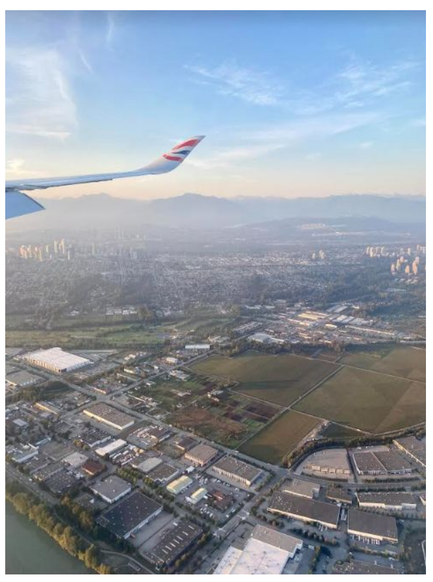
Simon Fraser University

Vancouver , Canada

Meghana Trivedi

Vancouver

- West coast of Canada in British Columbia
- Coastal city that borders USA
- A large Indigenous population
- Surrounded by mountains
- Study permit required for exchange (biometrics in London needed)











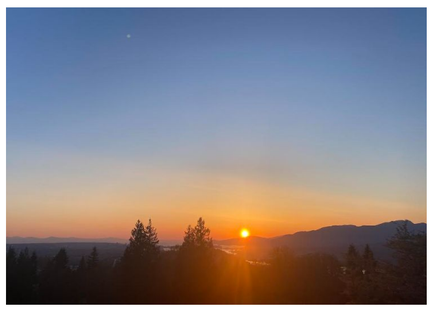
The University

- SFU consists of 3 campuses
- Burnaby campus: where most lectures and accommodation located
- Townhouses: located on Burnaby mountain (walking distance from Burnaby Campus) & 4 people in each townhouse
- Dining common open 24/7 can purchase meal plan or a value pack of meals
- Good bus connections to downtown and Walmart

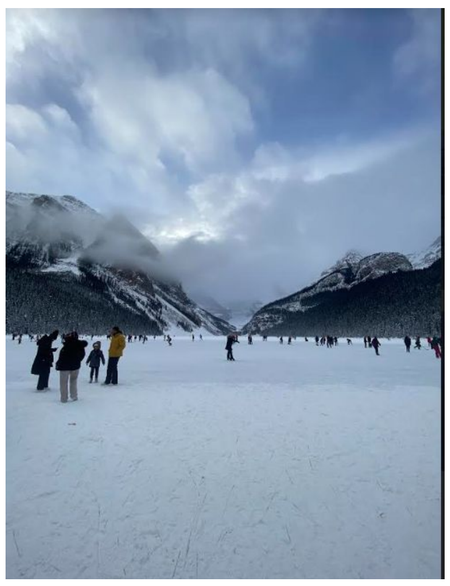
Courses

- Semester 1 : Continuous optimization / Linear Model / Time series / Math statistics
- Semester 2 : Linear optimization / Bayesian stats / Topics in data science / Stochastics processes
- Most courses based on biweekly assignments / 2 midterms / attendance / final (usually worth 40 -50%)
- Classes are a lot smaller than at Bath
- Finals exams occur before Christmas & Easter break











Travelling

- Every student at SFU has to purchase compass card: unlimited travel card in Vancouver
- International club does trips to Whistler / Vancouver Island / Bowen Island
- Trains & coaches to Seattle
- Cheap flights to Banff / Hawaii / LA / Toronto
- Hockey, hiking, skiing & kayaking big in Vancouver

Problems

- Strikes & picketlines regular at SFU and lectures can be cancelled for over a week
- Cold weather & extreme snow days results in university & supermarkets closing down

Overall

- Vancouver is a great city to live lots of culture & immersed in nature
- Education system different to UK but easy to quickly get used to
- Exchange a great opportunity to travel and meet people across the globe