



**Host University:** IED Barcelona

**Study Programme at IT University:** Cross-Disciplinary Team Work

**Activity Abroad:** Service Design for Innovation

**Exchange Period:** Autumn 2019

## **Your stay abroad**

### **Please describe your stay abroad:**

We were a group of 4 students from ITU (1 enrolled in service design, 3 in UX) who were accepted for a two-week course at the design institute in Barcelona, IED Barcelona. The classes were from 16.40-21.40 and were a good mix of lecture-style classes and workshops (in collaboration with bureaus located around Barcelona). Classes were great and participation was expected. During the two weeks we worked on a project, more specifically in the topic 'inclusive mobility' (inclusive design), which would be presented for a business/case partner at the end of the course. Participants were a mix of people from the industry and students (mainly industry this time), which made it interesting and secured good discussions both about methods, creativity and how to deal with clients.

Since the classes were afternoon and night, 'homework'/research/preparations were sometimes expected – some of the people attending the course were at work during the day, so the group members who were not working were expected to research and prepare a bit more... but despite of this we did have time so see the city, also with some of the other attendees from the course – some were local from Barcelona.

Overall the study abroad was great – the lecturers were very competent and they introduced methods we were familiar with but also new ones that were very effective and good to know!

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

Our previous semester had been very challenging with a very big workload across 4 courses in 1 semester, so we hoped by taking a summer course, to gain more time to focus on fewer courses next semester. My personal motivation was also to gain further familiarity with the methods of service design, as we have gone through them very fast during the introductory course... and we were so busy with our other courses this semester that we had no time to truly focus on anything...

The summer course definitely met my expectations – I did not think that we would be participating as much and it turned out to deepen my learning. As for the cross-disciplinary work it definitely met the expectations – the groups were both internationally mixed but also mixed between people from universities and the industry. We got to work with service designers who were project managers and had been ‘in the field’ for 20 years. We also got to see what the industry looks like across different countries, which was interesting – many participants came to network and learn from each other!

**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?**

The main thing I will take away from my stay abroad is how the work process can/will be affected by the different people you work with. Coming from a university that is very invested in groups, we as ITU students were rather used to the structure etc. of it. But engaging in a collaborative process with people who are working in different design areas and managing positions, it was made evident how different skills elevate the final outcome of a project. Secondly I learned a new method for interview, which will definitely come in handy in future projects.

## **Arranging your stay**

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

I was not so involved in the process of finding the documents we were to fill out to arrange the credits with ITU, but it was a two-fold process in the sense that we had to contact IED and fill out certain documents with them. We got a contact person from IED assigned to ‘our cases’ and she was very helpful! She was automatically assigned as we applied for the course through their webpage.

We applied for going abroad at ITU and while we waited to hear back from them, we applied at IED since this was necessary – the application at IED was not binding, it was more a reservation. After hearing back from ITU we filled out personal information and bank information and transferred the tuition fee to IED.

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

We were in contact with SAP throughout the process and the contact person from IED, who were all very helpful. Sometimes the process is rather slow at ITU, but IED was very quick to respond to any inquiries.

### **How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?**

We rented an apartment for the whole two weeks via an independent housing firm, AB Apartments Barcelona. We found this firm using Airbnb since their apartments are also listed there – but the apartments are cheaper if you book them through AB's own website directly. We did not ask the school to help us find accommodation.

## **Expenses and Financing**

### **Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad**

The course at IED was 1800€ and approx. half of that will be covered by SU udlandsstipendium. This form you can find at MitITU, I believe.

The apartment we rented via an independent firm was approx. 4000DKK pr. person (we were 4 students) and was paid by ourselves.

Materials (paper, pens etc.) used for the course was included in the cost of the course.

We estimated that we might spend 10.000 pr. person for the two weeks in Barcelona, but it turned out to be more expensive than we initially thought. We have each spent maybe 15.000 at least for the two weeks (course, housing and food in total).

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

I did not apply for any scholarships or such. For a short stay like ours I did not find it necessary, but it might definitely be possible. Half of our group applied for travel funds via ITU, which will cover approx. half of the expenses for flight tickets.

## **Recommendations for other students:**

Plan ahead what you want to gain from the stay (also in relation to seeing the city etc.). Spending every night at the school and everyday in the city can be really exhausting, so expect to be really tired – squeeze in time to rest sometimes during the day, or else the course will be more challenging and harder than it needs to be.