

Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto

Fall Semester 2010 – Ayelet Kroskin

Toronto, Canada.



Toronto is the largest city in Canada with a very cosmopolitan and international population. The city has a big financial district and the downtown area is full of restaurants, shops, bars and cafes. Toronto's atmosphere is very relaxed and is not as fast paced as cities like New York. There are many festivals and events held in Toronto, especially in summer including the TIFF (Toronto Film Festival) in September which brings many stars and tourists to the city. November and December are filled with Christmas Parades, fairs and events. University of Toronto is located right near the downtown area.

Toronto has many tourist attractions for example the CNTower and Toronto Islands and has many great museums (Shoe Museum, Royal Ontario Museum, Casa Loma). Niagara Falls is also a 1 hour ride away.

The weather in Toronto in September is hot and great for trips. The fall season is very comfortable and beautiful. The cold weather and snow starts only in December and Toronto is well prepared for the weather, therefore it is very bearable.

If entering Canada for studies for a period of less than 6 months, no Visa was required in 2010. Make sure you have the letter of acceptance when entering the country.

There is a large Jewish community in Toronto. Lunches and other social events are organized for Jewish students by the Beit Hillel office (right next to Rotman).

Transportation

Toronto has a very extensive public transport system which includes subway, buses and light trains (street car). The TTC <http://www3.ttc.ca/> operates the public transport in the city center. A one-way ticket is \$3, and students can buy a monthly pass for \$99. When living in the downtown area, everything is walking distance.

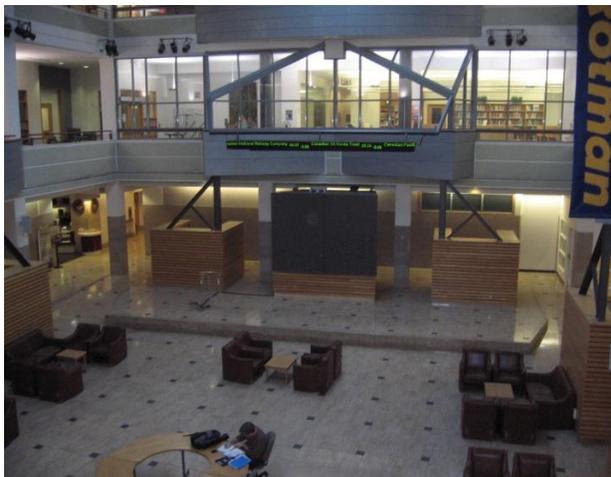
Accommodation

I suggest looking for accommodation within walking distance of the University. Most MBA students stay at apartments with or without roommates around the university, downtown, Yorkville and Annex area. Few MBA students stay at college residents as these are more common for undergrad students. Accommodation price ranges from \$600-\$1200 depending on the area, quality and roommates. Accommodation can be found ahead of time using listings for example <http://toronto.en.craigslist.ca/> , or University of Toronto listings. Although many exchange students arrive to Toronto and search for accommodation in the first 2 weeks and have no problems.

Costs

- Accommodation \$600-\$1200 (monthly)
- Transportation \$50-99 (monthly)
- University Health insurance: \$240 for 4 months.
- University books and case packages (\$20-\$80 per course)
- Living expenses (groceries, restaurants, entertainment) – very similar to Israel.

Rotman





Rotman is a leading MBA school mainly in the financial and the strategy areas. The schools' facilities and design are of a very high level, and Rotman is currently undergoing a big renovation and expansion which will be completed in 2011.

Rotman has ~260 MBA students per year (expected to grow by 50% after the renovation). Over 80% of the students are full time students in a 2 year program. More than half the students are international students. Therefore the exchange students are very welcomed by the Rotman students and fit right into the international atmosphere. The studies at Rotman are considered intensive and courses require many assignments, reading material, and presentations. Most of the assignments are group assignments, in groups of 4-5 students, therefore students spend a lot of their time at the university working on group assignments. There is a great 'learning' and cooperation atmosphere at the university.

There is an exchange student's orientation day 2 weeks before the studies begin. It is very recommended to attend as this is where you meet all the exchange students.

Extra Curricular

Rotman offers the exchange students all the regular student services. There is a career center office (CCC) which helps with resume writing and job interview preparation. There are also 2 athletics centers with swimming pools, gym, and fitness classes.

Rotman offers its students ~20 clubs, ranging from social clubs like wine tasting clubs to networking clubs like marketing clubs. There is a club fair at the beginning of the year at which you can learn about the clubs and sign up. Each club holds ~3 meeting per semester or events and it is highly recommended to join.

Rotman organizes guest speakers and recruiting sessions in September and October on a daily basis, available for students to sign up for the events. Many leading Toronto business people are invited as guest speakers to the school.

Courses

Rotman's professors are excellent and the school's teaching philosophy for the selective courses is to let the school's professors teach the field that they research. This results in a wide range of very interesting courses and passionate lectures. Each course is very different with regards to the work required and the teaching methods, therefore it is extremely important to invest time and effort when selecting the courses. The financial courses at Rotman are the most popular, and are considered very hard and demanding. The number of courses required is 4-5. Following are the courses I took:



Opposable Mind (with the Dean of Rotman, Roger Martin) - This is a very interesting course which teaches how to apply integrative thinking to difficult business problems, looking at both personal and interpersonal strategies to understand models and to work towards creative resolutions. This course includes workshops and role playing sessions on integrative thinking.

International Business (with Joanne Oxley) – This is a strategy course covering many international business issues such as globalization, confronting culture problems, market entry strategies. The course also includes a negotiation simulation. The professor is great, highly recommended.

Game Theory (with vice Dean, Joel Baum) - This is a very ‘fun’ course covering the fundamentals of game theory (zero-sum games, sequential and simultaneous games, repeated games) and the second half of the course focuses on game theory strategies with many real example cases. A very enjoyable course.

Entrepreneurship (with Becky Rueber) - The course focuses on key issues when starting a venture, including pitching ideas, funding, and business plans. Throughout the course, the students develop their own business plans and the course includes many guest speakers, entrepreneurs who come to discuss their experience. A must for anyone wanting to start a business!

Summary

My exchange semester at Roman was an amazing experience! On the Academics sides I learned a lot and it is very different to the types of courses and teaching methods in Israel. On the Social side, it was great fun to meet people from all around the world and form a very close exchange students group. Toronto is a great city to live in!