



## **IT University Travel Report**

**Host University:** San Diego State University

**Study Programme at IT University :** Business and IT

**Activity Abroad:** Freemover during my 3<sup>rd</sup> semester on Digital Innovation and Management

**Exchange Period:** Fall 2022

## **Your stay abroad**

**What was it like to study at San Diego State University? (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)**

San Diego State offered a very different study environment from ITU. Seeing that I was going there on my master's degree, we had to do graduate courses. The level was far below Danish standards, but nevertheless, it is a requirement from the university that you pass all courses with minimum B (10), to be considered in "good academic standing". Furthermore, all graduate courses are taught during late afternoon or as evening classes, which meant that you could enjoy San Diego during the day. Campus was crazy big. Really nice facilities, completely new gym, basketball arena with shows and concerts (e.g., Kendrick Lamar, Jack Harlow, Kevin Hart performed during fall 2023), so there was a lot to do. You could join most sports teams, however not at the highest level, but more recreational in that sense. But, most students at the university were a lot younger than I expected. I am 25, and for the students you bump into who hang around at campus, I would say the average age was around 20-21 years old. Of course, people attending graduate courses are a bit older (sometimes 30+), but they don't really engage in much other than the courses itself, so if you are looking to find social life, be prepared for a younger crowd.

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

It's pretty much the last chance to go somewhere for a longer period of time before getting a "real" job. San Diego was a perfect place for travelling. The west coast offers amazing trips as well as Arizona where you can find Grand Canyon on your way to Las Vegas. Also, it's only a 25 minutes' drive to Tijuana at the Mexican border, where you can catch domestic flights to all over Mexico for

no more than 3-400 DKK. Highly recommend to go to Mexico City and Puerto Escondido while you have the chance!

**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 got to know myself a lot better. I made a lot of new friends. Especially the other people I lived with. It's a unique way to get to know each other, living so close and travelling together for a 5–6-month period of time. Despite the courses at ITU offers a much higher academic level, I am really glad I did go on exchange. I had so many good travel experiences and the whole stay taught me a lot of things that you don't get the chance to learn in class.

## **Arranging your stay**

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

Applying for courses is a nightmare. At least this semester. There were more than 600 exchange students and only a limited number of courses offered. The university offers courses to the Californian students first, which means that you get the leftover seats. Please try to apply for as many courses as possible in your pre-approval application and don't be afraid to be a bit bullish when you get to university. Talk to the professor, the international student counsellors and explain why you NEED to get these courses. They will often help you, but nothing will happen if you think you can just sit back and wait for seats to become available. However, with that being said, ITU and SAP has been very helpful and flexible in terms of applications and understanding how cumbersome the process was at San Diego State.

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

Figure out what you want out of your stay abroad. Do you want to higher your academic level and get a beautiful CV. Go to Berkeley or Singapore. No need to live on the beach in San Diego for 6 months if that's your thing. Also, talk to someone you know who's been there. Nothing worse than reading a travel report from someone you don't know and expecting it to be just like that.

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

Accommodation I arranged from home. I rented from something called mission bay management. Not the biggest recommendation, but they can find you a house on the beach. We went during the worst time possible in terms of inflation and the US dollar rising to 7.9 DKK per USD. We paid 1400 USD monthly per person. Hopefully, it won't be as bad next time around. We also bumped into other people who paid half of what we did for the same type of property. However, in these cases, try to reach out to someone who's just been to San Diego. Typically, they can put you in contact with whomever they rented from.

## **Expenses and Financing**

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

The stay was incredibly expensive compared to what I expected. I made an adjusted budget, which I have attached at the bottom of the travel report.

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

Yes! Spend as much time as you possibly can on finding funds and scholarships to apply for. It really paid off for me. I was granted funds from 9 different funds, which covered most of my expenses during my stay. Start in January and sort by the application deadline. Some of the really good funds have early application dates. I was granted scholarships by the following funds:

SU Udlandsstipendium (Garanteret 44.800 DKK til betaling af Tuition Fee)

William Demant Fonden

Lemvig Müller Fonden

Marie og M.B. Richters Fond

Henry Shaws Legat

Danmark-Amerika Fonden

Knud Højgaards Fond

Olsens Mindefond

Nordea Fonden

ITUs Travel Pool

<b>Udgifter:</b>	<b>Stykpris USD</b>	<b>Stykpris DKK**</b>	<b>Antal (måneder)</b>	<b>Total</b>
Flybilletter San Diego T/R		kr 12.000,00	1	kr 12.000,00
United Healthcare student insurance*	\$910,00	kr 6.825,00	1	kr 6.825,00
Tuition fee	\$7.000,00	kr 52.500,00	1	kr 52.500,00
International students services fee	\$760,00	kr 5.700,00	1	kr 5.700,00
Application fee	\$175,00	kr 1.312,50	1	kr 1.312,50
On-campus facilities access	\$110,00	kr 825,00	1	kr 825,00
Offentlig transport San Diego	\$188,00	kr 1.410,00	5	kr 7.050,00
Studiematerialer*	\$600,00	kr 4.500,00	1	kr 4.500,00
Boligudgifter*	\$1.400,00	kr 10.500,00	5	kr 52.500,00
Leveomkostninger		kr 4.500,00	5	kr 22.500,00
Visumafgift		kr 3.494,00	1	kr 3.494,00
<b>Samlede omkostninger ved opholdet</b>				<b><u>kr 169.206,50</u></b>
<b>Indtægter:</b>				
SU		kr 5.800,00	5	kr 29.000,00
SU Udlandsstipendium		kr 44.800,00	1	kr 44.800,00
Legater og fonde (indtil videre)		kr 25.000,00	1	kr 25.000,00
Opsparing		kr 10.000,00	1	kr 10.000,00
Udlandsstudielån		kr 0,00	1	kr 0,00
<b>Samlede indtægter ved opholdet</b>				<b><u>kr 108.800,00</u></b>
<b>Samlet underskud:</b>				<b><u>kr 60.406,50</u></b>