



EGYPTIAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION IN NORTH AMERICA (ESANA)

إتحاد الدارسين المصريين بأمريكا الشمالية

(WWW.ESANA.ORG)

Unit Location

- ✚ City: Edmonton
- ✚ State/Province: Alberta
- ✚ Country: Canada

University

1. University of Alberta

Current Active Fields

1. Civil and Environmental Engineering (geotechnical/soil eng. & construction management)
2. Electrical Engineering
3. Chemical Engineering
4. Mechanical Engineering
5. Biomedical Engineering
6. Pharmacy
7. Pharmacology
8. Agriculture and Forestry
9. Environmental Engineering

Availability of Financial Aid and Grants

Moderately available, but the Mech. Eng. would be the least funded (insufficiently in some cases).

TA can be found better in Departments that offer a lot of undergraduate teaching (like general sciences, and a bit for civil engineering)

In general, when the perspective student has a contact with one of the professors, he receives a Research Assistantship from the first year, and it differs from case to case whether he receives an award or scholarship that helps him pay his tuitions (it may depend on his grades in the previous degree). For students who make their contacts with the department directly, it is not guaranteed that they will receive funding in the first year. The common case is that the student receives a Research Assistantship after he finishes his course work in the first two semesters; whether he received funds in that period or not.

City Information

Edmonton lies in the heart of Alberta. Its area is about 700 sq km, and the population is approximately 700,000. The city is well known for its vast green areas and parks; which makes Edmonton the first among North American cities in this regard.

The economy is rapidly growing in Alberta in general. Most of the oil sand industry is concentrated in Alberta, and many companies now request engineers in different specialties.



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Living expenses could be considered lower than other Canadian provinces, primarily due to the waiving of the Provincial Sales Tax. However, prices are going up since few years ago. Usually, \$1200 to \$1500 is sufficient for a family with one or two kids.

University of Alberta offers many accommodation types for bachelors, couples or families. Most of the accommodations are close to campus, except the row houses for families and a high rise for couples. In general, Edmonton is characterized by houses and 3 to 5 story buildings with either one or two bedroom apartments.

Less costly for housing (400-600 \$ for 1 bedroom apartment depending on where in the city you want to live.... 500 \$ can get an apartment about 5 blocks from university and also a good area to live in.

Weather conditions

Summer here generally starts by the beginning of May (not always) until the middle of September. The weather is pretty good in summer, yet it is rainy. The temperature ranges between 20 to 30 degrees on average.

Starting from the middle of September or the beginning of October, snow is expected at any time. The toughest months are January and February. Temperature in winter ranges between 0 and -25 degrees on average, and it sometimes drops to -40 or even lower.

Lower temperatures than east Canada, but the dry weather does make it easy to handle most of the year (with proper clothing of course)

According to people's comments and my personal limited experience, -25 here is like -10 in Toronto (because Edmonton is DRY). This winter was amazingly even warmer than Toronto by temperature values (not just because of dryness)

City Attractions

The city is attractive mainly because of the good reputation of University of Alberta (U of A) mainly in Engineering; it also ranks higher whenever your work is related to the medical field.

The biggest indoor mall on the earth is located in west of Edmonton. As mentioned above, the city is well known for its vast green areas and parks, which make it very nice in summer, Close to natural scenery that is amazing (Canadian Rocky Mountains and few lakes within them). You can practice some of the winter sports here if you are interested.

City Drawbacks

- ✚ This is not a high tech. city (except in Civil and Oil/Gas fields). This means that those who want to have chances of practice in industry in high tech fields, will most probably have to move east or to the US
- ✚ Bad weather conditions in winter



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Size of the Egyptian Community

The number of Egyptian students in U of A may be more than fifty but not more than seventy. Moreover, many Egyptians live here as immigrants, about 2000 families.

The student community is generally helpful and friendly, and I see that percentage of bad people is the normal percentage you can find in any community.

Contact person

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- ✚ Check ESANA's Edmonton unit at www.esana.org/esanas_units/active/active.asp