



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: Queensland University of Technology

Study Programme at IT University: Master in Software Design

Exchange agreement or Free mover: Exchange

Courses studied abroad:

- Principles of Software Security
- Network Systems
- Data Exploration and Mining

Period studying abroad: Autumn 2024

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here: martl@itu.dk eller find mig på messenger (Martin Kimø Larsen)

Your stay abroad

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

Good. I had Master-level (post-graduate) courses which meant that most of my class mates were from India or Asia, as Australians usually stop uni after their bachelor's (undergraduate). I was quite limited in my choice of courses as my master at ITU requires a very substantial technical part in courses. So the pre-approval took some time – so start early!

The academic level is a little lower than ITU and the grading is definitely more generous. I worried whether I would pass but ended up getting quite high marks. Most people experience this. In most courses you grade is divided up in three assessment that usually weighs 20-30-50 percent. I loved this, instead of the end of semester assessment that we use at ITU.

Social life is going to be with other exchange students. I knew a few that made Australian friends but it is quite rare. There is a big exchange environment though with people from all over the world (mostly Europe and Scandinavia though). Most exchange students live at the Student One's (student accommodation in CBD). I highly recommend engaging as much as possible with people in this environment as everyone wants to do the same thing and are in the same situation. And it's quite fun to meet people from a lot of different countries.

Social life on campus is organized through university societies. QUT is much smaller than the bigger uni in Brisbane, University of Queensland. But you can join all the societies at UQ as well. I was in the surfing society at QUT, and in the Scuba Diving Club and Exchange Students Society at UQ. And then I also played in the football tournament at UQ.

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

Travelling and living in Australia, and visiting New Zealand. Skipping a Danish winter (Brisbane has really nice weather). Having a great time and meeting a lot of new people. It was fun to see how a university worked on the other side of the globe as well.

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 developed a more professional written and spoken English. I broaden my cultural understanding by meeting people from all over the world. I deepened my knowledge within software security, computer networks and data science.

Arranging your stay

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

1. Get a spot at the uni
2. Start applying for grants
3. Book accommodation
4. Buy Flight

Mind that this will look different if you're a freemover and depending on what accommodation you go for.

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

I had a friend who was on exchange in Brisbane the year before me. I asked her where she would recommend me staying and she said that Westella was suppose to be fun. So I wrote the land lord and got the last room.

Another friend of mine had also been there the year before and he basically wrote me a little thesis with all the things I had to try and where I had to travel etc.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I stayed at a dorm-style ("kollegie") student accomadation with 20 other exchange students from Europe. The house is called Westella and is located in West End. It's a bit of a dodgy area at the moment, but it's one of the cheapest accommodations in Brisbane and the location is really good.

Plus you get to live with 20 other exchange students that wants the same things as you do. I made some good friends in the house. Most students are from the UK, so they like to party. But it was mostly quiet during the nights in the house, so not a biggie. Although the land lord there is an old woman, who's a little bit crazy. But with that said, I would still very much recommend staying there. But you have to enquire well in advance. I only got the last room available, which was a little shit, but also cheaper.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

I was definitely one of the more fortunate ones as I got quite a bit in grants and had a low rent. I used money moderately during the semester, but still went on small trips/vacations during the semester and travelled the continent after the semester.

I did spent a lot of time on grants, but it was definitely worth it (especially as master student).

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

I received these.

Knud Højgaards Fond
William Demant Fond
ITU Travel Pool
Marie & M.B. Richters Fond
Fonden Ulla og Carsten Mouriers Legat til Unge Talenter på Vej
Tranes Fond
Lemvigh-Muller Fonden

Recommendations for other students

- **Live with other exchange students:** If you know anyone else going, you can try to find a place to stay with them.
- **Join QUEST (Exchange Students Society at UQ) and go on their trips:** It's coordinated by exchange students for exchange students. People that go there wants to meet new people and have a good time. Go to the pub nights. I only went to some, though.
- **2-for-1 pizzas at The Boundary Hotel on Tuesdays**
- **Try all the society sports for free during the welcome weeks**
- **Don't sign up to the QUT Gym there is other gyms at around the same price that are way better:** I was in Club Lime in West End which had a Sauna.
- **Bring sport clothes:** If you love being active, this is the place. The weather is so nice. I did football, surfing, running, tennis, golf, gym.

- **Don't overpack!:** If you can buy it there then don't bring it. I brought too much clothes that I only used a few times. Rather leave plenty of room for buying new clothes and things (because you will). The weather is also quite warm most of the time so washing and drying your clothes can be done in a day.
- **Lower your expectations:** I knew a few that ended up not having that great of a time and some even went back to Denmark. The main factor here was not being able to find that many friends for trips and activities. My recommendation is to be open and invest in the exchange students community. Try to live with some other exchange students as well and make sure to join events or make plans with people. There is quite a bit of going out at the start, which is the easiest way to meet people. I did not go out that much, but still manage to find really good friends. Sometimes I did go out of course. In conclusion, make an effort for meeting people and finding friends and lower your expectations towards it all. It can be very stressful, if you feel like you have to meet 100 new people every week and do a trip every weekend. Don't put yourself through that. Just take it chill, just as the Australians do, and you'll have a great time!