



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:

San Diego State University, California, USA.

Study Programme at IT University:

DIM

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad:

Free mover

Courses studied abroad:

Seminar in World Business Environment

Strategic Brand Management

Business Systems Analysis and Design

Exchange Period: semester (autumn/spring) Third semester, Autumn 2017

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here: benja.asbaek@gmail.com

Your stay abroad

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

The stay at SDSU was great overall. The courses were very interesting with some really competent and inspiring professors with relevant and current professional experience. Besides, some of the professors invented varied innovative teaching methods close to the labour market, which was interesting to experience. The academic level of the courses overall was very decent. However, the campus is massive, which contains around 35000 students. Besides, on campus there is a library with available PC's and iMacs etc. including a 24-hour section. The facilities are luxurious, which include gym, pool area, tennis courts and bowling centre, indoor basketball court and outdoor concert hall, in addition to a massive American football stadium next door etc. Additionally, there is a higher number of various restaurants on campus, which offer different kind of food from all over the world. Also, there are quite many opportunities for participation in social events at campus, since there are plenty of different social groups for various activities.

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

My motivation was to explore the world abroad, expanding the horizon overseas, and gain interesting insights and learnings from the US culture, education system, and for the purpose of self-development in various aspects of life within an international setting.

America is a very interesting land to explore. The US is a world power nation, which has had a massive impact on technological development, for instance, acc. to the World Wide Web (invented in Hawaii), in addition to Google, Apple and Facebook e.g. (invented in the area of San Francisco), which areas were enthralling to visit as well. Going abroad and staying in an international environment as in the US in sunny San Diego for a longer period of time, has been invaluable. Also taken into consideration that normally in the Danish labour market, there is usually a five weeks vacation per year providing the opportunity to live abroad for a longer period in general.

I didn't have any particular expectations other than the information I had retrieved before the travel, which lead to the choice of San Diego. However, it's very important to have an open mind, especially when going to a new place. As a conclusion, the stay at SDSU has definitely been enriching, and I am very glad for my stay in the US overall.

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?

Staying, studying and travelling in the US have definitely been an enriching lifetime experience, which can't get measured accurately or sufficiently in money, and is absolutely worth the correlated effort and costs. Living on your own in another part of the world is very beneficial in multiple ways. As a great outcome you learn to perceive the world in a global frame, and thereby also perceive Denmark in another perspective, which is considered healthy. Academically it has been interesting experiencing the American education system, culture and mentality on American ground, for instance, acc. various working methods and the community feeling on campus surrounded around sports and music e.g.

For further studies, plus acc. to future labour, the study in the US has been beneficial in multiple ways. Getting accustomed to the American culture and mentality, hereunder the labour mindset in America and the knowledge, competencies and skills acquired during the stay, in addition to the expansion of the personal network, have all been applicable and valuable assets.

Arranging your stay

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

I checked ITU partner Universities. Thereafter I contacted EDU and KILROY. Hence I preferred SDSU and cooperated with KILROY, in order to setup the SDSU study abroad agreement.

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

ITU Student counselling, KILROY, EDU and former students in the US utilizing the personal network.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I had just come back from another semester abroad in Athens, Greece before going to California. Additionally, I had to manage accommodation costs at Frb. during the stay abroad. However, I decided to live at a hostel privately owned and run by American citizens, which was situated very central in the Gaslamp District, next to the trolley (goes directly to SDSU), and very close to supermarkets and shopping malls etc. It was an interesting way of learning about the American culture as well. Besides, a favourable price for accommodation was negotiated. Otherwise, it's recommended to arrange accommodation early due to competition, even though it's usually quite expensive, plus the uncertainty of booking and paying for accommodation before seeing the accommodation in person can be quite risky.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

The expenses include tuition fee, accommodation, travel costs plus everyday expenses similar to life in Denmark such as food and laundry etc. Making a budget is vital in order to get an overview of funds available and expenses etc. Moreover, SU will cover the most if not the entire amount of the tuition fee. Private sponsorships are also an opportunity, which requires a reasonable amount of time to apply for as a rule. Consider that as a part-time job somehow. Despite, SU offers a student loan for studies abroad.

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

I got scholarships granted. Recommended scholarships include Knud Højgaards Fond, Nordea Fonden, Oticon Fonden, Dansk Tennis Fond and ITU Travel Pool.

Recommendations for other students:

Go for it, if you have a dream or desire to study abroad. It can be very beneficial to you in many ways than imaginable, unique and different from staying in your native country e.g. It's definitely worth the correlated effort and costs tenfold. Moreover, living in Scandinavia you are very well set off, acc. to funding e.g. from an international perspective. In general, a person has usually lived most or the entire life in one's native country. It's highly recommended to consider changing the setting for a while, living abroad for 4-6 months e.g. and explore life from an international perspective, and enjoy the experience abroad while expanding the horizon.