cabins and not the UBC lodge. For the same price, you can sleep in an apartment with heated Jacuzzis, where as you only get a shared hostel accommodation with the latter.

As an Israeli who had never skied before, the experience was really positive. A full day lesson, including equipment rentals and a going up the mountain set me back \$150. This was actually



Whistler Ski Resort1

cheaper than going up the mountain without a guide. If you want to see how a personal who had never skied before performs after a one day training, [checkout my Youtube video](#). Whistler is 2-3 hour drive up from Vancouver, and buses go there frequently.

For an even shorter drive in the opposite direction, you'll find yourself in Seattle. This is personally one of my favorite cities in the world. It's a little dirtier than Vancouver, but the cultural history is very rich. Nirvana, The Doors, Bill Gates, Boeing and Starbucks are all Seattle's and this makes for various attractions. Washington State is also significantly cheaper than British Columbia, so if you feel like shopping you should make the trip down south.

Other major attractions around Vancouver include wine tasting in Kelowna, the Rocky Mountains and Lake Louisa.

If you're considering an exchange in BC or have any questions, feel free to contact me at [haim.margolis\(at \) gmail . com](mailto:haim.margolis@gmail.com)

Period 5: 06 September – 15 October 2011

SUBJECT	COURSE #	SECTION #	MODULE NAME	INSTRUCTOR	TIME
BAAC	501	001	Financial Statement Analysis I	Russell Lundholm	Wed 6-9:30
BAAC	511	001	Accounting for Performance Evaluation	Jeff Kroeker	M/W 4-6
BAFI	513	001	Risk Management	Glen Donaldson	T/R 10-12
BAFI	530	001	International Financial Environment	Maurice Levi	M/W 2-4
BAFI	530	002	International Financial Environment	Maurice Levi	Thurs 6-9:30
BAHR	502	001	Business Ethics	Doran Smolkin	T/R 2-4
BAHR	507	001	Two-Party Negotiations	Daniel Skarlicki	Sept 9 th -11 th
BAHR	520	001	Managing the Employment Relationship	Perry Atwal	T/R 4-6
BAHR	580C	001	Topics in HR: Managing Complex Negotiations	Daniel Skarlicki	Sept 16 th -18 th
BAIT	511	001	Managing Information Technology	Hasan Cavusoglu	T/R 4-6
BAIT	527	001	Business Intelligence for Management	Neil McGuigan	Wed 6-9:30
BAMA	514	001	Brand Management	Tim Silk	M/W 8-10
BAMA	515	001	Strategic Management of Services	Kenton Low	Thurs 6-9:30
BASC	515	001	Total Quality Management	Richard Vurdela	M/W 8-10
BASC	580C	001	Optimizing the Organization's Project Delivery Capability	Robert Goatham	Tue 8:30-12
BASD	501	001	Corporate Social Responsibility	Linda Coady & Jane Lister	Fri 8:30-12
BASD	580A	001	Sustainable Entrepreneurship	Boyd Cohen	Mon 2-5:30

Period 6: 24 October – 02 December 2011

SUBJECT	COURSE #	SECTION #	MODULE NAME	INSTRUCTOR	Teaching Time
BAAC	521	001	Taxation and Decision Making II	Tran Chung	Thur 6-9:30
BAEN	502	001	Managing New Venture Growth	Iain Verigin	T/R 8-10
BAFI	507	001	Mergers and Acquisitions	Adlai Fisher	M/W 10-12
BAFI	507	002	Mergers and Acquisitions	Adlai Fisher	Tues 6-9:30
BAFI	510	001	Security Analysis	Jason Chen	Mon 6-9:30
BAFI	532	001	International Financial Management	Maurice Levi	T/R 2-4
BAHC	510	001	Managing Healthcare System Operations	Marty Puterman	Wed 2-5:30
BAHR	505	001	Leadership	Tracey Gurton	Fri 9:00-12:30
BAHR	507	002	Two-Party Negotiations	Daniel Skarllicki	Wed 2-5:30
BAHR	509	001	Managing the Family Business	David Bentall	T/R 4-6
BAHR	510	001	Strategic Human Resource Management	David Berrington	Tues 6-9:30
BAIT	510	001	Managing Business Information Technology Projects	Hasan Cavusoglu	Thurs 6-9:30
BAMA	503	001	New Product Development	Tim Silk	M/W 8-10
BAMA	503	002	New Product Development	Tim Silk	T/R 10-12
BAMA	513	001	Internet Marketing	Paul Cubbon	Mon 6-9:30
*BAMS	500	001	Management Sciences – Best Practices	Mike Fry	Fri 9:00-12:30
BASC	580D	001	Strategic Sourcing for Competitive Advantage	Tom Culham	TR 10-12
BASD	580D	001	Corporate Sustainability Applied	Brian & Mary Natrass	Nov 18 th – 20 th