



IT University Travel Report

Host university: Queensland University of Technology (QUT).

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Design og Interaktive Teknologier.

Exchange agreement or Free mover: Free mover.

Courses studied abroad: Principals of software security, biomedical data science, business process management.

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

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here: Amalie Valentin Grignon, mobil nr: 20895511

Your stay abroad

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

From my experience, the academic level was pretty similar to what I was used to from Denmark. The major difference was that QUT gave the ability to watch all lectures from home. I chose one of my units to be 100% online because classes from different units were held at the same time. I am not sure this was the best decision, as when on exchange, you want to meet people and that is not really the case when everything is online. In general, I thought it was harder to get a social life through the school than what I thought. There were very few Australians in my units, as most of the students were from around Asia. I got my social life through the people I lived with and people I knew from before.

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

To be honest, my main motivation for going on exchange was the weather, and Brisbane was fantastic for that. I always wanted to experience living in a hot and tropical country. However, the closest beach is 1.5hrs away in public transport so I did not go that often. I prioritized putting more money into my rent and lived in a place with a pool, which I am happy I did. Additionally, I really wanted a challenge that would make me more independent.

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 learned a lot from this experience. Now, I am appreciating spending time on my own and I have gotten way more independent. Academically, the stay has let me try to study in a new environment and experience how other universities work. My experience has given me new perspectives and I hope to be able to incorporate them in my future work.

Arranging your stay

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

I looked through all possibilities and found that people do either:

1. StudentOne. Easy and good for meeting people but expensive.
2. Rent a place. People travel down here and live in airbnbs until they find an apartment or room for rent.
3. Flatmates. An app for people looking to rent a room.
4. Or what I did – there is a Facebook group called “Norske Studenter Brisbane” where people create posts with renting opportunities.

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

I have a friend that knew a girl here in Brisbane, so I contacted her to ask all kind of questions. That was very helpful and how I found the place I lived. You are welcome to contact me if you have any question. I will be happy to help:)

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I chose to live with three Norwegians that made a post on Facebook regarding them searching for a last roomie. I was very unsure about whether this was a good idea as I had to share a double bed with a girl I did not know (that is what most of the Norwegians do here, so it becomes more affordable). We facetimed and she seemed nice, so I took a chance. I am really happy that I chose the way I did. They are very nice, and I made friends for life. We ended up travelling Vietnam together before going back home.

However, I did not end up having the full “aussie”-experience as I lived with people very close to my own culture.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Groceries are more expensive in Brisbane than in Denmark but cafes and restaurants are a bit cheaper. The rent is more expensive in Brisbane, which is why I chose to share a room, and save some money. I think I ended up spending a bit more money in Brisbane than I would living in Denmark. Additionally, I spend a lot of money on travels during the semester.

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

Yes, I did, but unfortunate I did not get any.

Recommendations for other students:

Be a part of the social activities in the beginning as that is the best time to meet people! Live with other young people as this is a great opportunity to make friends.

Go on trips to visit the rest of Australia! And Fiji was fantastic during the mid-break!!