



IT University Travel Report

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Host University: Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus, Borneo, Malaysia

Study Programme at IT University: Global Business Informatics

Courses studied abroad:

Global Logistics And Supply Chain Management, Economic Principles and Industry Consulting Project

Exchange Period: Autumn semester 2019



Your stay abroad

What was it like to study

Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus is in the city of Kuching which is in east Malaysia on an island called Borneo. The city is famous for its national parks, orangutans, proboscis monkey and more. The cuisine is nice with Malay, Indian and Arabic food, and everyone speaks English. The university is Australian which means the courses the university offers in Melbourne are the same in Sarawak (the state Kuching lies within). This also ensure that the courses are a certain standard, though the academic level is not as in Denmark. International students take part in courses with local students. There are several assignments, presentations, tests and quizzes during the semester, which requires some schoolwork. At the same time this makes the final exams less demanding. The campus is nice with a new fitness center, squash, badminton, football, basketball courts, hangout and more. The school also has several clubs and societies you can take part in, from sport to art clubs and much more.

Initial motivation for going abroad

What made me interested in traveling to Borneo, was all the amazing opportunities the place has to offer. We were 45 Danish, 15 Swedish and other international students living at a resort. Most students are from Aarhus University BSS. People were friendly and everyone wanted to explore and go on trips around Borneo and Asia during weekends. Especially in the beginning and after you had time to travel and could schedule your schooldays so you only had three a week. The weather were amazing between 25 and 35 degrees, and many of us had motorcycles, which made it easy to get around. During the week we would have big house parties, chill at the pool and jacuzzi, go to the cinema, net cafe, paintball, go-cart and more as everything was so cheap. You can have an island all to yourself while seeing turtle eggs hatching, climb one of the biggest mountains in south east Asia, watch Formula 1 in Singapore, go to Sipadan one of the best dive spots in the world or chill at the beaches of Langkawi. Flight tickets are cheap. My expectations were definitely fulfilled.

Educational gains

I learned a lot culture wise during my exchange semester. Borneo Malaysia has several different people groups with Malay, Chinese Malay, Indian Malay, local tribes and more. They have many festivals and traditions during the year, and the university tried to show this with food festivals, and other events. In the course of Industry Consulting project I also learned a lot about the work behavior of the locals, which is very different to ours. Each international student were grouped with local student, where we had to work together during the semester. Here I learned about the high power distance and passive behavior of the local student. We also had to do local related projects, which gave a new perspective as to how to build solutions in a different cultural setting. Academically, it was different from Denmark with more rote learning and subjective debating less based on facts. Several of the courses required long written reports, which helped me sharpen my English written skills. We even had the Danish ambassador of Malaysia visiting the university. He gave a very interesting talk about Malaysia, it's culture, economic situation and more, which were a good introduction to the country.

Arranging your stay

Process of arranging my stay

You contact EDU and they guide you through the process. Very easy.

Planning my stay

Arranging my stay was straight forward. We made a Facebook group for all the Danish students travelling to Kuching through EDU. Here we shared common knowledge relevant to our stay.

Arranging accommodation

The person in charge of the Riverine Emerald and Sapphire Resort's contact information were shared on Facebook, and she was easy to communicate with and arrange apartment and motorcycle rental. I shared a nice 120 m² apartment with a friend, where we each had a bedroom, bathroom and shared kitchen, living room, wash room and balcony facing the outdoor pool and another facing the riverfront..

Expenses and Financing

Expenses staying abroad

Apartment: 1.500 dkk a month. Motorcycle: 400 dkk a month.
Full tank of gas: 20 dkk. meal: 7-25 dkk. Taxi ride (GRAB): 7-20 dkk.

Housing and living costs are in general cheap.

Scholarships

ITU Travel Pool.

Tuition fee is quite low at Swinburne University of Technology, Sarawak Campus.

My recommendations

Surfer school on Bali

Diving certificate on Perhentian Island, Malaysia

Old Bagan, Myanmar

Canyoneering through Kawasan Falls, Cebu, Philippines

Airbnb for 100 dkk a night with infinity pool, Kuala Lumpur

My local Malay project group at our final exam

