

IT University Travel Report

Host University: Syracuse University, USA

Study Program at IT University: M.Sc. Digital Innovation & Management

Exchange Agreement, Spring 2017

Courses studied abroad:

- 625 Enterprise Risk Management
- 600 Enterprise IT Consultation
- 602 Global Financial Systems Architecture

Your stay abroad

What was it like to study at Syracuse University?

Overall, I was happy with my **choice of courses**. I had initially chosen a lot of courses that apparently were only offered in the Fall semester, so I had to rearrange my choice completely. They have a shopping period of two weeks and I encourage you to test out as many courses as possible.

The **academic level** varies with the professor of the course. The 600 and 602 courses were taught by professors who worked part time so their focus was on applied science and was very practical and focused on industry standards and best practices. Some of the courses are also merged with both bachelor and graduate students, which created a varying academic level. In these courses extra work was demanded from graduate students and in my experience this was interpreted as grad students being “mommies” for the bachelor students (e.g. finding literature, writing all references).

I found the social life at campus very limited. If you study at the graduate level within the I-School the majority of the students originate from India, and it was my experience that they were a rather closed group and they often spoke Hindi with each other during class. In the Spring semester there were hardly any graduate exchange students and very little social initiatives amongst the exchange/international students, and it doesn't help that grad students have to live off campus. I was encouraged not to walk alone after 6pm during winter and 8pm during summer, which also limited my social possibilities. If you feel unsafe and have to walk home at night the university police (DPS) offer a service to drive you home.

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

My motivation for going was related to diversity both in terms of experiencing a different culture and meeting people, but also to improve my written and oral English language. Syracuse University also had some interesting courses, which intrigued me and appealed to my goals for 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 study

Personally, I gained new perspectives on education and how far I could push myself. It contributed to my further studies through the professional connections I made at the university. Especially the 600 IT Consultation course significantly improved my ability to initiate professional relationships and appreciate different views in discussions.

Academically it was interesting to experience the American education style, it was very practical and hands on, and it was expected that the students were active during class, and interacted with the professors. The depth of the discussions was questionable but it was good exercise to learn and

articulate thoughts in another language.

Arranging your stay

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

The most tedious phase was applying for the F1 visa, which is time-consuming and expensive. Other arrangements include finding housing, looking at courses, booking plane tickets, getting courses preapproved by SAP, and applying for scholarships. The earlier you start these processes the less stressful and confusing your stay will be. After you arrive at the university, things sort themselves out and I found the professors to be helpful with choosing courses unlike the administrative staff.

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

I was in contact with Study Abroad at Syracuse University and their international center. I also talked to a graduate advisor at the I School who can help with removing restrictions on courses. There aren't many resources to help graduate students.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

A contact person from Syracuse University's study abroad center contacted me with a list of names. I wrote an email to one of them and he said they had a room free. My priority was that the accommodation had to be in walking distance of the university. Price for my room was \$550 dollars and included everything except food. Other places to look are <https://www.orangehousing.com/>. Keep in mind what neighborhood you look at, it's best to stay close to campus (the Hill), as crimes are less likely to happen in that area.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Prices for food and groceries are similar to Copenhagen. Other expenses include books, which are expensive for the courses I took, and transportation. The bus costs \$2 dollars, but is very tedious to take if you need to get groceries. Best way to get groceries is to get a ride with someone with a car. Prices were generally similar to Denmark.

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

I applied for scholarships and recommend Dansk Tennis Fond, Knud Højgaards Fond and Oticonfonden.

Recommendations for other students:

Syracuse University is a place to experience American culture and college life. Academically they focus on applying frameworks and industry needs. I recommend going if you know someone from ITU who is going as well. As a graduate student, you have to live off-campus, which can be very isolating.