

My name is Daniel Jennings. I am currently pursuing a major in Computer Science and a minor in Energy and Environmental Physics at UWI. For the 2019/2020 Fall semester, I was an exchange student at the University of Guelph, in Canada.

As a scientist, there was a lot to do and see at Guelph. I studied Computer Science and Physics courses while I was there, and the lab course was admittedly my favourite. It's one thing to read about concepts like photons, gamma rays and ultrasound machines, and a completely different thing to work with them. In classes, there was a lot of emphasis on conceptual learning and critical thinking. That allowed me to better appreciate how great pioneers in STEM thought about problems, and gave me insight into how I am to think about them as well.



*Taking a picture in front of the Albert A Thornborough Building, around where I had most of my classes.*

The exchange program definitely developed me as a person as well. I lived on campus with International students, which allowed me to see different cultures unfold in my daily life. I also maximized on several opportunities to explore the city and tour the most revered sights of southern Ontario. While I still prefer a mackerel rundown or stew peas to Canadian poutine, I have learned to love Jamaica, Canada and other countries far much more, as a citizen of a world that is truly grander than anything I could fathom.



*Picture of the International House on campus where I lived, and where many of my friends were made.*

The time was not without its challenges, however. The weather was much colder and drier, and at that time of year, it got darker sooner, which affects more than we often consider. This was also a series of firsts for me: living away from my family, going to Canada, seeing snow, dealing with the North American education system, and living on my own. There was truly a lot to balance, but through it, I have gained a greater sense of maturity, patience and autonomy, and for that I am grateful.



*This was the first time I had ever seen snow cover the ground in real life.*

Overall, I can say that it was a wonderful experience, and I am immensely grateful to have received such a privilege. The friends I have made and the lessons I have learned will stay

with me for a very long time. While I never stopped being a UWI Pelican, I am glad to have been a Guelph Gryphon.



*A picture with my friends at the Guelph Homecoming event.*