

St Mary's College Travel Bursary

I am currently spending my third year on exchange to Queens University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, as part of the Durham Year Abroad programme. I left the UK at the start of September to settle into my new home for the up and coming school year. The programme is marks transferred in lieu of my third year at Durham

The trip has been an amazing chance to see North America while still studying towards my degree in mechanical engineering. I have been trying to spend a lot of my weekends away travelling trying to see as much of east Canada and north east America as I can throughout the school year. So far I have visited Toronto, Montreal, Bon Echo and New York City. In the next coming term I plan to visit Ottawa, Quebec and Boston. After my exams finish in April I plan to travel some of the west coast, visiting Vancouver, Seattle and California.

The cost of living in Canada for the year without travelling is around £4500 not including tuition. With combined with travelling planned I predict the year to cost me around £8000-9000. This is being funded with the money provided from my student loan, scholarship money received from the IET, the St Mary's college bursary and money earned through working last summer an accounting summer internship. I have put a lot of time and effort toward having enough money saved in order to fully take advantage of the year abroad. The money provided by the bursary fund of £250 is very important, as it goes a long way towards making the year financially affordable.



My first Canadian snowfall

I have always wanted to go travelling and see as much as possible. I have already been able to see so much and I still have so much more to look forward to. The exchange programme seemed like the perfect opportunity to really experience another culture and way of life that you don't get from spending a few days in an area. I wanted to visit Canada as it is such a beautiful culture with such a nice feel and some stunning scenery. Kingston, Ontario is also so close to so many cool and exciting cities. The experience so far has been pretty incredible. Canada's is great choice for travellers that want to experience a very different culture who can only speak English.

I feel like I gained a lot from my exchange so far, I feel that I have gained a higher level of independence from actually going to live abroad and truly look after myself. As well as an improved work ethic that has come with trying to perform well at school and still make time for travelling. I have been able to see so much so far of a beautiful place and have made a lot of friends that I plan to keep in the future. The trip has allowed me the chance to travel without future prolonging my degree .



Bon echo Provincial Park

Times Square NYC

