

Hi guys!

As you both know we're here to share your experience in Canada with all your classmates and teaching staff your experience in Canada...

First impressions: generally speaking, tell us some aspects that you have found outstanding...

Hugo Carretero- Before getting there, you tend to think that Canada is like USA. But really, Canada is so different... One quite surprising thing is that they are very very healthy. They always eat healthy meals.

Ángela Santamaría- To me, the most relevant aspect was that they are very very polite, when driving... They normally think everything very carefully before hand...

Sounds as if you had had a very good time...

Ángela- oh! We had actually. I wouldn't mind living there. I'd like to go back when I finish my studies. I'll look for a good job. It seems to me that there are quite a good jobs there.

Hugo- Yeah... Alberta is the richest province in Canada because there are plenty of natural resources such as oil, gas...so families have high incomes, I mean the medium class is higher than ours.

Ángela- There is also other thing: people there don't judge you. You can wear what you fancy and nobody will judge you. I like this very much indeed.

Hugo- Yeah.. all people wear as they wish and nobody asks... I find this very different from Spanish people.

And what I liked most was that everybody was so so friendly...nice...

And...what about your families?

Ángela- Part of my family comes from Britain. My dad has a very strong British accent so I couldn't understand well; however it wasn't the same with

my brothers and the mum was very nice. I must say that the brother was a bit crazy! In a good way I mean.. He was always saying silly things and jokes! It was funny.

Hugo- My family is so Canadian...There were four of us in the family. My exchange, Brand, considered me like a real bro. The sister goes to University so I didn't have much time to know her in depth.

The dad was joking with me all the time. I've had a really good time.

Any anecdote?

Hugo- Oh yes! A couple! In my first days we went to the countryside and I remember getting up early in the morning, I was having my breakfast at that moment I was alone and suddenly I noticed that throughout the window there was a deer staring at me...in such a weird way... I got shocked!

Ángela-. There was a Friday we went shopping and I bought make-up because of Halloween. Back home, I decided to dress up like a vampire so I put some make-up and my travel blanket on as a cape. Nobody had dress up apart from me. I got hidden waiting for the family to arrive... Eventually they got very surprised and it was very creepy!

Tell us about your School, is it very different from here?

Hugo- Schools there are so different! They start high school at fourteen years old, at grade 9.

They have two terms and students must choose four subjects each term so eventually they take 8 subjects in total, four of them are pretty hard.

Ángela- Yes, they need to get a number of credits by the end of the course and the harder the subject is, the more credits you get.

Their method is very different.

They normally do sets of exercises with a deadline, every thing is well planned and scheduled; in this way students know before hand what they are going to do and then a test must be done.

Hugo- One thing I liked a lot was the cafeteria, so huge! With lots of tables, you can either buy your food and sit down wherever you want or go outside the school and have your food.

And other amazing thing is that you are allowed to eat or drink during your class!

Ángela- Yes, because people are well mannered and they know when to stop. For example, they can listen to music in class while working but they know that if the teacher starts talking to them or explaining something then they'll stop listening to their music. I love this fact. I'd very much like having this here but I know that this wouldn't work since Spanish pupils aren't well behaved.

Hugo- Right! You can grab a pizza and eat it in class!

Is the school close to your home? What is the town like?

Hugo- There are quite a few housing estates which are called communities. The school is located in a community five minutes away from town, Cochrane, Alberta.

Ángela- Most people live in communities. I live in the richest community called Monterra.

Hugo- I live in the biggest and the oldest community. There are at least 16 communities. You can find very different houses with different styles.

How do you get to school?

Ángela-. I usually went by car. It took me twenty minutes to get there.

The first week the mum drove me and Heather to school. However, when Heather passed her driving license she began to drive to school. To be honest, at first she drove quite fast but after a while she improved her driving.

One thing that shocked me was that my family had five cars! For every member of the family!

Hugo-. In my family they have four. Brand, my bro, used to drive to get school but at the end of my school day I took the bus to go back because Brand was training basketball.

Have you ever got lost?

Hugo-. No really, although it is a very large area, it is easy to orientate.

Ángela-. Well, once I and my sister Heather got lost for more than two hours...We were terrified! but eventually we managed to find the way back.

Did you get good friends?

Hugo-. Yes! Brandon's friends were also my friends, and the group from Spain who was there like us... all of them were very nice.

In addition, I had a closer friend, Julen, my partner from photography class.

Ángela-. I didn't have any special friend apart from my sister Heather whom I was very close to and Bea, the Spanish girl.

How do you see your future from now on?

Hugo-. Well, the family told me that if I come back some time to Canada I could stay in their home again...

I would like to come back and stay with them... It's been a very rewarding experience really.

Ángela-. We all promised to each other to come back in summer and meet there. I don't know if my mother would let me go but who knows...

Now you are back... is it weird getting back to your routine?

Ángela.- It is being a very tough moment for us. I find being here weird I can't help comparing all the time Spanish schools with the ones from there. Here people is not responsible enough...whereas there...

Hugo.- Yeah... every thing is weird, the last days there I missed my home so much, but now I miss my Canadian home so much ...I'd rather come back.

Thank you for sharing your experience!

Your welcome!