

# Report of experience Vancouver/Canada 2003

from Sarah V.

From January 16<sup>th</sup> to April 25<sup>th</sup> 2003 I had the pleasure of living and working in Vancouver/Canada. My program included a fulltime language course at \_\_\_\_\_ for a time of four weeks and an eight week internship afterwards. During the 3 month I lived in a really nice and friendly homestay family.

I was lucky to be placed downtown in a Personnel Agency called K \_\_\_\_\_ Services where I worked Monday to Friday from 9 am to 4 pm. Basically I assisted the Recruiter Melody E \_\_\_\_\_ in her daily business. In the eight weeks of my employment we were able to cover many aspects of the business of a Personnel Agency. I sat in on many interviews and got insights in question techniques to gain relevant information about candidates. I reviewed resumes and learned to look for key qualifications and how to identify suitable candidates for open positions. In addition I increased my knowledge in studying business related literature. Besides I took care of secreterial tasks and reception duties. I did copying, faxing, writing e-mails, answering the phone, greeting the candidates and set them up on skills testing software. I could always ask questions and I appreciated the personel atmosphere.

Fortunately I had much freetime during my time in Vancouver. I made some friends at \_\_\_\_\_ and we basically spend the weekends with sightseeing and going out at night. Vancouver offers many things to see and to do. I strongly recommend to hike the Grouse Mountain trail because of its marvellous view on Vancouver from the top. I also enjoyed the Canucks hockey games at GM Place eventhough Canadians are much quieter than German people watching soccer. Because Vancouver is so close to the US border I did a weekend trip to Seattle which I recommend to other students as well although I liked Vancouver way better. Another highlight was skiing in Whistler. Unfortunately it is very pricy and I could only afford to stay for one day where I spent about 100 dollars. My personel highlights, anyway, I experienced because of my hobby – dancing Salsa. Vancouver's Salsa scene is way bigger than what I am used to from Jena. There I met wonderful people coming from all over the world and I basically spent the second half of my time in Canada hanging around with some of them. I got tickets for a concert of Ibrahim Ferrer (Buena Vista Social Club) at Orpheum Theatre which I remember as one of the greatest concerts I have ever been. I took Salsa classes and went to Salsa Clubs several times a week. I strongly recommend to other students who want to take part in the same program to keep going with hobbies like sports or something like that. I think this is an easy way to meet many interesting people and ecspecially Vancouverites. Spending time with Candians improved my English a lot eventhough it is frustrating from time to time not to get everything right away.

After finishing my practicum I had some time left to travel a little. So I went to Vancouver island for about one week to see Tofino and Victoria. After living in the city for nearly three month I finally got an impression of Canada's natural beauty. I walked through the rainforest and along untouched Pacific coastline which was an awesome end of an awesome time in Canada.

I mostly appreciated Vancouver's cultural mixture. You are sourrounded by so many different cultures and lifestyles. It felt like you can find something from every single place in the world in this one city. I loved chatting with people from Mexico, Argentina, Poland, Iran, Japan, China.....I did not only learn about the Canadian way of live but I also got an idea of livestyles all over the world.

In general I experienced Vancouverites beeing way more friendly and relaxed than Germans. Eventually I have been starting to think about other options than living in Germany after I will have finished my studies.

The only thing that sometimes bothered me was the rain. Vancouver is so incredible rainy in winter and everybody told me how beautiful the city would be in summer.

Thank you Interswop Team for giving me the chance to have one of the best times in my life!

If you have any further questions feel free to contact me any time.