

IT University Travel Report

Host University: Boston University – Metropolitan College

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Innovation & Management

Study Programme at Boston University: Innovation & Entrepreneurship Graduate Certificate

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Study Abroad

Courses studied abroad:

- Innovative Marketing Techniques
- Operations Management
- Innovation, Global Competitiveness, and National Economic Development
- The Innovation Process: Developing New Products and Services

Exchange Period: 5th Semester - Autumn, 2019

If you have any questions regarding my trip, please do not hesitate to send me an email at: pour@itu.dk

My stay abroad

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

Studying at Boston University was really different from ITU. Although, I found my courses and class material interesting, the lectures were structured in a way that it reminded me of being back in danish highschool. Class attendance is required in all classes and you are not allowed to miss more than two lectures throughout the semester per course. Furthermore, the university require active class participants which will also reflect upon your final grade. There is a lot of online discussions, (individual and group) assignments, presentations and midterm and final exams that will impact your final grade. Overall, I was satisfied with all four courses and I further took two extra courses (known as PDPs) in terms of tennis for beginners and racquetball for beginners, I can recommend both sport activities since the trainer was brilliant and fun and it was a great way to meet new people. Going to Boston

University, means fast pace and many deadlines, but not to worry, since the academic level is lower than what I had previous experience in Denmark/at ITU. There will be busy periods, but I did find a good balance between classes and my social life.

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

I have previously been studying abroad in Hong Kong at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and my motivation back then was the same as now. I enjoy travelling and visiting other countries and other cultures. I like to challenge myself and get out of my comfort zone once in a while. Moreover, I really enjoy meeting and working with new people from all around the world. Overall, I really enjoyed my stay and Boston is a lovely city with great energy and friendly people. As you might know, there are several fantastic universities located in Boston and thus a lot of students everywhere you go.

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, going on exchange gives great value not only academically. Soon, I will begin my Master Thesis and I learned new interesting ideas, frameworks and innovative way of thinking in all four courses that I believe can be beneficial for my project. On a personal level, I met a lot of new people from around the world and learned more about myself.

Arranging my stay

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

The process of arranging my stay went fine without any bigger problems or stressful moments. I recommend creating an excel sheet early in the process to have an overview of all important deadlines concerning application, pre-approval of courses and scholarships. I will recommend to talk with other students going about and help each other with the arranging process. Remember to start preparing documents such as visa, bank statement, applications and health forms early.

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

The most helpful resource in planning my stay was definitely International Coordinator Eva Hauerslev from SAP at ITU. Apart from her, Program Administrator Kyle Benedict from the Metropolitan College International office can also help answer most questions, or at least send you in direction of someone who can. Other useful resources count the Study abroad section on Studyguide.itu.dk and Boston University's own course database.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

Since I am a graduate students there was no accommodation at Boston Uni campus, unfortunately. Nevertheless, Boston University helped me with links for other rooms and apartments around the city. At my entire stay, I lived in a shared apartment in Fenway, great place and the area was fantastic too. Many bars, restaurants and green areas in the neighborhood. Fenway is approximately 15 minutes from Boston Uni. I stayed at ESL Townhouse and please reach out with me, if you need to get in contact with them. I can really recommend the place.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

The States and Boston is rather expensive, so be prepared for that. Expect to spend a considerable amount of money on several activities and events such as restaurants, bars, baseball, ice hockey, road trips and so on. Uber is rather cheap and I really recommend the city bikes, called blue bikes, since they offer a student discount. Fortunately, my books and other class material was not too expensive and a lot of it can be found online. I have created a more comprehensive overview of all expenses, please reach out if you want to look further or need any help in terms of expenses.

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

Udlandsstudielån
ITU Travel Pool
SU Udlandsstipendium
Lemvigh-Müller Foundation
Nordea-fonden
Ib Henriksen
Knud Højgaard
Augustinus fonden
William Demant Fonden
Dansk Tennis Fond
Marie og M.B Richters Fond
Karen og Olga Nybye's Fond
Rudolph Als Fondet

Recommendations for other students:

- Take smaller roadtrips (even day trips) to Vermont and New Hampshire
- Take the FlixBus to New York (4 hrs to NY and only 20 USD t/r)
- Rent a city bike/blue bike for the entire semester
- Go to Salem (Witchtown) for Halloween
- Enjoy live sports events
 - Boston University's own football, basketball and ice hockey team
 - NBA/Celtics, NHL/Bruins, Baseball/Red Sox, NFL/Patriots
- It is not necessary to get all the immunizations from home it can be done at Boston University. The university schedules several opportunities to get the required shots as part of your mandatory health insurance. This could save you a couple of thousand Danish kroner.

I can really recommend Boston and please don't hesitate to reach out to me, I would love to help! :-)