



## **IT University Travel Report**

**Host University:** Boston University – Metropolitan College

**Study program at IT University:** BSc Software development

**Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad:** Exchange Agreement

### **Courses studied abroad:**

- Business Strategy (7,5 ECTS) - as a replacement for Business Processes and Organization
- Introduction to IT project management (7,5 ECTS) - as a replacement for Business Processes and Organization
- Operating systems (7,5 ECTS) - as a replacement for Operating Systems and C
- (Programs as Data, remotely at ITU, 7.5 ECTS)

**Exchange Period:** autumn semester 2019

**If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here:** [eand@itu.dk](mailto:eand@itu.dk)

### **Your stay abroad**

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

Studying at Boston University was in some ways different from studying at ITU.

The academic level of the courses was a bit lower compared to the courses at ITU and the structure of the courses is different compared to how we have classes at ITU. Your final grade is based on different criteria, such as papers, presentations, attendance, class participation, midterms and finale exam. That's spreads the workload out throughout the entire semester rather than having one very intense exam period which is quite nice.

At BU a lot of the exchange students were gathered at the Metropolitan College which gives you plenty of opportunities to meet and socialize with other exchange students. Since all my classes were though the Metropolitan College, I only had classes with other international students which is a bit sad because I would have loved the aspect of having classes with local Americans.



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

I have always wanted to study abroad as I had an idea that it would give me an opportunity to challenge myself both academically and socially. My stay met all of these 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?**

On a personal level I have grown as a person and I have learned a lot about different cultures and nationalities. Furthermore, I have become more comfortable with the English language all things that I think will be a benefit for me in the further.

Academically I had the opportunity to have a course called Business strategy. The course gave me some interesting insights into what is important when conducting a strategic plan. That combined with the course intro to IT project management gave me an idea of what it takes to become a good manager. Both things that I can see being useful when applying for a job in the further.

**Arranging my stay**

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

The process of arranging my stay was pretty smooth. I applied at ITU and got the nominee. After that I applied at BU. The International Coordinator Eva Hauerslev was really helpful to that and help sent all the paper to BU since they do not accept the application online and they need all the papers by air mail.

You need a lot of different things in the application. First you need pre-approval of courses. Then you need to fill out health forms (which needs a signature from you doctor), and you need a bank statement. Since Software development is a not an education on English(officially) you need a TOFEL test which you need to take before you send your application to BU.

But just be aware of the different deadlines concerning the application, pre-approval of courses, scholarships etc. and you will be fine.



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

- The International Coordinator Eva Hauerslev.
- The exchange page on itustudent - <https://itustudent.itu.dk/study-administration/study-abroad>
- The information folder from BU.

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

Since I was an undergrad student, I had the opportunity to live on campus. They had 3 different types of accommodation: Dormitory, Apartment or studio. All with the option of shared room or single room. I ended up in one of the large Dormitory (Danielsen Hall) in a suite-style double room with shared bathroom.

As long as you hand in the housing application before the deadline you are sure to get a place to stay, so don't panic if you don't hear anything from them. I got the email about where I should stay one week before we started.

**Expenses and Financing**

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

Studying abroad is expensive and studying in the US is no exception. When living on campus you are required to purchase a dining plan, which is quite expensive. But it can also help you keep the amount of money you spent on restaurant visits and take-away down. Boston is big on sports events (NHL, NBA, Baseball) and you easily spent a lot of money on that. But it depends from person to person how much you want to spend on events, travels (which can be really expensive around holiday seasons like Thanksgiving), shopping etc.

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

I applied for the SU Udlandsstipendium which covered almost the entire tuition fee. Then I apply for both ITU Travel Pool and Lemvig-Müller fonden and a couple in the legatbogen.



### **Recommendations for other students:**

- If you are going to live on campus **do not** buy the unlimited train pass that is offered by BU. The BU bus can take you around the campus and if you need to get around in the city you can get a CharlieCard for when you are taking the T or just get a bike or walk.
- For getting a SIM card and a data plan, be prepared for that their data is more expensive than in Denmark.
- If you have the opportunity to find a course at BU that covers “programmer som data” take it. Because it is a bit hard to take it remotely at ITU when living in Boston.
- Other than that, just enjoy and have fun!