



IT University Travel Report

Host university: **Georgia Institute of Technology**

Study Programme at IT University: **BDDIT**

Exchange agreement or Free mover: **Exchange agreement**

Courses studied abroad: **LMC 4720 Interactive Narrative,
LMC 2720 Principles of Visual Design,
LMC 3705 Principles of Information Design,
CS 3751 Introduction to UI Design.**

Period studying abroad: **Spring 2024.**

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

Your stay abroad

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

I'm an introverted person and therefore I expected the experience to be overwhelming but also a personal development. When you do not know anyone, you are forced to explore, ask, and interact. It is terrifying but amazing practice and you'll be better for it in the end. Your ability to find new friends can also depend on where you live... I was so fortunate to have the opportunity to live in International House (Ihouse). Ihouse is mixture of international and American students with a rich social life there is always an event going on or someone to talk to in the common rooms.

When finding someone outside where you live, I would recommend doing so in the beginning of the semester. The further you get in the more stressed people will be. There are a BIG number of activities and committees that you can join or attend their events.

In regard of choice of courses, there is a lot to choose from, and the application process is kind of strange. I ended up asking a lot of questions, but do not hesitate to ask and follow up, it is your own responsibility to get your classes.

The class LMC 4720 was my backup class. If you have the opportunity, choose LMC 3710 instead.

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

I love to travel and explore the world! When ever you ask someone about their exchange stay, they always say that it is an experience of a lifetime. And they're right!

My expectations were definitely met. One thing I really tried to keep in mind when coming here is that every culture is different and on a big campus like this there will be a lot of different cultures. I have seen a few people not understanding each other due to cultural differences.

One thing I wasn't fully prepared on were how consistent and persistent I had to be to receive the information I needed in various situations. There are a few situations where I have felt like a pain in their ... but wouldn't have received the necessary information to continue my stay otherwise. Keeping a professional, friendly, and light tone goes a long way.

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, I have gone through a big development; being more outgoing, and independent. More then that I have learned how to work with and understand other cultures than my own. The development you undergo aboard is different than if you were home. You are forced to get out of your comfort zone to achieve your desired goal.

Most of the techniques we used in my classes at Georgea Tech I had already been introduced to at ITU. However, my classes were project based which means real life application and a deeper understanding of those techniques. Some of my classes I did not understand where they were going until after the class were done, their methods of making a point are different and sometimes more philosophical.

I have learned how to display information visually different ways and when adding more information how to enhance the key points. I have gotten an understanding of how much information and understanding you can provide with just a few sentences, if articulated correctly. I have been given and understanding of how much a simple circle can say only be changing placement, color or size.

All my learnings all contribute to making a greater connection between my previous and future studies and future work.

Arranging your stay

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

It is a marathon not a sprint. There are a lot of deadlines to keep track of! You are basically provided with several lists of deadlines and things to do; by creating a gathered check list from that information you should be good to go. It is a lot!

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

I used the platform Trello. In Trello I created three sections for before going and three sections for during my stay. TODO – DOING – DONE. The advantage of using Trello is that I can create check lists under the specific tabs to make it more organized and manageable.

Besides using Trello I used the ITU exchange guidance counselor: Anna E. Thomsen. She has been amazingly patient in answering all my questions of how everything works.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

At Georgia Tech they have a dorm called International House (IHouse). Which I can highly recommend! You have to make an application and be considered to get a room there.

A quick side note: make the application count! There are a lot of people applying for a room and from what I've heard from some of those that didn't get in, is that they didn't take the application seriously.

Expenses and Financing**Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad**

You have to document that you have enough money at your availability, to complete your stay (in 2024: USD 10.500) the SU you receive during your stay does not count! It is expense to be aboard. Keep in mind when making a budget for your stay, that you most likely will go traveling with the people you meet. Maybe more than once.

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

I applied for about 15 grants but didn't get any. There is not a lot of grants targeted ITU students. Besides that, most grants are targeted master students.

Recommendations for other students:

Have fun! Some days are harder than others, take one day at a time and know everything will be okay in the end. Go to Crossland Tower top floor and look out over the town, it is quite impressive! The eerie strange whistle sound is from Holland Plant Building and are producing steam to keep buildings cool and warm.