



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: Queensland University of Technology

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Innovation & Management

Exchange agreement or Free mover: Partnership

Courses studied abroad: IT Governance, Enterprise Systems & Lifecycle Management, Business in Asia, and Consulting & Change Management

Period studying abroad: semester (autumn/spring) Autumn **year** 2024

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here: Emil Gregersen, egre@itu.dk, emil.gregersen@live.dk

Your stay abroad

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

Courses were a perfect mix of IT and Business, with a sprinkle of insights into local geography (Business in Asia). I would have wished for more courses about the region, but as you need course approval, this was not allowed for in my case. I would have argued more in my application, as the IT courses (IT Governance and Enterprise Systems) were very similar to courses from GBI. The content was not that difficult despite being Master level. Academically, QUT uses a structure where you have assignments during the semester that count toward your grade. In the end, I only had one exam despite having four units (courses). Social life is very dependent on your efforts. All of my courses were predominantly filled with Asian exchange students, and they tended to stick to their groups. You do not feel like you are following a program, as everyone seems to choose individual courses. My social life came from students I met at exchange events etc.

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

I wanted to broaden my cultural horizons and challenge myself by traveling around the globe. The stay met my expectations, as I had the opportunity to study with very different individuals culturally across four different courses. This was challenging, but I learned a lot about how to approach and succeed in such situations—learnings that will stick with me forever.

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?

As I already mentioned, the main academic takeaway was the ability to navigate in group environments with different cultures. Business in Asia also opened my eyes to the challenges of working in Asia and how large and culturally diverse the continent is from country to country. It will not only contribute to my master thesis, but it will help provide a nuanced view on doing business internationally in general, as I now understand the actual value of understanding the specific culture of the country you are involved with, no matter if it is Poland, Peru or the Philippines. I developed the interpersonal skills required to work with different people. I had the chance to grow outside of my comfort zone, providing an understanding of my insecurities and weaknesses. Areas I now have the opportunity to work on.

Arranging your stay

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

I started by looking for accommodation, which I did through a Facebook group for Danes in Brisbane. I recommend, however, that you stick to student accommodation such as StudentOne or find a shared home with other students on Flatmates. Living alone as I did is not recommended, as you establish a better social life through student accommodation or similar. Start out in a group

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

Asking previous students provided by ITU, Flatmates (shared housing app in any Appstore and website), Google is also your friend here.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

Already answered in question one.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Australia is expensive to live in. Groceries are expensive, alcohol is very expensive. Use this site to get an idea of your budget <https://costofliving.studyaustralia.gov.au/>.

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

Yes, I applied for close to 33 scholarships. I recommended: Nordea Fonden, Knud Højgaard, Lemvigh Müller, William Demant Fonden. **Most importantly, START EARLY and identify all deadlines early on.** Use Legatbogen.dk

Recommendations for other students:

- Don't live alone from the start; establish a social group of sorts
- Expect it to be more expensive than you think
- Apply for scholarships more than once (if they allow for i.e., not mentioning anything about it)
- Travel and see things; this is what Australia truly is about.