

## **Travel report**

### **Host University:**

San Diego State University

### **Study programme at ITU:**

Digital Innovation & Management (DIM)

### **Study abroad:**

Freemover

### **Courses at host university:**

Secure Enterprise Networking & Mobile Technologies

Science and Technology in Homeland Security

Conflict Management Communication

### **Exchange period:**

Third semester, Autumn 2022

### **Contact information:**

[casn@itu.dk](mailto:casn@itu.dk) or [caro.snestrup@gmail.com](mailto:caro.snestrup@gmail.com)

---

## **Your stay abroad**

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

Studying at San Diego State University (SDSU) was overall a very great and inspiring experience. The first day at campus we got a well-described introduction to the university system and afterwards they spent a few hours to show us around campus which was enormous. Campus has several social options including a huge library, a tennis court, a pool, a very new and spacious gym, bowling center, many different dining options, and an indoor basketball arena which is occasionally used for concerts. Applying for courses were a bit difficult in the beginning as the American students have a right to apply before exchange students and thereby book the available seats, but when I finally got my

courses, everything went fine. The academic level is a bit different from Denmark as the professors can expect more active participation than what I was used to. However, I also got the opportunity to work together with American students which I found very enriching for both my social and language skills.

**What was your initial motivation for studying abroad and did you meet your expectations?**

My biggest motivation for studying abroad was to explore both cultural, social, and educational life outside of Denmark. California is one of the biggest states in America and I thought it was a great opportunity to broaden my horizon and challenge my personal and safety boundaries to a new level. One of my expectations for studying abroad were to become more open minded and enhance my language skills in English. This has indeed been fulfilled as I was forced to speak English in my house as well as in class when interacting with other students in teamwork and presentations in class. This has especially made me more confident and more open minded towards other people.

**Describe what you got out of your stay both personally and academically, and how you expect it to contribute to your further studies**

---

## **Arranging your stay**

**Provide a short description of the process of arranging your stay:**

When I decided that I wanted to travel as a freemover, I contacted EDU and was provided a councilor. She helped me with all the practical details and deadlines, and she also had a list of things to check before leaving. I was also very lucky to have a fellow student going to San Diego State University as well and I will recommend seeking help from others going abroad as freemover as well.

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

I read information from other travel reports, previous students I knew had been in San Diego, and I used EDU's Instagram page to reach out to students who were living in houses/apartments where I wanted to stay as well. Seeking for accommodation takes a long time and I will recommend that you start looking as soon as you know that you have been accepted at the University.

---

## **Expenses and financing**

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

It is hard to get around the fact that San Diego, and California in general, can be a very expensive place to live. Moreover, the American dollar had not been as high for more than 20 years as it was when the autumn semester 2022 began. However, living expenses were more or less the same as in Denmark such as food, shopping, and gas for the car. I will suggest applying for “Udlandsstipendium” which can cover almost all of tuition fee. Furthermore, you will be able to take your SU with you and there is also the opportunity to apply for private grants. I started to make a budget very early to try to make an overview of my expenses. This will also be mandatory for almost every private scholarship that you apply for.

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

Yes, I did. Even if you are going abroad as an undergraduate, I will highly recommend applying for scholarships. Even though it takes a lot of time and preparation, it is very much worth it. I was lucky to receive a couple of grants and I also received one when I was halfway through the semester. As a graduate student I can recommend: Knud Højgaards Fond, Nordea Fonden, Dansk Tennis Fond, and Augustinus Fonden. I used “Legatbogen” and ITU’s own suggestions for grants which were also very helpful.

---

**Recommendations for other students**

If you are in doubt, do it either way. Going abroad is one of the greatest decisions I have ever taken. I was nervous in the beginning, but I ended up not wanting to go home at the end. You can get friends for life and the things you experience will always stay in your memories. You will not regret it for one second.