

# My Experience at UPEI

## Take advantage of study abroad experiences

By **Shavado Gibson**  
Post Contributor

How does a future full of opportunities, excitement, and traveling the world sound? It almost seems too good to be true, but it isn't at all. Studying abroad can be a major benefit to students. Not only will you enjoy your time in another country but you will create a lot of open doors for your future.

As an exchange student from the Bahamas, my first impression of UPEI was that it is bigger, and more advanced than the College of The Bahamas (COB) where I was studying before arriving here.

Many other international students have the same impression.

What is also of interest is that UPEI is a multi-cultural university, whereas COB is not a multi-cultural college. At UPEI, there are residences on campus to accommodate students, and it gives students easy access to and from their classes. In addition, a cafeteria is also on campus for students to have a meal whenever they want (only if they have a meal plan). This is awesome, because at COB the residence available is not so easily accessible in terms of going to classes and no cafeteria is present on campus.

Moreover, this is my first encounter with snow. How great is that? The only snow I saw was on television. With regards to the snow

and cold weather I was worried and being paranoid that something terrible will happen, not being in such cold weather before, but surprisingly I am adjusting to the weather faster than I would have expected.

With regards to the sporting events and activities of Canada, I went sledding so far which I must say was very exciting.

I hope I will have the opportunity to be involved in other activities such as skiing, curling, snow boarding and ice skating. Some will refuse to do this, but I am an individual who enjoy trying things for the first time and getting an experience with it.

Furthermore, I personally find study abroad experiences as an enormous asset to your resume and scholastic experience. Many students do not have this kind of experience. We that do must cherish it too. The distinction of having studied in a foreign country for a session, semester, or year, can be invaluable to your future career in today's competitive job market.

Frankly, this study abroad experience has allowed me to understand myself better, acquire skills and knowledge which will open other doors for me. It has helped me to develop myself into a stronger individual. I am having the opportunity to experi-

ence a completely different culture. By this I develop the ability to thrive in and adapt to a culture different from my own, which I must highly regard as a major factor as a Bahamian student.

In addition, students change majors, alter their educational directions and friendship networks, and often redefine their life goals as a result of living abroad. Also as a result of study abroad experiences, some students change majors, alter their educational directions and friendship networks, or redefine their life goals. This has applied to me, because I find myself wanting to change my major also.

On the other hand, I am be-

ing acquainted with many Canadian students at UPEI and international students from all around the world. For me, this is wonderful and I enjoy the opportunities I have to interact with other students and share our different cultures.

I must not forget the nice, warm hearted UPEI students and faculty members who warmly welcomed me at UPEI and showed me kindness and made me feel at home.

For them I am very grateful.

Hopefully, I will be able to return at UPEI as a full time international student and not just as an International Exchange student.

## How do you keep warm on campus?

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I go through building to building. I building walk.

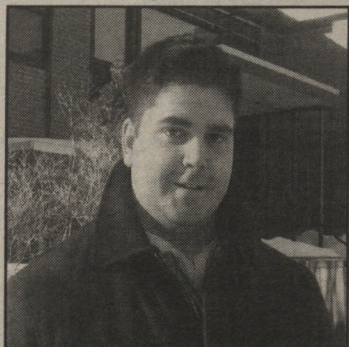


Jessica MacKinnon  
1st year Science

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I go to the gym and work out, keep the temp up, have a few drinks out.



Nick Gaudet  
Alumni

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How am I keeping warm? A wood fire.

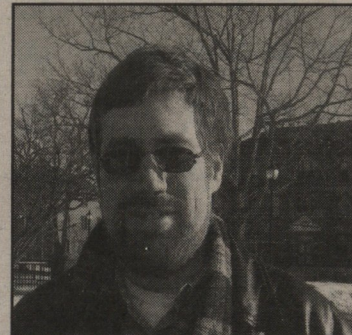


Max Hamon  
Arts Faculty  
Education

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I'm not keeping warm. I'm really cold.



Brenton Dickieson  
Faculty Religious  
Studies

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