MATT BOSLEY

SYA 2025/26

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF BATH



ABOUT DALHOUSIE

- Located in Halifax, the largest city in Nova Scotia
- Founded in 1818, 4th oldest University in Canada, 20 minutes walk from city centre
- Currently has ~ 20,000 students, with most coming from Nova Scotia, 13 % international students
- Has extensive facilities, including a large library and Dalplex, a newly built sports complex
- Department of Chemistry, located on Studley campus, has 21 professors, and around 70 grad students. The number of undergrad students varies based on classes taken
- Has extensive facilities, including research labs across all areas of Chemistry, Mass Spec and NMR facilities



LIVING IN HALIFAX

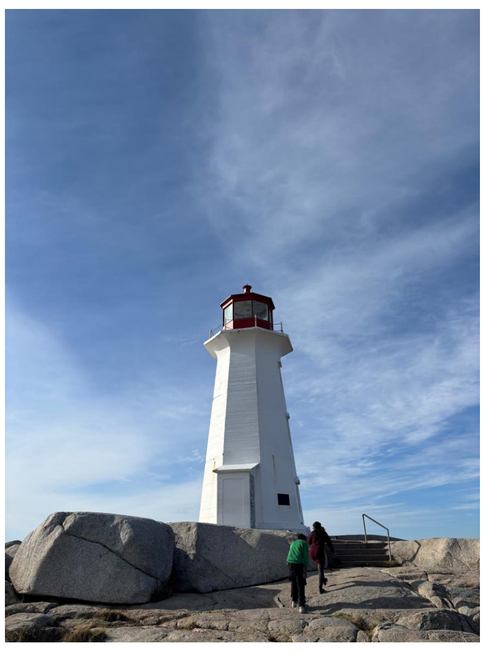
- Halifax has a population of ~ 500,000
- The city contains a very popular waterfront, with many restaurants, shops and bars
- Point Pleasant park in the South End is a large, public woodland area
- As a student, can live in University accommodation or Private accommodation
- Winter is very cold, it snowed consistently from January to March, with temperatures reaching -25 °C
- Halifax is a very walkable city, as well as having a bus pass included, which makes travel around the city very easy
- Things to do in Halifax
  - Visit Halifax citadel, an historic military fort
  - Tour of Alexander Keith's Brewery, one of the oldest breweries in Canada
  - Watch the local ice hockey team, the Halifax Mooseheads
  - Watch a recording of satirical news show 22 Minutes



STUDYING AT DALHOUSIE

- Semesters runs from September to December, and January to April
- As an MChem student, have to take 3 Chemistry class, and 1 other class per semester
- Exchange students must apply directly to lecturers to join classes
- To do this, you must have completed similar prerequisite classes at Bath
- One class per semester must be the Research project
- Other Chemistry classes I took were:
  - Advanced Transition Metal Chemistry
  - Atmospheric Chemistry
  - Chemometrics
  - Theory of Chemical Bonding
- Optional classes I took were
  - Further Statistics
  - Intro to Human Geography
- Classes focus more on coursework compared to Bath, so less emphasis on exams
- For example, I had no final exams worth more than 25 % of the class





TRAVEL IN CANADA

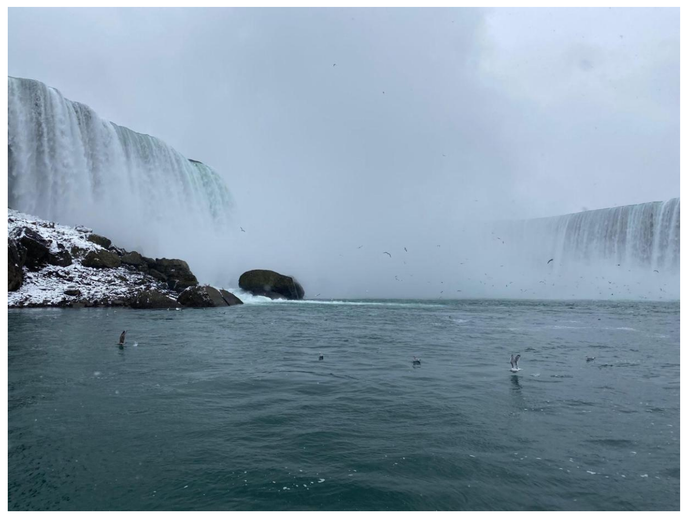
- Plenty of buses to get around the city, can explore local surrounding areas
- Bus travel out of the city is very limited, so is difficult to explore the rest of Nova Scotia without a car
- Halifax has a train station, although there is only one train that runs, a 24-hour train to Montreal
- Halifax Airport is ~30 minutes from the city centre, and can be reached by bus or taxi
- From Halifax Airport, can fly to the UK, either London (Heathrow or Gatwick), or Edinburgh
- Also has many destinations within Canada, including Toronto and Montreal, and several destinations on the East Coast of the USA
- Some places to try to visit are:
  - Cape Breton island, a national park in Nova Scotia, containing the famous Cabot trail
  - Peggy's Cove, the lighthouse seen above, one of many lighthouses in Nova Scotia
  - Toronto, the largest city in Canada

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- If living in University Accommodation, very likely that you'll have a roommate
- Also, in most University Accommodation, meals are provided. Good for convenience, although I found it gets slightly repetitive
- As mentioned, winter can be very cold, and the University could have many snow days, where you're encouraged not to go out
- Chemistry classes are much smaller than at Bath, so there is a lot more lecturer-student interaction
- The Canadian people are very friendly, and you'll often end up having much more of an interaction in situations, such as ordering a coffee, or paying for food
- As an MChem student, you will have to complete work for Bath whilst away. I'd recommend trying to keep on top of this work, as it can get busy when you have work for your Host University



Overall, I loved my time at Dal. I loved living in Halifax and think it was a great experience to be able to do that with the ability to come back. I thoroughly enjoyed the Chemistry I learnt, and it will help my progress back in Bath. I met some great people, who I'll stay connected with, and greatly appreciated the opportunity to travel. I would definitely recommend a Study Year abroad, and that Dalhousie would be a great destination



Map of Canada generated by ChatGPT, photo of Dalhousie campus from Google. All other photos by Matt Bosley