



IT University Travel Report

Host University:

Boston University, Metropolitan College International

Study Programme at IT University:

DIM

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad:

Exchange Agreement

Courses studied abroad:

3 Project Management Graduate Courses:

MET AD 642 Project management

MET AD 643 Project Communications Management

MET AD 644 Project Risk and Cost Management

1 Computer Science & IT Graduate Courses:

MET CS 782 IT Strategy & Management

Exchange Period:

3rd semester, fall 2019

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

Your stay abroad

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

I loved studying at Boston University – students are from all over the world and that creates an extraordinary atmosphere, which is like nowhere else I've studied. This diversity contributes to a sense of community and at the same time a sense of embracing who you are – which is also one of the things that BU stands for – Be You!

I had three full-semester courses and one half-semester course (compressed). This way, I had more time in the beginning of my stay to get used to my new life, new surroundings, new people etc, which was really nice. Of course, this also meant that I was extremely busy the second half of my semester.

I took three 600-courses, and one 700-course (700-courses are a higher level). The three 600-courses were Project Management Graduate courses, all with different perspectives, however some overlapping elements. All of these courses were taught in class, meaning it wasn't lectures like at ITU, but class teaching. There's a lot of homework and a lot of submissions throughout the semester. Submissions can be individual or in groups – depending on the class, but in general, there's a lot of group work.

The 700-course was completely different, as it was taught online and it was a Computer Science & IT Graduate Course, however; extremely valuable and an instructive experience.

I took two PDP course (sports classes) as well – I took rowing class, which I would truly recommend, I had the best time!! The other PDP course was swimming, which was also really fun!

It's totally up to yourself how social you want to be and how much you want to participate in the social life on campus – you can participate in all sorts of different things; clubs, sports, game days, etc.

BU newsletters give you recommendations on what to do, what BU teams are playing when, and what to explore in the Boston area – I used those newsletters a lot when I was there. MET International (for all international students) also makes great social activities throughout the semester that you don't want to miss out on!

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

My initial motivation for going abroad was to discover and live in another culture and to improve my language skills – and my stay in Boston surpassed my wildest expectations!

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 got a lot of things out of my stay; to mention a few, I got a great social network with people from all over the world, I got new friends, who I am still in touch with. I got to experience the American culture and I got to have an everyday life in the US, which I just loved! American people are very friendly and more open than Danish people – personally, I am incorporating that particular aspect in my everyday life here back home.

I got to know a totally different educational system; class teaching with no more than 35 students was, to me, a great way to learn the material; I remember a lot from what I learned because I got to speak about it in class each week.

Also, taking an online course was, to me, a totally new way of learning. I liked it because it was challenging academically, but also because I got to know another learning style. Even though classes were online and the exam too, I got to know the teacher and my peers – I never felt alone, which was actually something that I had feared prior to this class. When having class, students participated live from all over the world, which that was an experience by itself.

Arranging your stay

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

I approached my study abroad as a project, because there's A LOT of work prior to such a stay, and you cannot do it all at once. Therefore, I made a project plan in Excel to create an overview of all the tasks and associated deadlines that I had to meet. I found it quite helpful because when you apply for your stay abroad, you are in the middle of a semester in Denmark, and you need not to think about it all the time. Thus, I would recommend making a plan.

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

I used travel reports from former exchange students, these were very helpful – mostly, I read the ones from those students who have gone to Boston. I sought our ITU international partnership manager's advice, and she was very helpful. Otherwise, I did a lot of research myself, because at the end of the day, that's just necessary in a process like this.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I went to Boston two weeks prior to the start of the semester to find accommodation and to get to know the city. It was scary and I was nervous, but I managed to find a place, and I loved it there!

When you get accepted at BU, there's a lot of helpful information about how to seek for accommodation – I used that and also; I talked to students who had been to Boston and who had gone through the same process as I was going through. Feel free to reach out to me if you need any recommendations!

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

As I made my “project plan”, I draw up a budget of all expenses associated with a stay abroad. I would recommend anyone to do the same as it helped me to create an estimate of how much money I was going to spend at my stay abroad. I estimated my costs to approx. DKK 200.000 in total, which was more or less correct compared to my actual expenses.

In general, food and drinks are cheaper than in Denmark. However, tickets for a basketball or baseball game are quite expensive, but you don't want to miss out on those – especially, you want to go watch a baseball game at Fenway Park while eating Fenway Franks – it's a true Boston experience! Thus, how much money you spend in your spare time (of course) depends on how much you want to explore cultural events, sport activities, travels and so on.

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

I applied for a lot of scholarships, and I received several grants to help me finance my stay abroad. I found most of the scholarships that I applied for via legatbogen.dk. I would recommend you applying for the SU Udlandsstipendium, which will cover about half the tuition fee. I would also recommend you applying for the scholarships listed at ITU's website as well.

Recommendations for other students:

DO IT!! Boston is awesome, and the states around Boston are so beautiful, especially in the fall! BU has a lot to offer, you just have to be open to it. Four months pass by quickly, enjoy every second even though you are busy with school.

Attend a lot of BU game-days!

Sports at colleges in the US are something special, and it is so much fun attending game days! There's a strong sense of solidarity among BU students when being at a game; basketball, hockey, lacrosse etc. I would definitely recommend you become a part of it and cheer for your fellow 'Terriers' – that's what BU athletic teams are called and the BU mascot.

**Even though it's a lot of work to plan a stay abroad, it'll be worth it
– as soon as you are there, you'll forget about all that hassle!**