LAURIER International
Wilfrid Laurier University | 100 years inspiring lives of leadership and purpose.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE FACT SHEET 2011

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LAURIER

Founded in 1911, Laurier is a premier university and renowned for attracting students who want to succeed. We have more than 12,000 full-time undergraduate students. Our university is noted for its friendliness and sense of community.
WATERLOO

Laurier’s main campus is located in Waterloo, Ontario, a thriving and culturally diverse city just 100 km west of Toronto. With a population of over 100,000 people, Waterloo is a safe, comfortable community offering all the amenities you could want. Waterloo is just one hour (by car) from Toronto’s Lester B. Pearson International Airport, which is Canada’s busiest airport. From Pearson, you can get direct flights to all the major centres in Canada, the United States and overseas. We’re also only a two-hour drive from the Canada/U.S. border in Lewiston, N.Y.

Waterloo region is one of the most multicultural communities in Canada. About 20 percent of the area’s residents were born outside of Canada, and about 9 percent identify themselves as members of a visible minority. The largest populations of visible minorities in Kitchener and Waterloo are South Asian, Black (including African, Haitian, Jamaican and Somali), Southeast Asian, Latin American, Chinese, Arab and West Asian. Reflecting diversity, there are many restaurants and specialty food shops that cater to the international community in Waterloo (most just a few minutes walk from the campus), and there are also a number of religious organizations catering to Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh and other faiths. In 2007, Waterloo was named the World’s Most Intelligent Community.

Our satellite campus, Laurier Brantford, is located in downtown Brantford, a vibrant community of approximately 90,000 people in the heart of Southern Ontario. The Brantford campus is located within 30 minutes of the largest Native American Reservation in Ontario. Brantford has active cultural, arts, music, and sports communities. The campus is surrounded by a great selection of student-oriented shops, restaurants and services including a public skating rink during the winter months. Laurier’s main campus in Waterloo is only 50 minutes away by car. By car, Brantford is only an hour away from Toronto, 20 minutes from Hamilton, and only 90 minutes from Buffalo, New York.

ACADEMICS

Our Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Science, Faculty of Music, School of Business & Economics, Faculty of Education and Brantford Campus offer an unparalleled academic experience. Our unique, interdisciplinary approach to learning allows students to combine majors in completely different fields. Laurier’s faculty, among the finest anywhere, expands the horizons of our students, providing them with a broad perspective of the world that opens up new ways of thinking and seeing things.

At Laurier students study in 4-month intervals that we call terms. Most exchange students study here for one or two terms. Please note that course offerings in our Spring term are very limited:

- Fall Term – September - December
- Winter term – January - April
- Spring term – May - August

A full course load at Laurier is 2.5 WLU credits per semester (5 courses). Each course consists of 36 classroom hours (3 hours per week x 12 weeks). Full course descriptions are available in our Undergraduate and Graduate calendars:

- Undergraduate
- Graduate

The Timetable of Course Offerings is available at: http://www.wlu.ca/page.php?grp_id=1366&p=14494

*NOTE – Timetables for classes beginning in 2011-2012 will not be available online until mid-April 2011

Students should not make travel plans until after the last date of the exam period. University policy does not allow for deferred/early exams because of travel plans.

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APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Please review and complete the 2-step application process at: http://www.wlu.ca/exchange_application

- English Language Requirements: All incoming exchange students must have sufficient English language skills to be successful in their program of study. While we do not require exchange students to complete a TOEFL, we do rely on our Partner Universities’ to nominate students with sufficient English skills.
- GMAT is required for entry to the MBA Program, with a minimum score of 85%

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Spring 2011 (May - August)
Exchange Applications accepted until: **February 19, 2011**

Fall/Winter 2011/2012 (September - December)
Exchange Applications accepted until: **May 7, 2011**

Winter 2012 (January - April)
Exchange Applications accepted until: **October 14, 2011**

FEES/EXPENSES

*Please note: fees are subject to increase each May by 2-5%. While exchange students do not pay tuition fees, they are responsible for compulsory health insurance (UHIP), supplemental health insurance and non-academic fees upon arrival to the university.

- UHIP - $250/term (estimated)
- Supplemental Health Insurance – approximately $200 (students can opt-out of this insurance with proof of comparable coverage)
- Non-academic fees – approximately $460 (compulsory fees for student services, student publications, student union, athletic complex, bus pass etc.)

Health Insurance is compulsory for exchange students. They must pay for UHIP health insurance upon arrival: Approximately **$250 per term**, based on 2010-11 fees. Students must also pay for Supplemental Health and Dental Insurance unless they can provide proof of comparable coverage: **Approximately $200**.

Non-Academic fees are compulsory for exchange students. They must pay non-academic fees for student services, student publications, student union and centre, athletic complex and bus pass: **Approximately $460**.

ARRIVAL INFORMATION

- Students are responsible for arranging transportation to Waterloo from the airport
- Directions to Laurier can be found at: http://www.wlu.ca/maps/directions.php
- Airways Transit is a transportation service that provides transfers between the airports in Toronto and Waterloo. You can make a reservation for this service by calling 519-886-2121 (24 hours) or an online reservation at http://www.airwaystransit.com

APPROXIMATE COST OF LIVING

(per month, in Canadian Dollars):

*Please note: these are average amounts that students spend per month. Some students spend far less, others far more.

- Accommodation: **$400 - $600**
- Food: **$300** (will differ if in residence)
- Books: **$800 - $2500** (cost varies depending on subjects & academic level)
- Telephone: **$30/month** (including connection fee, but not long distance costs)
- Public Transport: The cost of city buses is included in tuition fees for University students, however students spend an average of **$20 per month in taxi services**.
- Leisure and Entertainment: **$250**
- International/Exchange Student Activities: approximately **$50 per month**
ACCOMMODATIONS
Exchange students can choose to live on campus or off-campus:
On-campus (limited spaces):
http://www.mylaurier.ca/residence/info/exchange_process.htm
Off-campus:
http://www.mylaurier.ca/residence/info/ochpage.htm
- Listings of available off-campus housing, updated regularly

CAMPUS FACILITIES
- Laurier International Centre for Students: support centre for international degree seeking and exchange students as well as Laurier students interested in international opportunities. Lounge area, student groups, events, International Student Advisor, resource room
- Athletic Complex: 11,000 square feet personal fitness & workout space featuring: 3 full gymnasiums, Olympic length pool, squash courts, aerobics/dance studio, fitness centre, rock climbing wall
- 21 Athletic Teams: baseball, basketball, curling, football, golf, ice hockey, rugby, soccer, swimming, volleyball, cross-country, lacrosse, tennis, cheerleading, figure skating
- Dining Hall: featuring Mediterranean & Asian cuisine, Grill, sandwich shop, soup & salad bar. Halal, kosher and vegetarian options available
- Community Safety & Security: 24 hrs, 7 days a week, 365 days per year; 12 Special Constables trained in First Aid and CPR
- Student Services: Health Centre on campus, Counselling available on campus, Chaplain’s Office, Accessible Learning, Music Therapy clinic, Career Development Centre, Student Leadership Centre
- Library: Resource Centre, computer labs and Learning Services which provide workshops in writing, mathematics assistance and study skills support
- Bookstore: sells textbooks, gifts, computer and paper supplies

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION
The Government of Canada regulates international study permits and visas through Citizenship and Immigration Canada (www.cic.gc.ca).
Before students are permitted entry into Canada, there are certain documents that they must present to immigration officials. These documents include a valid passport, Study Permit (if applicable), Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) (if applicable), and admission letter. It is the student’s responsibility to find out the immigration requirements and to process the necessary documents for travel to Canada. Students can find this information by getting in touch with the Canadian Consular Office nearest to them (http://www.voyage.gc.ca/contact/offices-list_liste-bureaux-eng.asp).

Study permits: All international exchange students studying in Canada must have a valid Study Permit, except in cases where the duration of the program of study is 6 months or less. However, we strongly encourage all exchange students to apply for a Study Permit (even if the duration of study is less than 6 months) since generally it is not possible to apply for an initial Study Permit from within Canada, should they decide to remain in Canada for another academic term. In addition, international students who hold a valid Study Permit may take a part-time job on campus for up to 20 hours per week while they are registered students. International students who do not hold a valid Study Permit are not eligible to work in Canada at all.

Temporary Resident Visas (TRV): Citizens of certain countries require a Temporary Resident Visa (TRV) to enter Canada. A TRV is not the same as a Study Permit. A TRV gives the student permission to enter Canada, whereas a Study Permit gives him/her permission to study in Canada. See the Citizenship and Immigration Canada website (www.cic.gc.ca/english/visit/visas.asp) for a list of countries that require a TRV. Temporary Resident Visas cannot be issued within Canada. They are available only at a Canadian embassy, consulate, or high commission outside of Canada; students must apply for a TRV (if required) before entering Canada.

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