

IT University Travel Report

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Host University: Georgia Institute of Technology

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Design and Interactive Technologies

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Exchange agreement

Courses studied abroad: Technologies of representation, Graphic and Visual Design, Undergraduate Research

Exchange Period: Autumn Semester 2019

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

Your stay abroad

What was it like to study at Georgia Tech?

Georgia Tech is a school with a high academic level. I got the sense that everyone there was passionate about what they were doing and excited to learn and grow. The days at GT were very differently organized than how I am used to from ITU, with only around 1 hour a week for the 7.5 ETCS courses. However, there were a lot more mandatory graded assignments, who all had a say in your final grade.

This made the exam period a lot less stressful in my opinion, as you did not have as much pressure on the final as you do at ITU.

There is a large focus on community at the GT campus and my social life really blossomed from that. There is a lot of free events all over campus for everyone to join, and also a lot of focus on including international- and exchange students.

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

I initially wanted to experience a different culture and especially the American school system caught my attention. I wanted to experience the 'campus-life' that is depicted in countless movies and TV-shows, and it definitely did not disappoint. Everyone was so open and kind, and at the same time you were faced with all the stereotypes (cheerleaders, frat-parties, etc.)

I also really wanted to experience a culturally diverse campus, and I must say that GT has just that. I learned so much about all different kinds of cultures and political views, and it made me really realize how much we all have to 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?

I definitely gained a lot from my stay. Not only did I make friends from all over the world and learned a lot about different cultures, but I also got to be a part of a school where everyone is there to learn and grow. I got to be a part of an Undergraduate Research program that taught me a lot about individual studies and research, The professors from this course gave me a recommendation letter which I can use in my work-life. My other courses helped me build up a portfolio that I can now keep expanding with the knowledge I gained during my time at GT.

Arranging your stay

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

After applying to- and being accepted to Georgia Tech, a few needed to be settled. I had heard about a few options of housing and looked at GT's website for options on Campus as I really wanted to live on campus. I got housing and figured out the move-in dates, the dates that my classes started and so on.

I then researched the pricing in Atlanta and booked my airplane tickets. This helped me feel more comfortable with my economy and knowing how much to put aside for my stay.

I then looked up how to get from the airport to the place where I had to pick up my keys, and from there to my housing.

I made sure to have all the documents needed for my stay, including VISA, TOEFL test, documentation for medication, proof of vaccines, health insurance, etc.

What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use?

Having an open dialogue with Eva Maria Steensig Hauerslev from Student Affairs and Programmes helped me feel more comfortable in the practicalities during the planning process. Also talking to other students who have been abroad and hearing their first-hand experiences.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I applied for housing on campus. I applied for I-House and WST (Women in Science and Technologies).

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

The cost of studying abroad varies a lot depending on what experience you want out of it. I could have easily cut my spending in half by staying in Atlanta and not traveling around, as well as cooking more for myself instead of going out to eat. The prices in Atlanta were not that different from Copenhagen. Eating out was cheaper, and so were buying groceries. However, the whole exchange experience led me to spend more money on fun experiences than I would have back home.

Main expenses were (not in order):

- flight from Copenhagen to Atlanta

- accommodation on campus (can be quite expensive, but so is housing in ATL in general)
- health insurance
- TOEFL test
- VISA
- Vaccinations
- Food/ other living expenses
- Traveling around in America

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

I applied for several scholarships but did not end up receiving any. Most of them were only available for master students, but I suggest applying for as many as possible anyway, as there is nothing to lose from it - but a lot to gain.