



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. You are also very welcome to include pictures and contact information – but you need not.

Note that by filling in and sending the report you automatically consent to publishing it on ITU student.

Host university: Universitet Politècnica de Catalunya

Study Programme at IT University: Master's degree in computer science

Exchange agreement or Free mover: Exchange agreement

Courses studied abroad:

1. Professional Practice in Artificial Intelligence
2. Decentralized Systems
3. Multiagent System Design
4. Self Organizing Multiagent Systems
5. Cloud Computing and Big Data Analytics

Period studying abroad: semester (autumn/spring) Spring **year** 2024

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here:

Your stay abroad

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

Great. This university is different from ITU where it is common that coming to class accounts for part of your grade. They usually give a grade between 1-10 where in most cases having 5 or more, you've passed the course. An example of how they may give your total grade would be:

20% Assignment 1 = $0.2 \cdot 10$ = at maximum 2/10 can be given for this

20% Assignment 2 = $0.2 \cdot 10$ = at maximum 2/10 can be given for this

30% Attendance $0.3 \cdot 10$ = at maximum 3/10 can be given for this

30% Final exam grade $0.3 \cdot 10 =$ at maximum 3/10 can be given for this

In my case, 4/5 courses I already knew I've passed because I achieved 5/10 or more just by completing the assignments and showing up for classes, which was a stress relief. In theory, you won't have to show up for the exam (for most courses) at this point. I would say that the academic level is very low here, compared to ITU or maybe it is just ITU that has high expectations of their students. I feel that this university preach more collaborative work, practice, etc. compared to ITU. It was joyful and somewhat relaxing I would say. I felt that I've still learned new technologies and practiced many more oral presentation Infront the class I would say that I've learned a lot on different areas. This is also way different compared to ITU – your class feels like a high school or college class – not like a large class with over 150 people and you don't know maybe 80-90 percent of your class. The classrooms are typically around 10-20 people and thus creating more social interactions with your fellow students. I ended up playing Padel tennis and visit another city in Spain with other students, most of them I went with are usually also international students for 2-3 years or exchange students. I had one class with no other exchange students but most of the time the class spoke English and they were all nice. I would say that the social life was good but not great and that mostly because of my own contribution. I trained in a gym 3 times a week and going to a fighting club 2-3 times a week as well, besides that I also lived with 9 other people (which was nice experience, but the kitchen was always disgusting, so beware of the lack of cleaning sometimes). For some reasons, I wasn't really interested in eRasmus event, however they planned a lot like student trips, travels, parties and I did attend to some in the beginning – which is good to make friends outside of school, but I was more interested in getting to know the people from my own school.

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

I was tired of Denmark and the weather. Spain, Barcelona is great. Really nice weather. I was also in general just tired of studying in Denmark as I've done my whole life, 9 years of high school, 3 years of college, 3 years of bachelor's degree at ITU and now doing 2 years of my last studies in Denmark – no thank you!

Some people may do it for socialize, party or trying to move out for the first time but that wasn't really my cup of tea as I've lived multiple places in Copenhagen for 4-5 years before moving to Barcelona. So yeah, the weather and kind of getting away from everyone.

One last note, looking back at it: It can also be I was more motivated now that most of my friends from the bachelor's ended up taking different routes in their master's degree or just start their work life without a master's degree, which for me kind of felt a bit lonelier and I was not really interested at "yet again" make new friends at ITU.

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?

Uhh.. First off: I was lucky to have a friend from Denmark who happened to study the same as me and he came with me in Barcelona and we lived together in an apartment for 10 people, so whenever we wanted to go for a coffee, we followed each other. That was nice.

To that, we began more and more discussing how amazing Barcelona is – and for some reason we started joking that we were on vacation (because it kind of felt like that, even though we had our studies). It just felt relaxing, and the combination of city-great-weather-and-beach was just nice. We kind of have started talking about moving out again from Denmark, like short periods (6 months or something like that). I think, that once I started living abroad and found out how easy it was to adapt

in a new country, I became more and more motivated to move out again. We talked about the possibility moving to Japan or something else for our thesis, since you mostly work alone on that. Just ideas, nothing we've committed to yet. I don't really miss Denmark to be honest and we have both extended our stay with one extra month. However, sometimes I may miss Denmark and hearing the Danish language be spoken around me, since it is my mother language – but again, it is not that kind of big deal. I would also like to add, that maybe the cultural differences are not that big, since it is still a European country, so it everything kind of worked smoothly for my case. My stay here has made my more confident speaking another language (English) and I've been less and less shy when having to present for my class or an exam, which I think will contribute to my studies back in Denmark. I would also say that you can learn a lot from being practical (which this university is way more compared to ITU) and it is nice – however, I do see the need of learning theories which ITU is great at. Sometimes, we just learned new technologies by doing hands on learning, however I would have like to go a bit more in depth, in exactly how the technologies worked – which ITU often does a great job at. I think I've learned that a bit of practical and theoretical learning is good. Some of these courses I've had here has opened my mind of different kind of thesis I can write on my last year.