



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:

Boston University

Study Programme at IT University :

DIM

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad:

Courses studied abroad:

Project Management
Agile Project Management
The Innovation Process: Developing New Products and Services
New Marketing Techniques

Exchange Period: semester (autumn/spring) Spring _____ year 2017

Your stay abroad

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

I studied at Boston University Metropolitan College where I received a graduate certificate in Innovation and Entrepreneurship. The courses related to this particular certificate was very different from courses at ITU. They were more hands on and less theoretical. I consider the overall academic level lower, but it can still be difficult to get a perfect score. The exams are based on multiple choice tests which are very different from ITU testing forms. The level of my professors varied a lot, with some good and some bad.

The social experience for me as a graduate student at campus was not overwhelming. A lot of graduate student are a bit older and are working while studying. I signed up for an international buddy group through

BU, where I met a lot of nice people. I also became part of Boston University Outing Club, where I also met a lot of cool people, whom I went hiking with on the weekends. For the most part I hung out with my roommates who were not affiliated with BU.

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

I wanted to study in Boston, which I had done previously, as I like the city. There is a huge start-up scene and a lot of innovation going on. Every week there are lots of meetups and events you can attend for free. I spend a lot of time at MITs events and with Boston VR meetup group. Going to Boston to experience rapid evolving innovation and technology was my driver and it definitely met my expectations.

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 got a lot of good contacts and network out of my stay. If I wanted to find a job in Boston now it would be much easier for me now. Academically I got a different take on academia and more practical skills. I got a lot out of taking a class on Agile as here, as it will be the cornerstone of my master thesis in my upcoming semester.

Arranging your stay

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

The process of arranging my stay was long and dreadful. Be prepared to put a lot of work in if you want to go abroad. All the steps you need to go through are listed on studyguide.

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

I talked a lot with former exchange students from ITU, which was very helpful. I also got a lot of help from the International Office at ITU. However, it is important to remember that the International Office are overseeing a lot of exchange agreements etc. so their knowledge can sometimes be very limited. For example, I was nominated by ITU to the fall semester at BU, only to be told by BU later that I did not have enough ECTS points yet to attend a graduate program, which the International Office at ITU didn't know. I have also been 'forgotten' by the International Office when a new International Coordinator took over from the old, which almost resulted in BU dropping me, because I was way behind deadline of turning in important papers. I believe that I have been especially unlucky in some of my dealing with the International Office, but every time there was a mistake my International Coordinator would do the best to fix the situation. But you constantly need to be on top of things yourself and you cannot expect that the International Office is always right – so always, always check with your host university!

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

As a graduate student I didn't live on campus, but in housing I found on Roomster. I started by staying at an airbnb for a few days while I looked for places. It was a bit stressful not knowing where I would be living, but it is almost impossible to find something beforehand, unless you know someone who can check out the place for you before you arrive. You can also use facebook housing groups and Craigslist.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

With the BU agreement you have to pay a lot of the tuition yourself, which is quite expensive. Rates vary a little bit, but can be found on BU's webpage. Living is super expensive as well – my rent was \$1100 a month which is pretty average if you want to live close to campus in a decent place. Boston is furthermore a very expensive city, but so is Copenhagen, so for me it was not the biggest shock. Cell service + free data was \$50 for me. Public transport is \$2.75. Uber is pretty cheap. Drinks and food are the same as Copenhagen. If you go to Dive bars you can find cheap beer for \$3 or so.

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

I applied for all thinkable grants and would recommend everyone to do the same – especially if you have to pay tuition yourself. It takes a lot of time, but it can really pay off. I ended up getting all of my tuition and more covered. I received grants from the following:

Oticon
Konsul Alex Niensens Mindelegat
Marie og MB Richters Fond
Knud Højgaards Fond

Rudolf Als Fondet
Garvermester C.W Gerickes legat
ITU Travel pool

Recommendations for other students:

Do it! It's a lot of work getting there, paperwork and bureaucracy everywhere you look, but when you're finally abroad, it's great!

- Apply for grants
- Don't commit to place before you see it
- Talk to former exchange students
- Consider which area of Boston you want to live in – I can recommend Allston+Brighton (also called the student ghetto) and Brookline.
- Look up innovation/entrepreneurship groups at Harvard and MIT and attend their events
- Go to a baseball game
- Climb a mountain in New Hampshire
- Enjoy a city packed with museums, concerts, culture and lots of lots of history.