

# CSU global

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## Where the bloody hell WERE you?

*"Where the bloody hell WERE you" is a series of CSU Global stories from students who took part in overseas study (and other fun travel things too!) as part of their CSU degree!*

I'm Chris. I am in my third year of a Primary Education degree at the Bathurst campus. During the first half of 2009 I spent a semester studying and travelling in Canada.

The inspiration for exchange came to me in my 1st year of university. I had always wanted to travel, and could not wait for my university time to be over so I could set out to discover the world. I wanted to see as much as I could see, walk my own path, and push my boundaries through challenge and adventure. CSU Exchange was my opportunity, and one that I was not about to let pass me by.

The months leading up to my exchange were filled with me preparing my mind. I spent sleepless nights in anticipation, expectation and nervous apprehension. Passport, interviews, paperwork, backpack, warm clothing, locks for backpack, laptop, Canadian cash, flights, transport from airport, travel insurance, acceptance on residence, exchange subject approved, approval for equivalent degrees, acceptance into Canadian university, acceptance into my subjects, timetable written up, university login provided, university email created, and finally I was ready to go.

On the third of January, 2009, I stepped out to meet the full-force minus forty degree Celsius Canadian prairie winter. The day was a particularly harsh day that I can only relate to one thing – walking into a huge, inescapable, industrial freezer. In the mere thirty metre run to the car I was frozen through.

A representative from the University of Regina drove me across the city to the university. I marvelled at the desolate looking trees, the frozen lake and the cars on the wrong side of the road. I was finally there – to the place I would call home. And glad to be there. I walked to the window of my room to see that it overlooked a panoramic view of pure white land, dotted with frosted trees. It was then that I realised I had achieved a certain goal. And so began my marvellous adventure.

Before long Canada became my second home. I was engaged in the language, the culture and the people. I began using words like "pop" instead of "soft drink", and arguing over the hockey games with my mates. The unique cultural experience of living in one of the harshest climates in the world offered me chances to participate in activities obscure to the eye of an Australian. My weekly curling competitions (a game with broomsticks on ice), tobogganing and snowboarding became routine entertainment. I woke daily to a white landscape, not seeing grass for four months.

With these opportunities also came an immense challenge. To be across the world without knowing a single soul was daunting. The residence was not an atmosphere conducive of socialising, and I was to search beyond my surrounds to make friends. Joining sporting teams (even a sport you've never heard of!) and taking time to get to know classmates was essential for developing support networks. Travelling brought me to some of the most beautiful places in the world.

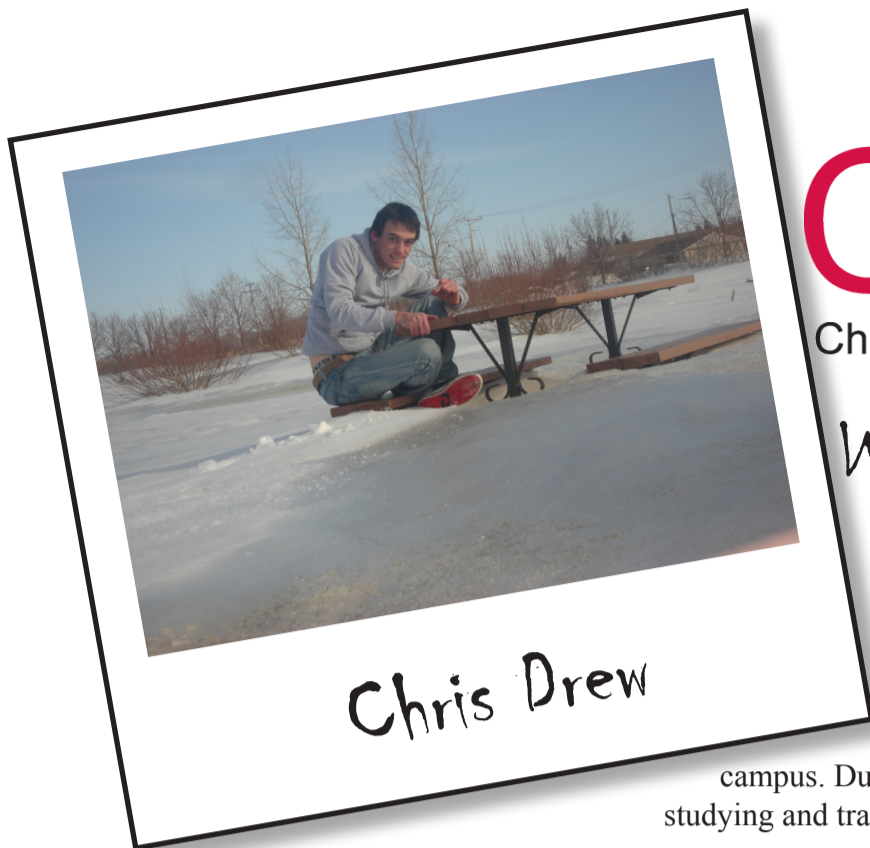
Following my time at university I was fortunate enough to have two and a half months to backpack across Canada. From the hippie villages on Vancouver Island, across the majestic rocky mountains, the vast prairies and into French-speaking Quebec, travelling was a time of discovery and marvel. Camping in bear territory, living on first-nations reserves, speaking French in Montreal, and rafting in Ottawa, travelling swept me off my feet, threw me into unpredictable friendships, and gave me an insight into a life so different from that which we have in our university community.

I realised in my last week in Canada that I had made Canada my comfort zone, and it was harder to say goodbye to my Canadian friends than my Australian friends – You can always go home, you can't have your time in Canada back. Live in the moment. Relationships form when you aren't even noticing it.

So, Where the Bloody hell was I in 2009? I was expanding my mind, my friendships, my confidence, my inspiration and my CV. I wasn't letting life drift by. I challenge you, where the bloody hell will you be in 2010? Look into exchange, challenge yourself, give it a go, and make next year a year to remember.

**To have a chat with Chris, please forward your details - full name, email and mobile to:**

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Chris Drew



## Facts in brief

The University of Regina started off life as Regina College, a small residential high school established by the Methodist church in 1911. Enrolling only 27 students on its inception, the college developed into a junior college and then a second campus of the University of Saskatchewan. It continued to grow until it became an independent degree-granting institution in 1974. Since then, the University of Regina has expanded to nine faculties and 23 departments, which now have highly regarded reputations for excellence. Its programs lead to bachelor, master, and doctoral degrees. The main campus and the historic College Avenue campus provide an attractive study and work environment for nearly 12,500 full-time and part-time students and its staff. Both campuses are located in a 930-hectare development located in the heart of the City of Regina.

## Location

Regina is the most central Canadian city in North America and is located at the centre of the Canadian plains. It covers an area of more than 118 square kilometres and is sometimes called the city on the Horizon, as it rises from the plains, an oasis of buildings, trees, people and activity.

The township was first settled in 1882 on the present site of Wascana Lake. In late 1882 it was named Regina in honour of Queen Victoria. Regina is the sunniest capital city on Canada, receiving an average of 2365 hours of sun a year.

## Culture

The arts make a substantial contribution to the quality of life and vitality of the community of Regina. A number of festivals and activities attract visitors from all over the region. Mosaic is the city's multicultural festival and Bazaar is the province's largest outdoor arts and crafts fair. Regina is hosts a number of festivals that celebrate the areas art music and heritage and is home to captivating art galleries and museums.

There is always something happening at the University of Regina, as there are many music, theatre and art societies. Regular events include student concerts, recitals, film screenings and public readings and discussions with poets and writers. The annual First Nations University of Canada Powwow, which is a rich pageant of culture and tradition, is held at the university each year.

## Sport

To make the most of Regina's sunny location, there is a plethora of outdoor activities to take part in. In the summer Reginans paddle, row and windsurf on Wascana Lake and jog, cycle and stroll along the Devonian pathway. In the winter, indoor facilities still allow people to run – on the Regina Sportsplex indoor track - and swim in the Lawson Aquatic Centre. That doesn't mean that outdoor activities stop. The frozen lake provides a beautiful venue for skating and year-round sporting events include soccer, hot air ballooning, skateboarding, football and hockey.

The University of Regina offers various ways for students to make new friends, burn off stress, and be involved in student life, all while getting fit. There are many opportunities to participate in sporting programs as student have access to a swimming pool and diving tank, two gymnasiums, tennis and beach volley ball courts, outdoor playing fields and hockey rink. Students can also join fitness classes, judo, aikido, fencing and other recreational clubs



## Climate

Summers are hot and dry, winters are dry and sunny and snow covers the ground. Varying extremes in temperatures can occur – winter temperatures have recently dropped to as low as -40!

Average low and high temperature ranges (in degree Celsius):

January -22 to -11

April -3 to 10

July 12 to 26

October -2 to 12



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