



IT University Travel Report: Syracuse University, New York

Maximilian Ott

Host University: Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York, USA

Study Programme at IT University: MSc Digital Innovation & Management

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Exchange Agreement with Partner University

Courses studied abroad:

- Advanced Information Analytics (IST718)
- Business Analytics (SCM651)
- What's the Big Idea: Technology & Innovation (IDS401)

Exchange Period: Fall Semester 2017 (August – December)

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

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Your stay abroad

What was it like to study at [the university] (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)?

Compared to European universities the campus and the offered facilities at Syracuse University are overwhelming. The campus is so huge and very clean and beautiful. There are many sports clubs and facilities such as swimming pool, basketball court, soccer field, gym and many more.

I was very happy with my choice of courses and they fit perfectly to my chosen specialization Big Data. A new masters program called 'Applied Data Science' is offered at the School of Information Studies which will fit well to extend to your Big Data Specialization. Since I took courses from a graduate program, the academic level was rather hard. Nevertheless, you can get very, very good grades when you put some effort into it.



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

My initial motivation consisted of three things. I just felt like I need to move on to see something new and different. In addition to that, I had the aim to improve both my written and spoken English. Third, after the first and second semester at ITU where I decided to specialize in Big Data, I was interested in going deeper into the technical part of Big Data. Therefore, I applied for two rather technical courses at Syracuse University.

Even though Syracuse itself is a rather boring city, living there for four months was great. The campus and the big cities near Syracuse have a lot to offer. My expectations about focusing even more on Information Analytics were also met, since both faculties - the School of Information Studies and the Withman School of Management – offer outstanding courses related to Data Science.

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?

A very important part for me was to meet people from all over the world, to make new friends and especially to set up a network that I can benefit from for a lifetime, both in private and business manners. Furthermore, through guest lecturers from AirBnB and Google, I got important and interesting insights about how the tech scene in the United States works.



Arranging your stay

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

When arranging your stay, you need to apply for several things. The process is like the following:

You need to apply at ITU for your study abroad. You also need to apply for pre-approval for the courses you are planning to take. As far as I know, you also need to apply for an individual specialization and explain how your courses will build upon the courses you took in the first and second semester.

You also need to send a formal application to the university abroad, where ITU assigned an exchange place to you. Another thing what you should bear in mind is that you also need to apply for a VISA. Therefore, you need to apply online and attend a personal interview at the American embassy.

**What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use (if any)?
How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?**

I contacted a girl which studied there one semester before me. When I arranged my accommodation, she was still there and helped me a lot. I ended up staying at the same place where she lived. Otherwise the website craigslist is always helpful. There is also a website called orange housing, where room offers are posted.

Links of resources:

<https://orangehousing.com>

<https://www.rentcollegepads.com/off-campus-housing/syracuse/search>

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Since ITU has an exchange agreement with Syracuse University, you do not need to pay the tuition fees, which are approximately 13 000 Euros per semester.

Nevertheless, you need to pay a wellness fee and some other small fees. In addition, you need a health insurance. In total those fees are about 600 euros. For a room close to the university I paid 500 euros per month. There are some which are a little bit cheaper, but most of the rooms are rather a little bit more expensive.

A flight both ways can be between 700 and 900 euros. Because the area has some very interesting but also expensive cities such as Toronto, New York City, Boston or Washington D.C. you should definitely consider that you will spend between 1000 and 2500 euros for travelling. It really depends on what you want to do or where you have already been. I also flew to the west coast and visited the San Francisco, the Silicon Valley, Los Angeles, Las Vegas and so on.

Information about the area near Syracuse and places to visit can be found here:

<https://www.thrillist.com/lifestyle/new-york/most-beautiful-places-to-visit-in-upstate-new-york>



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

I did not apply for any scholarships except the travel pool support of ITU. I think there are many scholarships in Denmark which support Danish students. Since I am an international student coming from Germany, I was not eligible to apply for those.

Information about scholarships for Danish students can be found here:

<https://dsabroad.dk/radgivning/okonomi/legater-og-stipendier/>

Recommendations for other students:

- Start planning as early as possible
- Apply for every scholarship or support you can find
- Do intense research about the courses you want to take and select them carefully
- Try to get personal contact to someone who was already there