



IT University Travel Report

Host University: Reykjavik University

Study Program at IT University: Data Science

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Exchange Agreement

Courses studied abroad:

- Deep Learning
- Advanced Topics in Artificial Intelligence

Exchange Period: autumn 2022

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Your stay abroad

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

I had a great time studying at Reykjavik University. The campus and amenities made it easy to spend long and productive days, which really helped to keep me motivated. The coursework for my chosen classes exceeded my expectations in terms of academic rigor. The lectures were interactive and engaging, and I felt that the learning objectives were well-defined. One aspect of the program that I wasn't too fond of was the fact that some of the lectures for the Advanced Topics in Artificial Intelligence course were held over Zoom. On the plus side, there were plenty of opportunities to socialize and have fun outside of class. There were plenty of options for recreational activities like foosball and table tennis, and there were also several student organizations that hosted events and activities.

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

I originally decided to study abroad as a way to take a break from my usual routine and see some new places. I'm happy to say that my trip to Iceland met those expectations. I was able to visit a lot of interesting parts of the country and also take some time to unwind and relax.

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?

Through my study abroad experience, I gained both personal and academic growth. Personally, I became more independent and self-confident as I learned how to live and study in a foreign country. I also had the chance to immerse myself in Icelandic culture and appreciate it in a way that would have been difficult to do as a tourist. Academically, I had the opportunity to study with students from diverse backgrounds, which helped me to gain a broader understanding of my field. I was exposed to new perspectives and approaches that will be valuable in my future studies. Overall, this experience has given me a new perspective, increased my knowledge and understanding of my field,

and boosted my confidence. I believe it will also give me an edge in the competitive job market and help me to seek out new opportunities.

Arranging your stay

In order to prepare for my stay in Iceland, there were a number of tasks I had to take care of. These included renewing my passport, obtaining a European health insurance card, downloading the necessary digital tools (such as the corona pass and MitID), and creating a packing list. I also had to think about how I would get around during my stay, including how to get from the airport to my destination and where to go for healthcare or dental services. Additionally, I needed to consider where I could find affordable groceries. I chose to bring my bike with me to Iceland which ultimately saved me a lot of time and money and made it easier to get around and explore.

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

I used a few different resources to find accommodation during my stay in Iceland:

- <https://myigloo.is/>
- <https://island.is/en/student-housing>
- Facebook groups
- <https://housinganywhere.com/>

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I had trouble finding accommodation at first and tried many different online sites and contacted landlords directly without any luck. Eventually, I was able to secure a place through one of the Facebook groups that was accessible to exchange students.

Expenses and Financing

During my stay in Iceland, my expenses included:

- Rent at 72,000 ISK per month
- Return flights costing approximately 4,000 DKK
- Living expenses at approximately 2,000 DKK per month
- Various other expenses, such as shared car trips (~70 euro)

I was able to cover these expenses through a combination of SU, SU loan, a student job, and the Erasmus grant.

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

No.

Recommendations for other students considering studying in Iceland:

- Having a bike in Reykjavik makes it much easier to get around quickly and easily.
- When traveling around Iceland, it's almost always necessary to have a car. You can save money by carpooling with others.
- If you'll be in Iceland during the autumn, make sure to explore as much as possible before the winter arrives. Iceland can get quite snowy and cold during the winter, which can make it harder to get out and about. However, it's also worth noting that Iceland is very beautiful during the winter, and I recommend visiting Akureyri, Myvatn, and eastern Iceland at that time of year.