



Personal Information

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Degree Program at TAU: M.Sc. Technology and Information Management

Host University: University of British Columbia (UBC)

Exchange term (including the duration): Half semester

Phone number (optional):

Exchange Experience

Please use the outline below to write your report:

About the country and city:

Canada, with its breathtaking landscapes and welcoming culture, has been an extraordinary place to experience as a student. Vancouver, nestled between the Pacific Ocean and the majestic mountains, is a city that perfectly balances urban energy and natural beauty. Its multicultural environment offers a unique opportunity to interact with people from diverse backgrounds, making it an ideal destination for personal and academic growth. The vibrant neighborhoods, efficient public transport, and endless outdoor activities, from hiking to kayaking, ensure there's never a dull moment in this dynamic city.

About the host university – campus and school atmosphere, location, staff attention and care:

The University of British Columbia is located in the west of Vancouver, which is important to consider since Vancouver is a large city and where you stay can make a difference. The UBC area is one of the most beautiful parts of the city, making it perfect not only for studying but also for exploring the local surroundings. The campus atmosphere feels like a college straight out of the movies, with tons of people bustling around and countless activities to enjoy. From student clubs to cultural events, there's always something happening. Don't miss the chance to attend the university's hockey and football games—they're a fantastic way to soak up school spirit and meet new friends.

Courses and professors:

As an MSc student, I had the unique opportunity to take MBA courses at UBC, which offered a more theoretical and business-oriented perspective than what I was used to. I enrolled in two courses: *New Product Development* with Professor Tim Silk and *Decision Making for Managers* with Professor Dale Griffin. Both were exceptional, and I truly enjoyed the challenge of learning in a different language while being taught by world-class lecturers who brought not only expertise but also engaging teaching styles to the classroom.

What made these courses particularly interesting was their practical application. In *New Product Development*, we worked on real-world case studies and collaborative projects that simulated product design and marketing challenges. *Decision Making for Managers* offered fascinating insights into behavioral economics and leadership strategies, helping me understand the psychology behind organizational choices.

While the host university requires exchange students to take four courses per term (half-semester), I found it manageable to take only two by coordinating with my home university, Tel Aviv University (TAU). This flexibility allowed me to balance academics with exploring Vancouver and immersing myself in the local culture. Studying abroad is a unique opportunity to broaden your perspective, develop new skills, and gain insights that go far beyond the classroom. It was truly a transformative experience!

Business and Network Development:

The student exchange program at UBC brought together students from all over the world, including Europe, Asia, and beyond. This created an incredible opportunity to collaborate on assignments and projects with people from diverse backgrounds, offering new perspectives and ways of thinking. Working with such varied groups not only enriched my learning experience but also strengthened my ability to adapt and communicate effectively across cultures.

I was pleasantly surprised by how welcoming the local students were, many of whom were curious about the exchange students and particularly interested in Israel's reputation for innovation and high-tech achievements. These interactions often led to fascinating conversations and meaningful connections. I made many friends during the exchange, and we continue to stay in touch through WhatsApp and LinkedIn, forming a global network that I'm confident will remain valuable both personally and professionally.

Accommodation – dorms and other solutions

During my exchange at UBC, I stayed mostly with my family. At times, I rented Airbnb accommodations in downtown Vancouver to enjoy the city's vibrant energy. UBC also offers on-campus dorms, which many students praised for their convenience and community atmosphere. I recommend staying around the UBC area, downtown, or Kitsilano neighborhood.

Visa

Getting a student visa for Canada was incredibly simple and straightforward. The entire process could be completed online, making it quick and hassle-free.

Transportation & Insurance and health services

UBC requires students to pay for transportation, insurance, and health services as part of the exchange program, and these are mandatory. In addition, I opted for personal health insurance for extra peace of mind.

Tips:

Vancouver is a city full of things to explore, and there are some must-see activities and experiences you shouldn't miss. First, the stunning Stanley Park is a must-visit, with its breathtaking views, walking trails, and the iconic Seawall. For nature lovers, Grouse Mountain offers fantastic hiking in the summer and skiing in the winter, all with an incredible city view from the top.

When in Vancouver, you absolutely can't skip the food scene, especially the sushi. The city is home to some of the best sushi restaurants outside of Japan, offering fresh, high-quality seafood in vibrant settings. Don't miss a stroll around Granville Island, where you'll find great food markets, local crafts, and scenic views of the harbor. And for a dose of culture, visit the Museum of Anthropology at UBC to immerse yourself in Canada's Indigenous history and art.

How did this exchange experience add value to your studies at Collier?

The exchange experience at UBC significantly enriched my studies at Collier by exposing me to diverse perspectives and teaching styles that complemented my academic foundation. The MBA courses I took offered practical, real-world applications that deepened my understanding of business strategy and decision-making. Collaborating with international students and professors helped me develop a global mindset, which is invaluable for navigating today's interconnected business world.

Beyond academics, this experience has directly benefited my current job. The skills I gained, such as teamwork, adaptability, and cross-cultural communication, have enhanced my ability to collaborate effectively with colleagues from different backgrounds and tackle complex projects with fresh insights. It has been a transformative experience that continues to add value to both my studies and professional life.

Photos







Please note that the Coller School of Management may publish your report on its website. For any further information, please contact the Global Engagement Lead – Outgoing, coordinator@tauex.tau.ac.il