



# Experiences As An International Student in Canada

By: Tara Abdelnour on November 28, 2022



As an international student, it can be challenging to abruptly have to live alone, support yourself financially as well as emotionally, and maintain your grades in university whilst adjusting to a new lifestyle and culture. The sudden transition can be difficult for international students, leading them to worry if they are capable of such a big change.

At one point, or many points, in time, you may begin to regret your decision to move halfway across the world for your education because of difficulties you may be facing; whether that be language barriers, inability to adequately manage your day-to-day finances, homesickness, etc. However, speaking from personal experience as an international student currently living in Toronto, I can assure you that it has become easier over time. I have come to realize that taking this big step to move to Toronto was worth it, as this opportunity has allowed me the chance to meet new people, absorb a new culture,

improve my English skills, and benefit from a higher standard of education than one I would have received in my home country.

In order to be transparent about this experience, the isolation that an international student may experience in the initial stages of moving to a new city alone must be voiced. It may become overwhelming to have to learn how to navigate the city by yourself, such as figuring out how to use public transit, how to cook your own meals without the help of your family, and how to make friends in a city where you have very few, if any, friends yet. It is extremely common and normal to miss family back home, especially on special occasions, such as your grandparent's birthday or your cousin's wedding.

However, having the courage and strength to choose to advance your education in a new country is worth it, and is a privilege. I encourage you to make the most out of the experience by visiting all of the country's tourist attractions, trying various restaurants throughout the city, and attending various social events both in university and outside to meet people who you will be able to create life-long memories with.

Focus on creating memories in the new city you are living in; find joy in the unknown, and gradually you will begin to adjust to the lifestyle of the city, the people there, the culture, etc.

Who knows? It could become your second home.

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