

## **Travel report**

Abroad: Autumn semester from September to January, Year 2024/25

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here: [sonj@itu.dk](mailto:sonj@itu.dk)

## **Your stay abroad**

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

### **Choice of courses:**

The updated course description weren't available until around two weeks before the start of studies, which made it hard to apply for pre-approval and choosing the courses you would like to take. Looking at the previous autumn semester made it possible to have an overview. Although not every course was offered the year after.

You have to register for courses the first day of university and then the classes directly started too. Then you get two weeks to decide weather you'd like to stay registered for the class or not. In the registration period the popular lectures were fully booked and you had to talk to the professor if they let you into the course. There was a wait-list for most courses and I managed to get into the desired courses. Although it was not possible to register for another course in the same time scheduled. So you directly had to decide which one of the courses you prefer without having the opportunity to go the class and get a first impression.

### **Academic level:**

The academic level in comparison to ITU Copenhagen was in most cases lower or slightly below ITU courses. The resulting grade of a course mostly consisted of a mix of attendance, homework grades and midterm/final exams or projects. Personally I preferred the grade composition in comparison to only one grade at a final exam like ITU Copenhagen handles things.

In case you are a student in need of SPS, there is nothing like it at NTUT. You would have to talk to every single professor or teacher if you have special requests.

### **Social Life:**

There are many exchange students going to NTUT from different international universities. NTUT has a line group with all the exchange students for one semester. There are some events organized by the student association you can go to and meet other exchange students. There

are some student buddies too from NTUT you can talk to, too. If you'd like to meet people at university I recommend you take part in the Chinese language class or look for some sports activities if you are into that. Outside university the an easy way to meet people is through a shared flat.

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

My motivation was mostly how it is to experience a different culture with living in an Asian country and how different the university life would be. Moreso the lower cost of living expenses and the fact that I skip one northern European winter were also favorable reasons.

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?

Personally, I was very happy to experience living in Taipei and having the opportunity to get to know other parts of Taiwan and its culture as well. Due to my class schedule I was very lucky to only have 3 days in a row with lectures. So at least in the beginning of the semester I was able to travel a bit. Later on especially towards December there was not much free time left due to various projects, but it was fine since Taiwan also is cooler and grey around that time of the year.

Academically, I have mixed feelings about my stay. On the one hand it was nice to feel less pressure and have less workload than at ITU. On the other hand some of the classes I attended felt a bit exhausting to attend to. Some lectures English was hard to understand and then it wasn't easy to follow the lectures' subject. Another reason I'm not super satisfied is the fact that I ended up with two classes that I wasn't actually planning on taking due their overlapping time slots

### **Arranging your stay**

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

I applied roughly 6 months before my stay at ITU.

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

There is a NTUT welcome meeting, which gives an overview of what to expect and helps with getting settled. Other exchange students and the NTUT Line group were also very helpful in sharing tips and advice.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I arrived two weeks before the start of studies and looked for apartments through various Facebook groups and local rental websites. Most exchange students stay in shared flats, which makes it easy to connect with others.

### **Expenses and Financing**

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad:

Compared to Denmark: I had a significantly lower cost of living, which allowed me to live more comfortably. Rent, food, and transportation were all much cheaper than in Copenhagen, which made everyday life more enjoyable and stress-free.

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

I successfully applied for the ITU travel pool and would highly recommend it as a helpful resource for financing your stay.

### **Recommendations for other students**

Go for it! Be prepared to adapt to different teaching styles and cultural experiences, and take advantage of every opportunity to travel and explore. Make sure to plan your course schedule carefully and arrive early to arrange housing and settle in. If possible, join activities and social groups to meet people and make the most of your time abroad.