



## **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:** Study abroad

**Exchange Period:** Autumn 2022

### **Courses studied abroad:**

- BSB119 - Global Business
- AMB120 - Bridging Cultures
- MGB225 - Intercultural Communication and Negotiation
- MGB130 – Managing People

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

## **Your stay abroad**

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

Compared to ITU, the academic standards at the QUT were relatively low. I managed to keep up with classes and assignments without difficulty. Final grades in Australia are determined by a combination of assignments and occasional exams, with a passing grade of 50%. This means that not all assignments are mandatory, depending on their weight.

I decided to complete all of my assignments and only had one exam in my 'Global Business' course, which included group projects with Australian peers.

This approach may not be suitable for everyone, but I appreciated the fact that there was less intense exam preparation, giving me more free time during my studies at QUT. Additionally, lectures were recorded for flexible viewing.

I took the courses 'Global Business' and 'Bridging Cultures' to fulfill the requirements of the ITU course called 'IT, Globalization and Culture' (worth 15 ECTS). These courses were relatively straightforward as they were from the first semester at QUT and were similar to GBI courses, such as 'Business Foundations' and 'Global Project Management.'

To cover for the mandatory ITU course 'IT-enabled Supply Chain Management' (7,5 ECTS), I had the combination of 'Global Business,' 'Bridging Cultures' and 'Intercultural Communication and Negotiation.' or my elective (7,5 ECTS) I had then chosen 'Managing People.'

### **Social life**

QUT's campus had a vibrant social scene. The university arranged special events for exchange students, including a welcome dinner, which allowed us to interact with peers in similar circumstances. Additionally, during orientation week, we were introduced to various clubs and organizations. I joined the QUT tennis team, which had weekly practices, and the QUT Surf group, which organized beginner-friendly surf weekends in Byron Bay. These activities were a great way to learn new skills and make friends. I also joined Norsk, which organized fun social events and parties. However, it is worth noting that most members of these clubs and organizations were fellow exchange or international students. If you want to connect with local Australians, you should explore groups with a higher local membership.

Besides clubs and organizations, QUT also had an on-campus bar called the Botanic Bar. They hosted weekly events such as trivia nights and parties, which were always enjoyable. Additionally, I decided to broaden my horizons by joining a local sailing club called the "Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron."

Participating in competitions and sailing added a unique and local dimension to my social experiences in Brisbane.

Additionally, I lived at a Student Accommodation called 'Student One.' This accommodation organized various weekly social activities, facilitating my interactions with new people and fun social events. I met almost all my friends during my stay at Student One.

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

I wanted to study in Australia for my 5th semester, as I wanted to explore its fascinating nature and culture, along with experiencing its academic excellence and innovative teaching and learning environment. Australia has similar perspectives and techniques as the Danish education program, allowing students like me to easily integrate my studies for a semester while gaining a greater global perspective. Due to its academic excellence, I knew that Australia attracted students from around the world; thus, studying at QUT would allow me to meet people from diverse cultural backgrounds and gain valuable insights.

**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?**

Studying abroad gave me a new and fresh perspective on life in Denmark, and I discovered the benefits of living overseas. Even though I'm a sociable person, traveling to the other side of the world was a challenge that pushed me out of my comfort zone. I had to establish new relationships and experiences independently. Fortunately, the people I met, mostly fellow exchange students, were amazing. They were all in the same situation as me, eager to create new experiences and explore the country together. Navigating a foreign land with different customs, norms, and practical tasks such as setting up a foreign bank account further enhanced my independence.

On an academic front, I also acquired new knowledge and skills. Collaborating with Australian students and adapting to their learning and interaction style was necessary. Though the curriculum was not the most challenging, it still demanded active engagement. Furthermore, I had the opportunity to take courses like "Managing People" and "Intercultural Communication and Negotiation," which were unavailable at ITU.

## **Arranging your stay**

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

I followed the timeline presented by the ITU. Initially, I had planned to go to New Zealand and had therefore applied to Auckland University. However, due to the Covid19 pandemic, the borders had not yet opened. So, I requested a transfer to Australia, which was accepted by the ITU. Then I applied to QUT. After receiving my acceptance letter from QUT, I immediately applied for an Australian visa. Following that, I began searching for accommodation and eventually booked my flight tickets. We purchased our plane tickets around 1-2 months before the trip, but I recommend buying them earlier, if possible, to avoid any potential price hikes.

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

I primarily relied on the ITU Student website and QUT's website for information regarding exchange student programs. Additionally, I sought advice from individuals who had previously participated in exchange programs.

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

During my stay in Brisbane, I used QUT's portal to search for student accommodation. The portal displayed numerous student accommodations across the city, and after considering my options, I chose Student One on Elizabeth Street (they have three different locations). I had my own room in an apartment that I shared with four other students I had not previously met. We shared two bathrooms and a kitchen. Student One was an excellent place to stay since it had all the necessary facilities, such as common rooms, a game room, a gym, a cinema, a swimming pool, and a rooftop with a barbecue. Moreover, it was located within a walking distance from QUT. Student One also organized numerous weekly activities, making it easy to meet new people and engage in fun social activities.

## **Expenses and Financing**

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

Plane tickets to Australia can be quite expensive. I paid 10,000 DKK for a one-way ticket to Brisbane, which was quite costly. However, it's worth noting that the prices were particularly high at the time due to rising energy and fuel prices. In general, one can expect to pay around 18,000 DKK for a roundtrip ticket to Brisbane.

During my stay, I rented a room at Student One for 6,000 DKK per month. Although it was a bit expensive, it was still quite reasonable considering all the facilities that were included with the rental and the fact that it was located in the heart of the city. Rent prices in general were similar to those in Copenhagen. The cost of groceries and household items were also very similar to Copenhagen prices. Going out for dinner was perhaps a bit cheaper than Copenhagen, but not by much. However, prices for alcohol and at bars, clubs, etc. were on the high side.

During my stay, I chose to spend a lot of money on travelling. I visited all the must-see places on the East Coast of Australia and expenses were, of course, high. Hostels were around 250 DKK per night and flying was also quite expensive. However, one could choose to use the Greyhound bus for transportation which is relatively cheap.

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

I applied for and was granted the ITU Travel Pool and Lemvigh Müller Foundation scholarships. In addition, I applied for around ten other grants but unfortunately was not selected for any of them. However, I do recommend applying for as many scholarships as possible - every bit of financial assistance can make a big difference. It's worth the effort to apply and you never know if you might be selected for a scholarship.

## **Recommendations for other students:**

If you're considering studying in Australia, I highly recommend it! It's an amazing place to study, and you definitely won't regret it. To make the most out of your experience, it's a good idea to plan ahead and create a timeline that includes any places you might want to visit. Additionally, your grades will be transferred to your home institution as either 'passed' or 'failed,' so don't stress too much about getting perfect grades. Remember that you're there to gain new experiences outside of uni, so make sure to embrace every second, take lots of photos and videos, and live your best life. Time goes by so fast, and before you know it, you'll be back home. Studying abroad is a wonderful experience!