IT University Travel Report

Dear Student, this is a template – the aim is to inspire other students who may wish to follow in your footsteps. You are free to give your report the shape you want and to go beyond the questions, as long as you cover the information asked for below. You are also very welcome to include pictures and contact information – but you need not. Remember that the report will be made available on the intranet.

Host University: Universidad del Norte

Study Programme at IT University : MSc Computer Science

Activity Abroad: Partitipation in the 10th International Conference on Computational Logistics

Exchange Period: October 2019

Your stay abroad

Please describe your stay abroad:

My stay was 5-day trip to Colombia with my project co-author, a fellow student at ITU, where we presented our recently published paper at a conference and to mingle with industry experts in operations research. We travelled with our supervisor and we had a good time hanging out with fellow researchers and listening to interesting talks on operational research within transport and logistivs at the conference.

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

It all started with our supervisor suggested us to publish our bachelor project as a paper. We proceeded and submitted a 15-page paper to the 10th International Conference on Computational Logistics. The paper was accepted for publishing in their proceedings publications and we required to present our work at the conference in order to publish. The stay was very nice and was much better

than expected. It a much more casual conference than I expected, making it easier for newcomers like myself to mingle with industry experts, professors and other like-minded people.

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 got much more insight into what it means to do research and who the prominent people are within transport and logistics. Personally, it was interesting to see other state-of-the art research and talk to researchers from all over the world to use for inspiration in my own future research.

Arranging your stay

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

The most time-consuming part of the planning was searching for grants and funds for the travel. Not many foundations grant money to our area of research, so we mostly could only apply for very general and generic ones. Other planning included book of hotel and flight, this was pretty easy as the conference had a recommended hotel and only few options were available for the flight.

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

You can typically find long lists of grants that you can apply for. We just went through these one by one and picked out the most fitting ones for our area.

Also Momondo was nice for monitoring flight ticket prices and finding various alternatives.

ITU Student gave us an overview over documentation requirements etc.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

We just booked hotel and flight and then applied for grants afterwards.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

The most significant expense was the flight tickets. A round trip to Colombia costs 7000kr. The hotel cost around 2000kr. Minor expenses includes food and local transportation, which totals to around 2000kr for 5 days.

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

We applied for the Environment and energy grant (Miljø- and energifonden), which is relevant for the paper we produced, as it is about reducing energy consumption on railway lines.

Recommendations for other students:

If you are ever offered the chance to go to one of these conferences while you are studying. Grab the chance. It is a unique opportunity for meeting industry experts and like-minded people from all over the world.