



## 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:** Queensland University of Technology

**Study Programme at IT University:** Software Development (SWU)

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

**Courses studied abroad:** Microprocessors and Digital Systems (Operativsystemer og C)  
Business of Information Technology (Forretningsprocesser og organisation)  
Corporate Systems (Forretningsprocesser og organisation)

**Exchange Period:** semester (autumn/spring) \_\_\_\_\_ autumn \_\_\_\_\_ year \_\_\_\_\_ 2018 \_\_\_\_\_

**If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Your stay abroad

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

QUT was an overall structured and well-functioning university, good at providing important information for their international students and with many helpful people. Almost everything, like choosing courses, handing in assignments, etc. happens electronically on their platform. I experienced no problem with applying for courses or getting the courses I asked for or anything else. It has a really beautiful campus with some great and modern study- and common areas, beautiful green outdoor spaces, lots of small coffee shops, and a great, vibrant atmosphere.

I found the academic level somewhat lower, and there is way less reading. Every course had one

lecture and one tutorial per week. During tutorials, a TA, which was often grown persons with real life experience, would elaborate on the theory and make us do small exercises in groups. These greatly contributed to the understanding of the theory and ability to apply it. I was overall not very happy with the business courses, especially Corporate Systems. I found the content relevant and interesting, but the lecturer to be incapable of teaching the content in a structured and understandable manner, making the course a bit of a frustrating experience. The programming course Microprocessors and Digital Systems was really great.

During the semester we would do 2-3 somewhat big assignments, which would take part in our final grade. In my two business courses these was done in groups. This was educational, as you are forced to work and collaborate with completely different people whom you don't know and whom you usually might not work well with - just like you will have to be capable of in the real world.

They have a range of student clubs that you can join, and a lot of exchange students did that - I joined the surfers club, which I think consisted solely of exchange students. This club only arranged one or two trips, but there was other clubs that was more active and arranged more activities during the semester. Unfortunately I don't think QUT was very good at shaking students together, so you had to be quite open and outreaching yourself in order to meet new people at the university.

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

I wanted to go abroad to meet new people and cultures and train my English, in order improve my abilities to engage with people and work in international teams with people from all over the world. I also wanted to experience Australia, having heard so many good things about it, and then QUT seemed like a good university in a great city.

Being abroad has taught me so much, it really is a unique and educational experience, that I would not be without. Australia is a beautiful country but maybe not as breathtaking as expected. The best thing about Australia was definitely to experience how kind and open people are towards each other. That was really amazing and something I hope to take with me. Brisbane was an amazing and beautiful city, filled with parks and green oases, with a big-city vibe without being too big or crowded - I would definitely recommend going there!

#### **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've become more openminded, more outgoing, and more confident engaging with new people. I've improved my English, making me more fluid at speaking and improved my writing. All of these are valuable skills both personally and academically. In the tutorials we would listen to experienced TA's knowing how theory relates to practice. This was very educational, as they not only improved our understanding but also our abilities to apply it in the real world. I've learned a lot from my courses in both programming and business, making me better suited as software developer, consultant and team player, and contributing with valuable academic skills.

## **Arranging your stay**

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

I don't remember all the things we had to do but I remember it took a lot of time and effort to arrange and prepare for an exchange. There was a lot of things to consider, emails to write and read, things to apply for and practical things to take care of. So be prepared for a lot of work.

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

I used mainly the coordinator of international students at ITU, as well as my friend who had experience with studying abroad.

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

We did not arrange a place to stay in advance. Instead we went there 2 weeks before the beginning of the semester. We used several websites like Flatmates.com to search for a place to stay. I definitely do not recommend student accommodations, it is very expensive and everybody who lived there seemed unsatisfied. We found a great apartment with a French couple in a building that was half hotel, half apartments, so there was fitness and pool included, but my friend and I shared the same room, which was a bit tough at times. If you choose to rent a room in an apartment then just consider that it might be harder to meet new people compared to living in a share house.

## **Expenses and Financing**

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

I believe the entire stay ended up costing around 65.000. Travelling cost quite a lot. Australia is big, so even though things seems close to each other on a map it takes longer than you might think to get around and maybe catching a flight is the best option. To travel the east coast most people rent a car.

We paid around 750 AUD (3.450 DKK) a month each for the shared room. However this included fitness which is crazy expensive in Australia (I think minimum 25 AUD per week, which is would be 460 DKK per month).

Expenses is very similar to here in Denmark. Fresh vegetables are a bit more expensive, however eating out is cheaper. To give an estimation; when you pay 150 DKK for the a dish in Denmark you probably pay 100 DKK in Australia for the same thing.

Brisbane is small enough that you can walk or take a citybike almost everywhere, so we rarely used public transportation and there are a couple of free buses as well.

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

I applied for quite a few. I received from Lemvig-Müller Fonden and ITU Travel Pool. I think it was quite hard to find scholarships for IT students, and considering the time I spend searching for scholarships and applying for ones that probably was not relevant for IT students , I wish I had paid a professional to do it for me.

## **Recommendations for other students:**

Meet a lot of people as you can as quickly as possible, have a ton of fun, speak English all the time, and enjoy enjoy enjoy while you are there, it is over before you know it!

If you rent a place, it is a good idea to write your agreements in a contract, and agree on as many things you can, and take pictures of any damage in the room/apartment. Don't do student accommodation.

I would not recommend taking business courses at QUT, the students generally seemed unsatisfied with these.