



Host University: Auckland University of Technology (AUT)

Study Programme at IT University : DIM (Digital Innovation & Management)

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Study Abroad

Courses studied abroad: Advanced Project Management, Digital Transformation and Change Management, Information Technology Strategy and Policy

Exchange Period: Autumn 2019

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

Your stay abroad

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

The system of AUT is quite different from ITU in general. It can be said it is based on a continuous assessment model with exams ongoing during the whole semester instead of the usual one major exam at the end of the semester at ITU. My choice of courses were clearly based on courses that I feel that the DIM programme was lacking and I considered that digital transformation for example was clearly a very important topic to study which triggers innovation in many industries nowadays. The same can be said for project management and IT strategy working together to embark upon what we referring to the 'Industry 4.0' nowadays.

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

My motivation was to really be exposed to a new country and also as I mentioned above to target some new interesting courses that I feel that I would learn even more in connection to my DIM programme. My stay in general has met my expectations. However as a hint, please check carefully beforehand Arion system from AUT to see exactly the timetable of the courses available for that semester and if it does not clash with other courses. Also, it is important to know that you can change your courses during the first two weeks, if you feel you are not quite satisfied with the ones you have opted initially.

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?

I was particularly impressed with the course digital transformation and change management. From what I have understood, it was the first time this new course was running at AUT but it was a really great experience although I am sure the course will be further improved with time. The course is very industry focused with the ability to choose one of the most important industries such as healthcare, telecommunication, agriculture, banking, energy, retail, logistics and to embark upon a digital transformation both from the technology but also the change management perspective. The course will end with a presentation and you can learn a lot from other students' presentations from your class who has opted other industries and how the world is shaping with new innovative technologies in different sectors. All this broad experience will be very helpful to write my thesis later on.

Arranging your stay

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

I think the most important part is to apply for your visa online and get it approved in time. In my case, I only got my visa 3 days before my actual departure date and it was quite stressful.

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

Kenneth Holt from AUT was of very great help from the international office with some very good guidelines and support. However, it came to my understanding that he is no longer working at AUT now. But, you surely will get another helpful contact person from the international office of AUT.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

Since my stay was for only one semester, I opted for the WSA accommodation from AUT itself which is quite straight forward by using their online portal for booking and payment.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Expenses in Auckland are more or less same as in Copenhagen. The WSA accommodation is very well situated within the main city and everything is within walking distance.

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

No, I did not. I only applied for the travel pool from ITU.

Recommendations for other students:

New Zealand is quite far but I feel it a unique experience in its own. So if you really considering to go there, I am sure it will be great and do not forget to visit Milford Sound in the south island which is a terrific experience not to miss 😊