



IT University Travel Report

Host university: Queensland University of Technology

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Innovation & Management

Exchange agreement or Free mover: Study Abroad (fee-paying student)

Courses studied abroad: Consulting and Change Management, Public Relation Foundations, Consumer insight for marketing and Developing Cultural Intelligence

Period studying abroad: MSc. 3 rd semester – Autumn

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

Studying at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) in Australia was a fantastic experience for me. I was really happy with my chosen courses, and I learned a lot from them. The way we were assessed was through two assignments throughout the semester, with midterms usually making up 40-60% of the final grade. The final assignment, held around late October to early November, counted for the rest of the grade. This setup helped provide a comprehensive evaluation of our learning progress.

The professors and tutors were great. They were involved and knew how to make lectures interesting. Even though the academic level was similar to what I experienced in Copenhagen, I found it a bit less intense, but still challenging and interesting.

One of the best parts of studying at QUT was the social life on campus. There were so many international students, and the clubs and societies offered plenty of chances to get involved and make connections. They often organized fun events and parties that everyone could enjoy.

The campus itself was impressive as well. The buildings were modern and had a cool aesthetic, and the food court offered a wide range of options. Additionally, there were excellent facilities including a gym, basketball court, and swimming pool, which were perfect for staying active.

Overall, I loved studying at QUT. The campus was a great environment for both learning and having fun, and I felt right at home there. It was an amazing time studying in Australia.

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

My initial motivation for going abroad was to experience something entirely new and immerse myself in different surroundings, meet new people, and explore. Having been to Australia once before, I was certain that I had to go back. So, when I decided to go on exchange, there was no doubt in my mind about where I wanted to go. Brisbane's proximity to the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, and other destinations like Byron Bay within just a few hours' drive made it an ideal base for exploration along the east coast. Overall, my stay exceeded my expectations, allowing me to fulfill my desire for adventure, cultural immersion, and unforgettable experiences.

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?

During my stay abroad, I gained a lot both personally and academically. On a personal level, I was challenged in many ways, from meeting numerous new people to navigating a completely new city on my own, with all the associated challenges. However, everything was so worth it. I've gotten to know so many wonderful people and experienced countless memorable moments that have enriched my life in so many ways. These experiences have broadened my perspective, increased my self-confidence, and taught me valuable lessons about adaptability and flexibility.

Academically, I've acquired a lot of knowledge that I can apply both to my current master's thesis and to my future career. The diverse academic environment and innovative teaching methods have expanded my understanding of my field of study and equipped me with practical skills that are highly relevant in today's professional world. Sharpening my critical thinking abilities to develop effective communication and problem-solving skills, the academic experiences during my time abroad have undoubtedly prepared me for success in my future academic and professional pursuits.

Arranging your stay

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

To arrange my stay in Brisbane and at Queensland University of Technology, I followed these steps:

1. Initially applied for a spot at ITU, but when I didn't get it, I decided to enroll as a fee-paying student.
2. Ensured to read and respond to emails from Student Affairs and Programmes, providing all required documents before the deadlines.
3. Applied for six courses at QUT initially, allowing flexibility to choose and combine courses later to avoid scheduling conflicts.
4. Stayed updated with emails from QUT and completed necessary tasks such as student registration and course enrollment.
5. Paid the tuition fees for the semester.
6. Obtained required insurances, including Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC).
7. Applied for the Student Visa (subclass 500).
8. Purchased a one-way flight ticket to Brisbane to have flexibility after completing exams.
9. Secured accommodation at Student One on Elizabeth Street for the duration of my stay in Brisbane.

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

In planning my stay, I found several resources helpful, including:

1. ITU's Study Affairs and Programme office: They provided guidance and assistance throughout the process, especially in navigating administrative tasks and deadlines.
2. Desk research: I conducted online research to gather information on how to make the most out of my stay abroad. This involved exploring various websites, forums, and blogs related to studying in Brisbane and at Queensland University of Technology.
3. Queensland University of Technology (QUT): The staff at QUT were also very helpful and accommodating. They provided valuable information and support, particularly regarding course selection and enrollment procedures.
4. Advice from former students: I reached out to other students who had previously studied in Brisbane for their insights and recommendations. They provided valuable tips and suggestions on things to know, places to visit, and activities to try during my time in the city.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

To arrange accommodation, I chose to stay at Student One on Elizabeth Street, which is a popular choice among students going on exchange for a semester. My room came equipped with a wardrobe, desk and chair, and of course, a bed. I shared the apartment with four others. Additionally, I knew two other students who were also going on exchange, so we applied to live together and were successful in securing accommodation as a group.

Student One Elizabeth Street is centrally located, just a 5-minute walk from the university, making it a convenient option for daily commuting to classes and accessing other amenities in the area. Overall, choosing accommodation at Student One provided a comfortable and convenient living arrangement during my time in Brisbane.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

In terms of expenses related to my stay abroad, I found Brisbane to be comparable to Copenhagen in terms of overall prices, although rent in Brisbane tended to be higher. To maintain flexibility, I chose to purchase a one-way flight ticket, allowing me to decide when and where to return home later. I also applied for the Student Visa (subclass 500) through the Australian Government, as it was a necessary expense. Additionally, obtaining Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) was recommended.

I decided to allocate a significant portion of my budget to travel, prioritizing exploration and adventure. This allowed me to see a large part of Australia and even visit Fiji, which was an incredible experience. While there were certainly expenses associated with studying abroad, such as accommodation and daily living costs, they were not significantly different from those in Copenhagen. Overall, aside from the typical expenses like rent and living costs, the major additional expenses were related to travel, including flights and sightseeing activities.

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

I applied for a few scholarships but unfortunately was not granted any. However, I would highly recommend applying well in advance and exploring various scholarship opportunities. It's essential to start the application process early and thoroughly research the eligibility criteria for each scholarship. I also worked beforehand to save money for my stay abroad, having savings can provide an additional safety net and allow for more flexibility during your time abroad.

Recommendations for other students:

I cannot explain enough how valuable it is to go on exchange. It's an experience that offers so much more than just academic knowledge. You truly get to challenge yourself in so many ways and grow as an individual. Even though preparing beforehand might seem daunting, it is definitely worth all the time and effort. Being in a new country, meeting people from different cultures, and exploring new places is an invaluable experience that gives you an entirely new perspective on the world. I would highly recommend it to any students considering it.