

# IT University Travel Report

**Host University:** University of Cape Town - UCT

**Study Programme at ITU:** Digital Innovation & Management – DIM

**Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad:** Free mover

**Courses studied:** Consumer Behaviour, Digital Marketing and Bio-economy

**Exchange period:** Autumn 2022

**Wish to give advice?** Sure! Contact me at [mariastampe@gmail.com](mailto:mariastampe@gmail.com)

## Your Stay aboard

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

The university is of a different standard than ITU since everything less digital, and you need to get approval from each professor to join in on their class – this process is quite frustrating, but every student is in the same boat. However, academically it is almost the same depending on the courses you take, but the structure and the way of teaching are different, which can be interpreted as both good and bad.

Furthermore, the exams should be expected to all be done by hand, which came as a shock for many exchange students. 4 hour written exam is not something we are used to anymore.

There is plenty of social life on campus, and the first week is dedicated to orienteering exchange students, getting to know people, and social clubs and enjoying the city. Here the university helps and gives a good foundation. I recommend the Mountain and Ski club as well as the surf club!

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

I always wanted to study abroad, and when I got the opportunity to do an exchange at the best university in Africa, I could not say no. Cape Town is a spectacular city with everything from crazy nightlife to stunning nature, watersports of all kinds, hikes, adventure and much more. Oh, and the people are crazy friendly!

My exchange in Cape Town met my expectations times 100. It was fantastic and worth all the struggle, and I would do it 10 times more if I had the opportunity!

**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?**

Academically I have been challenged. UCT practices assignments, and a lot of them. Furthermore, I took a masterclass which prepares its students to take a PhD, and here I conducted my own lectures for fellow students, PhDs and professors of the campus.

Besides academics, I was lucky to live with the people I became best friends with. Those guys made sure that my stay was absolutely fantastic. Do not settle with roomies you do not really like. There is plenty of opportunities to find digs with awesome people.

Overall, I have grown academically, gotten invaluable memories, friends for life, good surfer skills and a crazy good tan.

## **Arranging your stay**

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

Honestly, it was terrible, and I was often afraid it would not happen. UCT is not known for being the quickest responder, which made it a frustrating process. Furthermore, it was hard to make ITU and UCT talk since ITU has yet to have an exchange agreement with UCT.

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

I have a friend who once attended summer school at UCT and another friend who had an internship in Cape Town. These two helped me with minor things, like where to find housing and what to expect from the city. Other than that, I was on my own.

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

I found a small dig on Huis Huis Cape Town (Facebook page), where I stayed for the first week. Then I got to know a few people from another place, where I moved over after a week. This was the best choice for my stay since we lived with 17 people from mainly Europe and a few from Southern Africa, and these basically became my best friends in Cape Town. The house was called "Charlton House" and was in Mowbray. Perfect location if you study at UCT. Make sure to live around this area (Rondebosch, Mowbray, Observatory), city center, sea point and Camps Bay may seem nice, but will take forever to get to campus.

I recommend not settling on housing before you get down there. Instead, book something for the first week or two and then figure out the rest later on. There are plenty of options, and you will quickly meet someone who knows someone in a fantastic house with a room available.

**Expenses and Financing**

Somewhere between 145.000 DKK and 165.000 DKK. I paid for the tuition fee as well, which is around 55.000 DKK.

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

South Africa is cheaper than Denmark. However, before I left Denmark, I chose not to save on anything. So, I have travelled as much as possible, eating at as many fancy restaurants as

possible, and all the activities Cape Town could offer, and I do not regret anything.

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

I applied to as many scholarships as possible, and I got around 100.000 DKK.

**Recommendations for other students:**

Do it - and don't look back.

PS. Cape Town is known for being a very criminal city, and I knew of many people who had been mugged. You must take safety precautions and not walk alone on the streets, especially not at night. Make sure to have travel insurance, and if someone takes your stuff, they probably need it more than you do...