



IT University Travel Report

Host University:

University of Melbourne, Australia

Study Programme at IT

University:

MSc Digital Innovation and Management

Exchange Agreement or

Study

Abroad:

Study Abroad

Courses studied abroad:

- IT Project and Change Management
- Emerging Technologies and Issues
- Business Analysis and Decision Making
- Managing Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Exchange Period:

Spring, 2017



Your stay abroad

Choice of Courses & Academic Level

I chose courses that was partly contributing to my specialization at ITU and the rest was electives that I chose based on my personal academic interest for emerging technologies and entrepreneurship. I had done a lot of research on the courses that University of Melbourne have and had found that their IT department had a great reputation, as well as a large amount of subjects, almost all available to study abroad students.

The academic level was really good at UniMelb, and I was fortunate to have very passionate and engaging professors. It is my understanding that most subjects that people from ITU would ever take at UniMelb would be in faculties that have an extremely good level of academics teaching. The system is of course different in Australia and as a Danish student you will always feel a little bit different, because our educational system is focused on critical thinking. Something that not a lot of other countries are too into. But that just gives you an advantage!

Social Life

University of Melbourne is an amazing place for a great social life! The introduction period that they offer to exchange and study abroad students is simply magnificent! It does cost some money – but it's worth it! They make groups based on age and how far along you are in your studies, which is pretty amazing, especially has a master student (no offense to the 18-year-old American girls)! The introduction period gives you a great group of friends and introduces you not only to the university and the city, but also to Australia culture! Just do it!

The amount of clubs, sports teams and groups on campus is ridiculous! Besides from the great social aspects of being part of a lot of different clubs, is that for a small sign-up fee you can get all their free stuff – most clubs do a weekly free lunch at campus. Great tip for saving some money ;) I was a part of the mountaineering Club and that was an amazing way of meeting like-minded people and an easy way of getting to see a lot of National Parks that surrounds Melbourne! MUSEX is the club for exchange and study abroad students and they make a ridiculous amount of activities every semester – they are also the ones that makes the introduction days. Pretty amazing how much emphasis UniMelb have on making sure that their international students feel welcome.

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

My initial motivation was pure academic evolvement. I wanted a semester that would give me something out of the ordinary on the academic level. I chose University of Melbourne because it is the best university in Australia, but off course it is a con that the school is located in a great city like Melbourne. The school was everything I wanted – and more. I was very excited to experience that the

academic standard was as high as I had hoped. University of Melbourne is a really, really good university if you want academic challenges and a fantastic social life at the same time.

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?

As an exchange student you have to be socially aggressive in the beginning, in order to get to know as many people as possible. Your social group will by all means probably be smaller than the one you are used to from home, so make sure you put in the effort to get to know people in the beginning. This is also where clubs and groups on campus can be of great help to get to know both international and national students. For be it is always a great experience to get to live in another country – I love emerging myself in a different culture and I always find something beautiful in engaging with the culture I live in. That is something that is both valuable on a personal level, but if you, like me, want to work abroad at some point, knowing different cultures in depth, is a great strength!

As my focus for choosing UniMelb was academic I was happy to learn that the courses I chose was as valuable as I could have hoped for. The courses were also more practical than I am used to from ITU and that was a great outcome of the study abroad – getting to know more programs and methods for data analytics.

Arranging your stay

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

I applied through EDU Denmark (<http://www.edu-danmark.dk>) that helps students apply for a large range of universities around the world. It is very hard to get into University of Melbourne without them, since they have made an agreement for Danish students, so it is my advice to do it through them. The application process is long, but when I finally send off all the material to University of Melbourne, it took them less than one month to approve me into the program. When you have been accepted the real fun starts! EDU has a list of things you should do and they are very helpful if you are in doubt of what to do next:

<http://edu-danmark.dk/universiteter/australien/university-of-melbourne/>

There are a lot of official papers you need to obtain, but here is a list of the most important things to remember before you go to University of Melbourne:

- Apply for a student visa (if you're unlucky you need a "Health check" and that can take extra time, to don't apply last minute!)
- Apply for scholarships (yes, it is hell for an IT student)
- Apply for the ITU Travel Pool (yes, it is ITU's only "scholarship" and that is a scandal in it)

self)

- Get courses pre-approved (you do not have to take these specific courses at the end, but you need the pre-approval to apply for “Udlandsstipendium”)
- Apply for “Udlandsstipendium”
- Sign up for Introduction Days
- Pay your tuition

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

<http://www.edu-danmark.dk/>

EDU has a lot of resources to help you.

<https://handbook.unimelb.edu.au/>

This is one of UniMelb’s search engine where you can find (most) courses available at the university. It is a good source when you need your pre-approval and to find out what kind of courses are available in general. Search for “Subjects” not “Courses”.

<http://www.mobility.unimelb.edu.au/index.html>

General information about being a study abroad and exchange student at UniMelb.

<https://flatmates.com.au/melbourne>

https://www.facebook.com/groups/117412174975402/?ref=br_rs

Good sites for finding a place to live in Melbourne – but wait until you’re there!!!

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

Wait until you’re there! The university offers some dorm rooms at fancy complex buildings, but they are 1) EXTREMELY expensive, 2) the students who live there are typically very young, and 3) they have annoying rules like no guests, quiet time and packages you need to buy. Don’t stay there!

It is very easy to find a place to live when you get there – at least compared to Copenhagen. It took me about 1,5 writing to a lot of people, viewing a lot of places and deciding what areas I wanted to live in. You are all in the same boat and you might even find new friends to live with in a shared house!

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Underneath is a screenshot of my budget. Australia is a really expensive country; food, alcohol and general cultural events are more expensive than Denmark. But a good thing is that it is as expensive to buy quality groceries than it is to eat out at a nice restaurant – so prepare to do that a lot. On campus there are a lot of good food options for reasonable prices!

| BUDGET FOR STUDIEOPHOLD, UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE | | | 2017 | |
|--|----------------|--------------|------|--|
| SIDSEL THAAARUP | | | | |
| INDKOMST | | 5 MÅNEDER | | |
| KATEGORIER | BELØB | MÅNEDLIGT | | |
| SU STIPENDIE | kr. 45.000,00 | | | |
| SU (EFTER SKAT) | kr. 26.000,00 | kr. 5.200,00 | | |
| PERSONLIG OPSPARING | kr. 10.000,00 | | | |
| LEGATER | | | | |
| KNUD HØJGAARDS FOND | kr. 13.000,00 | | | |
| OTICON | kr. 8.500,00 | | | |
| M. B. RICHTERS FOND | kr. 20.000,00 | | | |
| RODOLPH AS FONDEN | kr. 10.000,00 | | | |
| IT UNIVERSITETS REISELEGAT | kr. 2.500,00 | | | |
| OVERSIGT | | | | |
| INDKOMST I ALT | kr. 135.000,00 | | | |
| UDGIFTER I ALT | kr. 175.080,00 | | | |
| UNDERSKUD DER SØGES DÆKKET Gennem legater og fonde | kr. 40.080,00 | | | |
| UDGIFTER | | 5 MÅNEDER | | |
| KATEGORIER | BELØB | MÅNEDLIGT | | |
| UNDERVISNINGSAFGIFT | kr. 95.400,00 | | | |
| UNIVERSITY 'INTRO' FEE | kr. 2.850,00 | | | |
| HUSLEJE (INKL. REGIONER) | kr. 23.000,00 | kr. 4.600,00 | | |
| INDSKUD TIL LEJLIGHEDEN | kr. 4.600,00 | | | |
| BØGER OG STUDIEMATERIALER | kr. 3.000,00 | | | |
| KOST OG HUSHOLDNING | kr. 20.000,00 | kr. 4.000,00 | | |
| KULTURELLE OPLEVELSER | kr. 5.000,00 | kr. 1.000,00 | | |
| FLYBILLETTER (TUR/RETUR) | kr. 9.800,00 | | | |
| VISUMAFGIFT (STUDIEVISUM) | kr. 2.780,00 | | | |
| CYKEL OG CYKELHJELM | kr. 650,00 | | | |
| SIMKORT OG ABOONNEMENT | kr. 2.000,00 | kr. 400,00 | | |
| CODAN REJSEFORSIKRING | kr. 5.000,00 | | | |
| OBLIGATORISK AUS FORSIKRING | kr. 1.000,00 | | | |
| NOTER | | | | |
| BELØBER ER UDREGNET UD FRA UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNES EGET BUDGETFORSLAG: http://services.unimelb.edu.au/finand/planing/cost_of_living/summary | | | | |
| BELØBER ER UDREGNET EFTER AKTUEL KURS (JULI 2017) PÅ DOLLAR TIL DKK 5,05 | | | | |

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

I applied for a lot of scholarships and ended up “only” getting around 60.000kr which is a lot of money – but not enough when you have to pay for tuition ;) But luckily there are many ways of borrowing the money for study abroad via the Danish state, ex. Via “Udlandslån”.

Recommendations for other students:

Just do it!