



Noa Crebassa:

Political Sciences at McGill University, Montreal, Canada

Why did you choose this subject?

I had friends going to Canada in seconde so I had this option in a little space in my mind and then I went to Canada last summer, went to Montreal and loved it. I really wanted to go there so I went to the McGill website and because i wanted to do Political sciences, it seemed natural to apply and then see how it went. The process was pretty simple, really.

And why did you choose the University of McGill ?

I chose it because it was cheaper than the UK , when you look at the fees, it's actually pretty striking and as a french citizen you have also lots of other benefits such as the health care system and preferential tariffs.

How does the school system work in Canada ?

It is pretty complicated . You get a GPA score like in the Us, your scores are in percentages so it is pretty complicated to see things. I have found getting information difficult, for example, applying for the papers is quite tricky because the websites are not regularly updated so some things you see are not actually applicable or you need to call a great number of times to get the accurate information. So you really need to not do like me and do your papers in advance!

Once you're in the country, things are better because you speak to people but while in France you need to have people you can actually speak to that you know can help you with this type of things.

How did the integration go?

At the very end of august, which is the start of the fall session, you have what is called "Orientation week" where there are a lot of things planned for students wherever you are an international student or from Quebec, you are invited to join in some sort of events they organize. It starts with this big orientation day where all the first year students are gathered in a big room and they explain things to you, make you visit the campus and it is just too much for your brain to register. That's the administrative part. And then, you have what is called Frosh. I didn't do Frosh so I cannot really talk about it at length, but it's basically a big party during the

weekend right before school starts where you get to socialize , have fun, drink mm dance, party...

Where do you live during the school year?

I'm in a McGill residence but I live in the only one outside of campus, about 10 minutes away if you take the metro, which is the best residence they have. It is called Southern Hall and = is located in St Henry so the metro is a must. Dont worry, it is really easy to take, you can access it using a metro pass you pay every month that we call the Opus card.

It is amazing but it depends on what experience you want and what you want to pay for, because if you take a room on campus you have to take a meal plan that is about 5k (which is a lot of money) and you have to eat in dining halls.

Because of my dorm situation I cook for myself and I don't have to pay 5k for the semester to get food. Thanks to that I don't have to worry about hours for the dining halls for example, I can do whatever I want whenever, within reason.

Although it is not cheap (my rent is about 1k per month) and you can get cheaper if you get your own apartment, if you are a first year student, I would really recommend getting into a residence so you have a community of people supporting you.

And what are you planning for your studies now?

I don't really know if I want to do a master in political science or what I'll be doing but I'll be for sure staying in canada, for my studies and for work later on.

Do you have any idea what you would like to do later on?

None at all. I think I would like to work for governments, I have a few friends who have been offered job in the canadian government which is amazing so I will see what I'll get at the end of my studies!

How is life in Montreal in general?

Life in Montreal is amazing! I've found it incredibly good since I went there that first summer so I was very excited to go back . It is quite tough when you parents leave you and you're alone in your apartment, even if you have roommates mates and because it's a different time zone you cannot really call them and cry , you have to wait 6 hours and then call them and cry. Honestly, if you are an outgoing person and you're not shy. If you like to discover new things you are for sure going to like it because there are lots of things to do, whether there is snow or not. Weather is only a little thing.

Reportage réalisé par Victoire Coustilières, en décembre 2019.