



## IT University Travel Report

*Dear Student, this is a template – the aim is to inspire other students who may wish to follow in your footsteps. You are free to give your report the shape you want and to go beyond the questions. You are also very welcome to include pictures and contact information – but you need not.*

*Note that by filling in and sending the report you automatically consent to publishing it on ITU student.*

**Host university: Reykjavik University**

**Study Programme at IT University: Digital Innovation & Management**

**Exchange agreement or Free mover: ERASMUS+**

**Courses studied abroad: Advanced Business Informatics, Advanced Topics in Emerging Technologies, Creative Approaches and Entrepreneurial Mindsets, and Innovation and Entrepreneurship: A field of knowledge and practice.**

**Period studying abroad: semester (autumn/spring) Autumn year 2023**

**If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here:**

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## Your stay abroad

**What was it like to study at the university (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)?**

Reykjavik University is very similar to ITU. It feels like a smaller, closed environment with a low-stress and very embracing culture. I enjoyed going to the university, and I believe that the level of education is more or less the same. I experienced well-prepared educators and also smart students. If you put in the effort, you will be at the top of your class, as the level gained from ITU will be a bit ahead of RU. This enhanced my performance at the university, which resulted in a great experience where I could help others and be well-prepared for classes. I liked my courses, as they were a great mix of practical and theoretical knowledge. Also, there is great diversity in these courses as some students come from the business world after having years of experience, while others come directly from their bachelor's degrees. There were also many exchange students in the course, which made it easier to work in groups.

To be a part of the social life, it demands you to be proactive. The master's program is structured in modules. Thus, you do not attend school many days, and you have only six days in one course in total (depending on the

course, of course, but these are typical for the master's). Hence, this short amount of time spent with your fellow students is limited, and you must be proactive to become friends with the locals. However, you will naturally become friends with other exchange students due to other activities not related to the university.

### **What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?**

I chose Iceland for its nature and because I wanted a decent level of education, unlike in the south of Europe. It exceeded my expectations. Being able to travel in such a beautiful country and also enjoy their “hot spring” culture has left me craving more. I already miss my routines and the relaxed culture. I loved how Iceland encourages young students to become entrepreneurs and how they have built an entire ecosystem to support innovation and entrepreneurship. I am impressed by their attitude and culture.

The nature alone is reason enough to visit. Compared to other places around the world, I feel that a semester here will offer the most adventures (if you're into nature).

The food, however, is expensive, and I was surprised by how much more costly it was compared to Denmark. I hadn't planned for that, but it teaches you to manage your budget better. This is also a valuable learning experience, and it will make you start to appreciate Danish prices—haha.

### **Please describe what you got out of your stay, both personally and academically, and how do you expect it to contribute to your further studies?**

I went on exchange alone to try to be on my own. I have always been nurtured, so it was time for some alone time and to learn how to navigate being independent. I have learned so much about myself and how to be more proactive in developing a network. I've come to appreciate my family at home more and to enjoy life. I don't have to strive for anything—I have such a great life, and Iceland has helped me appreciate this even more. I don't know if it's because the Icelandic nature humbles you, or if it's just me going through personal development.

Academically, I have learned to use my knowledge for the benefit of others, helping them become the best versions of themselves. I have managed a group of very diverse students and collaborated across cultures.

I will definitely use my experiences not only in my last semester but also in my career.

## **Arranging your stay**

### **Please give a short description of the process of arranging your stay:**

I had a fairly easy process compared to other students. I simply applied for the student housing offered by Reykjavik University and I got it. I also followed RU's guidelines and attended the "before going" workshops, etc. All the necessary information was provided in these sessions, which made the process very straightforward. Furthermore, both ITU and RU are smaller universities, which facilitated easy and uncomplicated communication. I had just one contact person at each place, which made it simple to navigate various dates, deadlines, and pieces of information.

Make sure to attend these information sessions, and you will be able to arrange your stay with ease.

### **What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use (if any)?**

As mentioned earlier, simply paying attention and following the information provided in the sessions will get you far. I used a note-taking tool called Notion to organize all my exchange-related information in one place. This approach made planning everything much easier.

### **How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?**

I applied for student housing because I preferred not to rent from private individuals. I had heard a lot about scams on Facebook and other platforms, so I opted for the safer choice, and I was fortunate enough to secure a spot. It's expensive, but it's very safe and reliable.

## **Expenses and Financing**

### **Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad**

Food is by far the most significant expense. The costs for other things are not too bad. I would recommend saving at least 3,000-4,000 DKK for car rentals to explore the country, and maybe set aside around 500 DKK for one or two 10-trip tickets to the hot springs. These expenses are definitely worthwhile!

Housing is, as expected, very expensive, but it's more or less the same as in Copenhagen. I was surprised by how much I ended up spending on food, even though I tried to be budget-friendly.

### **Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?**

I applied for a scholarship with Lemvig-Müller and I would recommend doing the same. It's crucial to apply for scholarships well in advance. Most of my friends who applied early in the process received substantial funding, while I received very little. I thought I had applied early, but it turned out not to be early enough. And please don't use ChatGPT to write your application. Crafting an authentic application will increase your chances of receiving funding. Also, be honest about your financial needs when detailing your budget.

## **Recommendations for other students:**

Engaging with locals is a valuable tip for anyone looking to discover the hidden gems of a destination. In Iceland, where the landscape is dotted with both popular attractions and lesser-known natural wonders, local insight can transform a typical tourist experience into an extraordinary adventure. By purchasing an interactive map of Iceland, like the one created by influencer Asa Steinars, travelers can access a curated selection of locations that might otherwise remain unknown to them. This resource can be instrumental in planning road trips that cover a wide range of Icelandic beauty, from the roaring waterfalls and black sand beaches to the serene hot springs and rugged highlands.

Choosing Iceland as a travel destination offers more than just stunning places; it's an opportunity to immerse yourself in a culture known for its warmth and entrepreneurial spirit. The Icelandic community is typically very welcoming.

The financial aspect of traveling and living in Iceland, while not insignificant, pays off in the richness of experiences you can gain.