



IT University Travel Report

Host University: Queensland University of Technology (QUT)

Study Programme at IT University: Global Business Informatics (GBI)

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Exchange Agreement

Exchange Period: Autumn 2022

Courses studied abroad:

- BSB119 - Global Business
- AMB120 - Bridging Cultures
- MGB225 - Intercultural Communication and Negotiation
- BSB130 - Social Enterprises

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here: lrot@itu.dk

Your stay abroad

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

Choice of courses and academic level

I had chosen to take primarily business courses to cover for the mandatory courses at ITU and my elective. I had chosen the QUT courses 'Global Business' and 'Bridging Cultures' to cover for the ITU course 'IT, Globalization and Culture' (15 ECTS). These courses were fairly easy as they were first semester courses from QUT and they were similar to courses I had previously had at GBI like 'Business Foundations' and 'Global Project Management'.

To cover for the mandatory ITU course 'IT-enabled Supply Chain Management' (7,5 ECTS) I had chosen a supply chain course at QUT. However, this course was not approved at QUT since I had not taken the necessary preliminary course. I wrote to ITU and they accepted the combination of 'Global Business', 'Bridging Cultures' and 'Intercultural Communication and

Negotiation' (which I had originally chosen as my elective) to cover for 'IT-enabled Supply Chain Management'. For my elective (7,5 ECTS) I had then chosen 'Social Enterprises'.

In general, the academic level was fairly low compared to ITU. I did not struggle with keeping up with classes, assignments or the curriculum. In Australia the final grade is based on multiple assignments throughout the semester and in some cases also an exam. The assignments and exam all count for different percentages of your grade. In the end you will need a grade of minimum 50% to pass the course. This also means that you do not necessarily have to hand in all assignments (depending of the percentage it counts for) to pass the course. However, I handed in all assignments throughout the semester which I did not feel was too stressful. I also only had one exam which was in the course 'Global Business'. Some of the assignments were also group assignments which I enjoyed since this meant I got to work with fellow students who were mostly Australians. This way of studying is of course not for everyone, but I enjoyed not having to spend my last weeks buried in exam preparations. This also meant I had more free time in the end of my studies, and due to the fairly low academic requirements for assignments, I also had a lot of free time during my time at QUT. All the lectures were also always recorded which ensured that you always had the opportunity to watch the lecture at a later time.

Social life

The social life at campus was really good. During the orientation week all the different communities and organizations at QUT were introduced. I joined their soccer team for girls (Girls United) who had practice once a week for girls at all levels of play. I also joined the surf organization (QUT Surf) who organized some social events and a surf weekend to Byron Bay for beginners. This was a great way to learn to surf and meet a lot of new people at the same time. QUT also had many other sports you could join through the university. Besides the two sports, I also joined an organization called Norsk, which was originally started by a couple of Norwegian exchange students, but is open for all students at QUT. They organize social events and parties etc. A lot of other exchange students also joined this organization and their events were always a lot of fun.

QUT also set up multiple events for exchange students throughout orientation week which it very easy to meet other students who were in the same position as yourself.

QUT also had a bar on campus, Botanic Bar, which had different events throughout the week like trivia nights and parties. I went there a couple of times and I always had a good time.

One thing I will however mention is that you do not necessarily meet many local Australians though these social events mentioned above. I did meet some through the soccer team, but in general many of the social events I went to were mainly filled with exchange students and international students. This means that if you wish to meet local Australians you have to actively pursue it or perhaps join some organizations with a higher concentration of locals.

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

I love to travel, and I think going on exchange is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to travel and try to live in a foreign country while still being active in your studies. My motivation for going abroad was exactly this opportunity that I could not let pass. I wanted to experience something new and broaden my horizons outside of ITU and Denmark.

My stay met my expectations 100%. I had amazing experiences, met amazing people and had interesting new courses along the way which taught me things from a new perspective.

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?

Being abroad I got to see things from a new perspective. It put my own life back in Denmark into perspective and I saw the many benefits of living abroad. I was a very social person before this experience, but travelling to the other side of the world alone definitely pushed me out of my comfort zone at times. I was forced to create new relations and experiences on my own. However, all the people I met, who were mainly other exchange students, were amazing. They were all in the same situation as me and this meant they were all as eager as me to make new experiences and travel around the country together. Navigating a foreign country with different norms and customs and practical things like setting up a foreign bank account also made me grow even more independent.

Academically, I also learned new things. Two of my courses were similar to courses I had previously taken at ITU. However, the other two courses 'Intercultural Communication and Negotiation' and 'Social Enterprises' were courses I could not have taken at ITU and were also the ones I found the most interesting. They are closer to my own interests, and they most definitely will be beneficial to my further studies including in the writing of my bachelor's and master's thesis. Hopefully, I will take of my gained knowledge into use in my future workplaces in the IT and business industry.

Arranging your stay

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

In general, I followed the guidelines given on ITU Student. These were very helpful and gave a rough idea of what needed to be done before my departure. It is a good idea to start well in advance and make a timeline of things that need to be completed including deadlines for these. I did this and following a timeline ensured that I did not feel any stress with my departure as I completed things gradually in the 6 months before my departure.

Firstly, you will need to apply at ITU. After this, I also needed to apply to QUT. I was of course accepted due to my place from ITU, but this is another thing to complete as it is requested by QUT. Then I applied for pre-approval for my courses at ITU. I did this as soon as possible after I got accepted at ITU.

Once I got my acceptance from QUT I applied for an Australian visa. I got my visa as soon as I had applied, but for some people it takes longer so do not wait too long with this. Then I started to look into accommodation and lastly I booked my flight tickets. We booked flight tickets around 1-2 months before but buy them sooner if possible as prices may rise. Throughout this period of time I also applied for multiple scholarships.

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

I mostly used the ITU Student website and QUT's website for exchange students. I also talked to people who had previously been on exchange, but due to Covid-19 it was multiple years ago since anybody had been on exchange to Australia.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

QUT has a portal to search for student accommodation which I used. This portal showed multiple student accommodations around Brisbane city and after a bit of contemplation I decided that this was the best option for me. I stayed at Student One on Elizabeth Street (they have 3 different locations). I had my own room in an apartment that I shared with 4 other students I did not previously know. We shared two bathrooms and a kitchen. Student One was a great place to stay as it had all facilities you needed including common rooms, game room, gym, cinema, swimming pool, and a rooftop with barbecue. It was also located in walking distance to QUT. Student One also arranged many weekly activities which made it very easy to meet new people and do fun social activities. Almost all the friends I met during

my exchange I met at Student One. It also made my life a lot easier since I already had a place to stay once I got to Australia.

I know that many people travel to Australia and stay in an Airbnb for the first weeks while they look for accommodation. However, many of the people I knew who did this ended up in student accommodations anyway since there was a small housing crisis in Australia at this time which made the rental accommodation options very limited. I would therefore highly recommend student accommodation, and especially Student One, even though it might be a bit more expensive than shared apartments you can find online.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Plane tickets to Australia are quite expensive and I paid 10.000 DKK for one way ticket to Brisbane. However, the prices were also particularly high at this time due to rising prices of energy and fuel. But in general, count around 18.000 DKK just for plane ticket to and from Brisbane.

My rent at Student One was 6000 DKK a month which is quite high, but still very reasonable especially considering all the facilities that are included plus the fact that it is located in the middle of the city. In general, the prices for rent are very similar to Copenhagen prices.

Groceries and other household items were also very similar to Copenhagen prices. Going out for dinner is perhaps a bit cheaper than Copenhagen, but not much. Prices for alcohol and prices at bars, clubs etc. were high.

As I was an exchange student I did not pay for tuition.

During my stay I chose to spend a lot of money on travelling. I travelled to all the must-see places on the East Coast of Australia and expenses were of course high. Hostels are around 250 DKK a night and if you fly somewhere, it will also be quite expensive. However, you can choose to use the Greyhound bus for transportation which is fairly cheap. Rental cars are also not very expensive if you are multiple people and can fill up the car. All the travelling raised my expenses with tens of thousands of DKK, however I had accounted for this in my budget. This is a personal choice and is not an expense that everyone can afford.

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

I applied for around twenty scholarships of which I was granted five. Three of these scholarships were connected to personal circumstance like my parents' profession etc., which means I will not recommend them here. However, the other two I was granted were ITU Travel Pool and Lemvig Müller Foundation. Both I will recommend to apply for as there is a very high chance that you will be granted these. I know some other students who were granted Stibofonden (I was not) which I will also recommend. In general, I will recommend to apply for as many scholarships as you have the energy to apply for. It is 100% worth it as even the smallest amount of money will go a long way and you never know if you might be granted a scholarship if you do not apply.

Recommendations for other students:

- Plan ahead and make a timeline, but don't stress about it too much. Plans change and everything will fall into place eventually.
- Do not give up on applying for scholarships because it seems like too big of a task. You will thank yourself later.
- Your grades will be transferred to ITU as passed / failed, so do not stress too much about your grades. Remember you also are there to gain new experiences outside of school.
- If you are thinking about going on exchange – do it! I promise, you will not regret it!