



IT University Travel Report

Host University: Boston University – Metropolitan College

Study Programme at IT University: Global Business Informatics

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Exchange Agreement

Courses studied abroad:

- **The Innovation Process Developing New Products & Services**
- **Operations Management**
- **International Business Management**
- **Business Strategy**

Exchange Period: semester (autumn/spring) autumn year: 2018

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

mabn@itu.dk

Your stay abroad

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

Studying at Boston University was in many ways quite different from studying at ITU. However, I also found it quite different from when I spent my first semester abroad at Singapore Management University on my third semester. As I lived on campus I had a shared dormitory room with 3 other roommates which in itself was alright, however, since there was a slight age gap between me and my roommates (19 vs 23) our interests weren't as aligned as I found with other exchange students. Which also meant I spent the majority of my time with other exchange students, primarily from Europe. In addition, due to the structure of the classes, we only had very few American students in our courses, which was a bit underwhelming as I enjoyed the aspect of mingling with locals when I was studying in Singapore.

For the content of the courses, firstly, the structure is vastly different from studying in Denmark. Your performance is evaluated on a range of criteria, such as quizzes, papers, presentations, attendance and class participation. This is of course in addition to the exam. However, overall I found the academic level slightly lower compared to studying at ITU and SMU. It is not to say that the content of the courses are inherently bad, however, due to the structure and teaching methods there were slight gaps. For most courses I found that it is generally less reflective compared to studying in Denmark, it is more about learning the concepts and theories by heart and the following the professors guidelines.

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

As I already had one exchange experience prior to this, my expectations were rather focuses on maintaining a good balance between academics and personal life and having fun. I wanted to experience a different culture and study environment and methodology, but still with a focus on enjoying myself and having fun exploring.

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?

Academically I advanced in the specific areas of management studies. Business Strategy was an interesting but heavily structured course, where you might not always agree with the professor. However, I think it gave me some interesting insights into decision making capabilities and conducting a strategic plan. Things that I can see myself applying in the future at a job.

Additionally, I think I have grown on a personal level. My interpersonal skills as well as communication skills have improved, while I also feel that I have gotten more comfortable and confident with myself.

Arranging your stay

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

Since I was doing my bachelors at BU I had the possibility of staying on campus. The application process of which was kind of uninformed, as you could choose between 3 different types of accommodation all with the option of shared room or single room. However, there is no pricing information or information about where you will be staying whatsoever.

The three options were:

1. Dormitory Style
2. Apartment
3. Studio

I choose to stay in a shared dormitory, which resulted in a 4-person room on Bay State Road, which is a decent location. I am still not completely sure which options applies to which location, but I believe the apartment style will be a space with a common room and toilet with 2-3 bedrooms attached. Most likely located in West.

Contacting BU in advance may be of help. They do have a campus housing office.

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

I mainly planned the whole trip myself, from courses to practicalities. The course database on BU's website is helpful; however, do keep in mind that you can only do BU MET courses. Not courses at like Questrom etc.

SAP was of help when I need to get my courses approved because it was difficult finding a good alternative to IT-Enabled Supply Chain and initially they did not find Operations Management relevant enough but in the end, it worked out. I can however see their concern regarding this as the operations management course could have had a higher focus on IT.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

Accommodation was as previously described arranged through BU. The process itself was easy enough but not very transparent, and keep in mind you might have to check the platform itself because we were a few who did not get the emails.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Boston and the States is expensive. Much more expensive than initially anticipated. I estimated that I spent approximately double compared to a semester in Singapore, and Singapore is not really cheap either. But it all depends on your living standards and how much you go out eating and drinking etc. But also the amount of travel that you want to do. Traveling nationally in the US is not as cheap as you might expect, especially in holiday seasons.

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

I applied to a few; however, I was rather lazy in this process. Possibly, from being rather burnt out from the initial time I went through the application process. So I actually did not get any non-governmental scholarships.

Do I apply for the SU Udlandsstipendium if you are eligible.

Also the Lemvig-Müller Foundation is supposedly good to apply for, just beware that the deadline is on May 1st (2019) which I sadly missed.

Recommendations for other students:

Have fun. Try something new and make some new friends!

If you have, any specific questions or concerns about exchange in general, specifically to BU or SMU, feel free to contact me at mabn@itu.dk