



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 – Metropolitan College

Study Programme at IT University: Global Business Informatics

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Exchange Agreement

Courses studied abroad:

- International Business Management
- Operations Management
- General Psychology
- Business in a Changing Society

Exchange Period: autumn 2019

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

Your stay abroad

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

Studying in Boston was an amazing experience. Especially with regards to the social life and opportunities. However, the academic level was not hard, so if you are seeking to be challenged academically Boston might not be the place for you (when selecting courses, the number indicates its difficulty level, so you can go for higher level courses). While it is easier than in Denmark, there is more homework and it can take up a lot of time – I think us Danes overestimated how much time we needed to use on each hand in during the semester.

The other internationals are very open, and it is easy to build connections with them. The Americans seemed a bit more withdrawn, but they can offer help when navigating the academic system and give tips for living in Boston.

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

I wanted to experience living in another country and become familiar with the different culture. I also thought it would be fun to see how a different education system function. Lastly, I knew the academic level would be a bit easier and I would therefore be able to travel within the US and have some more free time than in Denmark.

It did meet my expectations and more. I would recommend everyone considering going abroad to go through with it – you will not regret it.

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 a part of a big group of internationals. So personally, I have made a lot of new friends, some which I already have plans on meeting. Being a part of the American culture and amongst people of all nations, also gave you a new perspective on how the Danish system compares with others around the world.

Academically I have honed some of my English skills, since it was used in every facet of your life there. Yet, you are properly already familiar with everything they teach you in the classes you take.

Arranging your stay

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

Just know which deadlines are hard and which can be pushed a bit. It is a good idea to start with the visa process as soon as possible.

Be aware that problems can arise unexpectedly. I struggled with getting a letter of approval from my bank even though I had the necessary funds.

Getting the right vaccinations from the doctor might take longer than expected.

BU's insurance is three times as expensive as one I was able to bring with me – call your insurance company and ask them for the address of their American office/vendor.

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

- Try talking with others who have been aboard. Eva can offer help with regards to ITU deadlines, but it might be better to talk directly with someone who has experienced the full process of applying to Boston University.
- Creating a timeline helped me stay on top of deadlines
- "legathåndbogen" helped me with scholarships
- You will receive a handbook from BU with a lot of relevant information

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

Information is easy to find – the handbook which they will provide helps make decisions. When I wrote to the different offices, I would get different answers. Their system is a bit bureaucratic and they might bounce you around from person to person, try to write to the coordinator instead.

When choosing accommodation decide if you prefer privacy or don't mind sharing your room with other people. I ended up with two roommates and we had a great time, it was not an issue.

Keep in mind, when booking the plane tickets, when you can check in on campus. The university informs you very late when you can check in, perhaps contact them so you don't come a week before you are able to live on campus (unless you want to explore the city).

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Boston is an expensive city. Going out will probably be the same price as in Denmark (without tipping the waiter). When staying at campus you have to choose a dining plan. My dining hall served food until around 19, some places served it longer. My dining plan made sure I had two meals a day, but if you have some Tupperware you can take food with you and store it in a fridge.

As mentioned, a Danish insurance is way cheaper than the one they offer (and better coverage). I had the extended "Top-rejseforsikring" from "Top-Danmark".

You will properly receive the maximum stipendium from SU, which is 44.800 – This must be used to pay the tuition

Don't buy the books before you know if you can get a cheap copy, find a free PDF or share it with a classmate. I bought most of my books online which was cheaper – it turned out I only really needed one of the four books I bought (a previous edition will most likely have the same information and you can get the cases in other ways).

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

I applied for around 30 and received two. It was very time consuming, but it was worth it. With the SU stipendium I only used 20-30.000 DKK of my personal funds (with the monthly SU deducted).

Start early, I missed the January and February scholarships, which was unfortunately.

Some scholarships do not give out to bachelor students, so don't waste your time if it is a principle they have – I have heard some do make exceptions from time to time.

Recommendations for other students:

Start early with scholarships as well as the deadlines for the university. It can look a bit daunting, so create an overview of what needs to be done and what deadlines you are dealing with.

Once you arrive in Boston remember to check in with the ISSO and later get the signature that you have paid your tuition and send it to SAP.

With regards to housing, stay at campus instead of finding your own place. It is easier and way more social. You might be unlucky with which of the campus areas you get assigned to, but most of the internationals who did not stay at the campus ended up regretting it.

The Americans are great for advice regarding how to structure your academic life as well as tips for living in Boston

When selecting courses, the number indicates its difficulty level (e.g. 101 = easy, 830 = hard).

Boston has a lot of museums and bars, so there is plenty of activities both during the day and night (drink some Sam Adams and Jack's Abby house lager).

If possible, allocate your subjects so you have the Friday off. This gives you the options of going on weekend trips.

BU's insurance is three times as expensive as one I was able to bring with me – call your insurance company and ask them for the address of their American office/vendor.

Wait on buying your books, you will most likely be able to find a cheaper option.