

## My Fall Semester at UBC

In Semester A of the 2017/18 academic year, I was honored to represent the Department of Accountancy as one of two College of Business students to travel abroad and spend a semester at the University of British Columbia (UBC), Canada.

I had a lot of “first times” during my exchange. I had never left my home for so long nor lived independently in such a culturally diverse environment. During the orientation day alone, I met more than 25 international students from five continents. We talked about our city, our goals for the semester and our aspirations. In general, university graduates in Hong Kong wish to enter the world of commerce, but to my surprise, volunteering, discovering other parts of the world and attending graduate school were also popular choices. Talking with these students was inspiring, and made me realize that I should not just make routine choices. There are always other possibilities, and I should seize the opportunities offered by the changing world environment.

One of the most significant events in which I participated at UBC was the Day of the Long Boat. I formed a group with 8 students, and similar to the dragon boat races in Hong Kong, we had to row our boat along a designated route and complete certain missions on the way. The waves were huge that day and we almost capsized in the middle of the ocean. However, with enormous effort and cooperation, our team made it to the finishing line. Words cannot describe how excited we were to get to the shore with dry clothes. I was so happy about our achievement, which offers solid proof that teamwork can overcome any difficulties!

In addition to actively participating in student activities, I attended classes taught by friendly and knowledgeable professors. Professor J. Kroeker was my lecturer for COMM354 Cost Accounting, and I really enjoyed his teaching. This was my first accounting course ever, with role play activities in class. We were assigned to a role play as various stakeholders in a community project (which of course was a made-up scenario), and discussed the concerns and consequences of the project based on the knowledge we had gained of cost accounting, such as marginal cost and opportunity cost. This also enabled me to build lifelong friendships with my classmates and the members of my group.

I cheered for the T-Birds at homecoming at the UBC Thunderbirds Stadium, tried snow hiking for the first time on Cypress Mountain and learned to play ice hockey (like a Canadian!) during my 4-month stay on campus in this vibrant city. The exchange was one of the most memorable chapters in my life, during which I became more independent and outgoing. I would like to thank CityU and UBC for giving me this life-changing experience.

“Tuum Est” is the motto of UBC, and has become my own life motto. It means “It’s up to you.” I believe that no matter how many challenges await me in the future, I will always be able to overcome them with my good faith and knowledge.



*Team "the Noobs" on the Day of the Long Boat. We managed to row well after the race!*



*Professor Jeff Kroeker,  
my Cost Accounting course instructor*



*"Let's go T-Birds": this is how we cheer for our varsity warriors*



*My friends and professor from my Strategic Management class*



*My debut on the ice hockey rink*



*"Fall" in love with Vancouver—at Stanley Park*