



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, as long as you cover the information asked for below. You are also very welcome to include pictures and contact information – but you need not. Remember that the report will be made available on the intranet.

Host University: Boston University

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Innovation and Management

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Study Abroad

Courses studied abroad: Graduate Certificate in IT Project Management. Following courses:

- Agile Software Development
- It Strategy and Management
- IT Project Management
- Software Quality, Testing, and Security Management

Exchange Period: semester (autumn/spring) autumn year 2021

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here:

Your stay abroad

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

Boston University is a nice place to study. The university has some nice facilities and a great sports culture, mostly surrounding their hockey team. The courses I had a BU was great and I enjoyed the fact that I was taught by people from some of the big companies, like Dell and BCG. The academic level is quite different than from what we are used to in DK. It's much more hands on at BU, so you acquire a very different skill set. I really appreciate that, and I think it makes my profile so much more competitive. The social life at BU doesn't really exist, or at least you must fight for it yourself. ITU only have a collaboration with the MET department at BU, this means that all the lectures are at

night (18-21) and you only study with people from Asia. The MET department is really designed for part-time student, therefore there is not really a social life, which was VERY disappointing. Make sure to follow all the BU Instagram accounts, because there are no help or information to get from the MET department.

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

I wanted to get more comfortable with the language, I wanted to get a lot of exciting experiences, and enjoy a semester with more focus on having a good time than studying. My stay did not really meet these expectations... The agreement between ITU and BU is that you must take 4 courses, which means that for each or every second week you must complete a quiz for every course, make group work for 3/4 courses, make 1-3 assignments for every course (between 2-12 pages for each course), participate in online discussions, and read the material. It's basically impossible and normally the students have only two courses per semester. However, Boston is a lovely city and really the perfect place to stay as a student.

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?

Personally, studying in another country with people that has completely different cultures really broaden my perspective. I learned a lot about myself, and I became much more certain about what I want to do in terms of my professional care.

Arranging your stay

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

It's difficult to give a short description of this since the process was crazy. First of all, the ITU student exchange "helper" was brand new and had very little knowledge, so I had to do almost all the planning and the coordination with BU. In the mid of June, I still had not received my I-20 document, so I was not able to get a visa. I ended up getting my I-20 document in the end of July, but the American embassy in DK was fully booked, so I had to go to Frankfurt to get my Visa. I got an appointment 1 week before my classes started at BU, so that was extremely stressful. In the middle of planning my study abroad, ITU told me and the two other students I went to BU with that it was impossible for us to go, and that we should most definitely consider going to another country that USA. Good thing that we did not listen to them.

A stressful process, no help in terms of finding a place to stay, and minimal help from ITU and BU.

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

The internet and my two fellow students from DIM whom I went to Boston with. We helped each other all the way through and managed to do it all by ourselves.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

This was so stressful since BU did not answer any of our calls or e-mails in terms of accommodation. Luckily one of them I went to BU with was able to go to Boston two weeks before the school started and found an apartment for us. But it's impossible to get a place to stay for only 4 months in Boston and staying on campus wasn't really a possibility since BU never answered.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Paying for the education and the health insurance was around 110.000 DKK. I was able to get 47.500 kr. In SU udlandsstipendium, and 60.000 kr. From scholarships. Therefore, I only had to pay for all living expenses, accommodation, plane tickets, and Visa. I think I used another 100.000 DKK on that. It's expensive to live in Boston.

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

I would recommend William Demant, Stibo Fonden, Augustinus Fonden, Rudolph Als, and ITU Travel Pool.

Recommendations for other students:

In the US people don't really do a master's degree, so I would recommend that you go to the US as a bachelor student. BU and Boston in general is expensive, and to be honest, I think you might be able to find other universities in the US that has a greater exchange community and student life than BU at a better price. Maybe you should look into EDU, and see what they offer.