



IT University Travel Report

Host University: Beijing Jiao Tong University

Study Programme at IT University: BSc Software Development

Study abroad: One semester (autumn 2018)

Courses studied abroad:

- Mobile Application Development
- Introduction to Software Engineering
- Computer Network
- Principles of Computer Organization
- Database Systems
- Comprehensive Practice on Database Application System
- Practice in Object-oriented and Interactive Application Development

Your stay abroad

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

Studying in Beijing is very different from studying in Denmark. First of all, you take a lot of courses, that have a great variety of difficulty. Some of them finish with an easy presentation, whereas other finish with a closed-book exam and you must memorize everything. The grading system is also only dependent on the teacher, as there is no censor, so the grading requirements also vary a lot (sometimes it is easy to pass, other times it isn't). The social life is great, because you live with your friends and you are always together. Going out isn't expensive either (if you buy cinema tickets on the app the price is 30 yuan per ticket), and there is so much delicious food. I was always active – studying or having fun with friends or travelling around. There are so many places to see, and the entire experience is just so different. The people you hang out with are also from different cultures, a lot of them were from France, and then Russia (so if you know those languages it gets easier for you). There are a lot of student organizations as well, I joined a skateboarding organization and that was a lot of fun, you just have to be brave or ask someone who speaks Chinese to help you join the organizations. There are also many cafes where you can study, and people really like to play basketball and soccer there. The courses were divided into practice and theoretical, and I felt that there was more focus on the theoretical part and the practice was just minor projects (mostly individual).

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

My initial motivation for going abroad was to try out a new environment and test my own boundaries. I definitely managed to do that! Living alone in a new country was much easier than I initially had expected, and it was even more exciting than I had originally thought. When travelling on my own I definitely pushed my own boundaries, and I've become much better at dealing with problems than I was in Denmark.

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 have become much more relaxed about everything. In Denmark I used to be a little more stressed, and every time things didn't go the way I had hope it would I would get sad or mad at myself. Now, after having lived in Beijing, I am more relaxed when problems appear and just focus on solving them instead of getting emotional. Generally when you study abroad you will meet many new kinds of problems, and in the end you realize that problems will always appear and disappear – it is not that big of a deal. Because I was always active in China, I have (luckily) carried that trait with me back to Denmark. Now I procrastinate much less and spend more time with friends or focus on my career.

Arranging your stay

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

1. I applied for Visa X2 (since I wasn't staying longer than 6 months)
2. I did a health examination (since the school required it)
3. I saved up money (around 11000)
4. I bought flight tickets
5. I bought insurance (but the school wants you to buy a cheaper one, so don't do the same mistake as I did)
6. I didn't buy VPN (Please remember to buy VPN!)

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

I just kept writing to the administration when I had questions.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

They arranged it for me. The dorm was cheap (7800 yuan for the entire semester, that you pay on the first day in cash) but it wasn't so good. I had to clean it. I had already downloaded WeChat and AliPay that everyone uses in China for paying, communication and etc. but I had to go to the ICBC bank to get a Chinese Bank Card. Everything else was accounted for.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

I brought 11000 with me to Beijing and then used around 3000-4000 every month (including travelling prices). Travelling by flight is too expensive in China and not convenient (my flight was once 7 hours delayed), I recommend taking the high-speed rail as it is very convenient, on time and cheap, however tickets for high-speed rail are quickly sold out.

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

I applied for scholarships, and I would recommend that you try applying to all those you see on Legatbogen, if you think you match their requirements (even a little bit).

Recommendations for other students:

Once you go on exchange, it is much more fun if you are with friends, and you get a lot of help. So be more brave and social and make a lot of friends!

Pictures from China:

