



IT University Travel Report

Host University: Boston University – Metropolitan College

Study Programme at IT University: Global Business Informatics

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Exchange agreement

Courses studied abroad:

- Business Strategy
- Operations Management
- International Business Management
- The Innovation Process: Developing New Products and Services

Exchange Period: 5th Semester - Autumn, 2018

If you have any questions regarding my trip, please do not hesitate to send me an email at: chwi@itu.dk

My stay abroad

What was it like to study at Boston University (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)?

Studying at Boston University was in many aspects very different from ITU. The average day was a lot more fast-paced than at home, mostly because you are trying to balance the social and academic life while in the meantime constantly trying to get the most out of your semester abroad. Before going, I had the assumption that I would mingle with a lot of Americans, but due to the fact that all exchange students are gathered at the Metropolitan College, all of my classes primarily consisted of students from other European countries. Nevertheless, you quickly make a lot of new friends, and if you wish to interact more with American students the university has got an enormous amount of student initiatives which you can join.

In relation to the academic level, it is slightly lower than at ITU. The main reason for this is that the approach is rather about memorizing content instead of reflecting and interpreting on academic

work. Also, the grading criteria is very different. The fact that you are graded based on criteria's such as attendance, participation, quizzes, homework, assignments and final exam, spreads the work-burden out throughout the entire semester rather than having one very intense exam period. I can especially recommend to take the courses; Business Strategy and The Innovation Process: Developing New Products and Services. I found that these courses contributed the most to my academic profile.

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

I have never lived outside of Denmark, and I therefore wanted to challenge myself both academically and socially. The US sounded very appealing from the very beginning, and it turned out to meet all of my expectations.

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?

First of all there is no doubt that going on exchange is beneficial in many ways. Interacting with people from many different countries and cultures gives you a lot of perspective and learnings on how other nationalities are both similar and different from Denmark. Academically, I mainly advanced in management studies, while at the same time getting more proficient and comfortable with the English language, both written and verbally. Furthermore, I took an innovation course which I believe can contribute greatly to my plan on studying a master in Digital Innovation and Management at ITU.

Arranging my stay

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

The process of arranging my stay was rather smooth without any major obstacles. As long as you are aware of deadlines concerning application, pre-approval of courses and scholarships there is going to be no problems. Start preparing documents such as visa, bank statement, applications and health forms early, in order to stay on top of things. If doing so, it will save you a lot of stress in the last minute up until your departure.

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

The most helpful resource in planning my stay was definitely International Coordinator Eva Hauerslev from SAP at ITU. Apart from her, Program Administrator Kyle Benedict from the Metropolitan College International office can also help answer most questions, or at least send you in direction of someone who can. Other useful resources count the Study abroad section on Studyguide.itu.dk and Boston University's own course database. Keep in mind that it is only possible to sign up for courses at Metropolitan College, and not Questrom.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

Boston University MET International office is very helpful in answering any question you might have concerning practicalities. In regards to accommodation, you are as an undergraduate student required to live

on-campus. This means that you do not have to spend a lot of time searching for a place to stay, but you however have to put a small effort into keeping track of the accommodation-application process. After deciding which type you want (Dormitory style, apartment or studio), you also need to decide if you want a shared or single room. I choose a shared dormitory style room and ended up living with a freshman in the Pilgrim House which is a part of the Fenway Campus. It was not as central as other accommodation options, however the atmosphere was great and there was a dining hall 1-minute from my door step.

Remember to check the housing application portal a few times throughout August to see if you have been assigned anything – You don't get an email. If you have any questions regarding housing, the university has a campus housing office who can help.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

It is no secret that the US is expensive – Boston is no exception. As you are required to live on-campus, and by that also required to purchase a dining plan these expenses are rather fixed. Other expenses of course varies from person to person, but do expect to spend a considerable amount of money on activities/events (Baseball and Basketball is a must when in Boston), travels, outlet shopping, restaurant visits and similar. An advice would be to take as much advantage of the mandatory dining plan as possible as that can help minimize the cost on take-away and restaurant visits.

Other unforeseen expenses count books as well as supplies for your dorm room such as bedding, towels and other essentials for living abroad for a longer period of time.

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

First of all I would recommend to apply for SU Udlandsstipendium if you are eligible. It covers almost the entire tuition fee and is therefore a great financial help. Secondly, I will recommend to apply for both ITU Travel Pool and Lemvig-Müller fonden (Remember to check the deadline!). In the additional process of applying for scholarships, legatbogen.dk is your best friend.

Recommendations for other students:

- Schedule to arrive in Boston around a week before orientation starts. Even though you might not be able to move into your dorm, it gives you enough time to get a little comfortable with Boston.
- While some of my friends bought an unlimited train pass prior to arriving in Boston, I wouldn't recommend. It's a considerable amount of money, and the savings are not the greatest.
- It is not necessary to get all the immunizations from home. The university schedules several opportunities to get the required shots as part of your mandatory health insurance. This could save you a couple of thousand Danish kroner.
- Don't bother to get an American bank account. VISA and MasterCard works perfectly fine.
- In regards to getting a SIM-card for your phone, see if you can gather 4-5 people and get a family-plan - This is usually cheaper. T-Mobile offers a good deal on this.
- Take the course 'Business Strategy'. It is definitely the course I learned the most from. It takes a few lectures to get comfortable with the professors teaching-style, but after that it is great!

Enjoy every second – The stay passes faster than you can imagine. Be positive and leave your comfort zone.

That way you will make a lot of new friends, as well as create a lot of memories for you to bring home.

