



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: Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB)

Study Programme at IT University: BSc Global Business Informatics

Exchange agreement or Free mover: Free mover

Courses studied abroad:

1. Managing Services
2. E-Commerce and Online Businesses
3. Cross-Cultural Management
4. International Marketing Strategies

Period studying abroad: Autumn 2025

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here: amca@itu.dk

Your stay abroad

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

It was a really great experience. At UAB, the courses are facilitated differently from the courses at ITU. Their service for exchange students, the pre-established programme, gathers all exchange students into the same courses, meaning you do not attend classes together with students who are officially enrolled at UAB.

I applied through Studysea, which was a great help. I applied through the form on their website and was assigned a supervisor who had extensive experience with both ITU

students and UAB. He had knowledge of which courses had previously been approved for merit, and we stayed in close contact throughout the entire process whenever questions arose. I would highly recommend using Studysea, as it made the whole experience very easy and well structured.

The courses are worth 6 ECTS each, and I chose to take four. This gave me merit for one 15 ECTS course and one 7,5 ECTS course at ITU, combined with a 7,5 ECTS summer course at ITU. I am very happy with this choice, as it gave me more time to explore the city. The courses were held from Monday to Thursday, twice a week for 1 hour and 40 minutes each. For example, I had Cross-Cultural Management and E-Commerce and Online Businesses from 9-12 on Mondays and Wednesdays and International Marketing Strategies and Managing Services on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Grades were determined by a range of factors depending on the course, such as attendance, projects, class participation, and assignments. I would say the academic level was easy to follow, while still being educational; it was a good balance. Most note-taking was done by hand, and the teaching was more participatory, with small classrooms of up to 30 students. Computers were mainly used for short research exercises. In some courses, we also went on short field trips in Barcelona for research purposes, followed by assignments. There were few readings but many presentations. Each individual study activity did not count for much of the final grade, but there were many of them, and together they made up the final assessment.

The social life on campus was very good. The university arranged many activities, such as language exchanges, Erasmus clubs, and social events. The students primarily came from the United States, Sweden, Germany, and many also from Copenhagen. As the classes were very small, participatory, and heavily based on group work, it was easy to get to know your peers, and everyone was very welcoming and inclusive.

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

I have always loved Barcelona and wanted to try living there long-term. I wanted to meet people from other cultures and experience how cultural differences can impact a work environment.

The stay met my expectations and even exceeded them. I got to know many people from different cultures, made friends for life, learned new ways of studying, and fell even more in love with the city. Living abroad was a valuable experience that opened my eyes to similar opportunities in the future.

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, I went alone, which was the greatest challenge I have ever given myself. It forced me to approach people and step out of my comfort zone. In this way, I learned a lot about myself, which I will carry with me for the rest of my life. I arrived a month before the semester started and began making friends outside of school. Barcelona is a great city for meeting new people, the culture is very social, and many people come from all over the world for exchange, for internships, or work.

Academically, I previously tended to get lost in my studies, spending most of my time reading or preparing for lectures. This often led to burnout, as it left little room to recharge or be social. The structure of the courses abroad, combined with the social nature of the city, have me a more natural balance between school and personal life, which had a positive impact on my studies. I learned more and achieved better results by allowing myself to relax and enjoy the city between classes, and this is something I will definitely bring home with me.

It was also an academic eye-opener to experience a different education system and try new ways of studying. Through this, I explored different study methods and learned which ones work best for me. Furthermore, many of the courses I took focused heavily on cultural differences and the role these play across different fields. I had not previously realized how significant culture is in areas such as e-commerce and advertising, and it is now a topic I find very fascinating and will continue to incorporate into my studies going forward.

Arranging your stay

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

I used the Studysea form on their website, which only took a few minutes to fill out. Shortly after, I was contacted by my Studysea supervisor, who provided all the necessary information and helped create a clear plan for the application process. I then investigated the available courses and began applying for pre-approval of merit. This process was very straightforward, as I started early, approximately a year in advance.

Once I had my list of approved courses from ITU, I applied for course approval at UAB through my Studysea supervisor. This was also resolved quickly and resulted in a temporary course overview once I had been accepted to the university. At this stage, I also received information about the tuition fee, which allowed me to apply for my scholarship.

To secure my place at the university, I had to pay a percentage of the tuition fee upfront. This amount was part of the total tuition and was later reimbursed through the state scholarship (SU/SAP). The scholarship was paid out well in advance of the final tuition deadline at UAB.

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

- **Idealista** was used to find accommodation.
- **Studysea** helped make the exchange possible, particularly with communication and coordination with the university.
- I reached out to an **ITU exchange student** who was in Barcelona to ask about courses and which areas of the city would be best to live in.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

A few months before departure, I started looking for accommodation on Idealista. I knew I wanted to stay in either Gràcia or Eixample, and used Idealista's notification function, which alerts you when apartments or rooms become available matching your criteria. I quickly found a room in Gràcia and began planning with the owner via WhatsApp. While it is possible to communicate and complete the process directly through Idealista for added safety, I made sure to take all necessary precautions before signing any contracts or making any payments. I would recommend being very attentive during this process, as false apartment listings can also be an issue in Barcelona. However, I personally did not experience any problems, nor did I hear of others having issues.

I lived in an apartment with five other roommates from all over the world, all either working or studying in Barcelona. We shared bathrooms and common areas, and overall, it was a very pleasant experience.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

In general, compared to Copenhagen, Barcelona is much cheaper, both for accommodation and everyday living expenses. That said, the lifestyle there can get more expensive depending on what you choose to do; there are a lot of great restaurants and experiences that can increase your monthly costs.

I applied for around 25 grants but only received the ITU Travel Pool, which helped with travel expenses. Still, I managed with my savings and SU, and I met many other Danish Exchange students who were able to make it work without any grants as well.

I also ran into some issues because I moved out of my apartment in Copenhagen and couldn't register my address at my parents' house to get full SU. I had to apply for 'høj vejkode,' which I definitely recommend starting as early as possible if you're in the same situation, since it can take a while to process.

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

The only scholarship I applied for was the 'Udlandsstipendium'.

Recommendations for other students:

While it is nice to travel with a friend, I really recommend going alone. It was scary at first, but I don't regret it at all. In fact, it made the trip even better, since I was more open to meeting new people.