



## **IT University Travel Report**

**Host University:** Victoria University of Wellington

**Study Programme at IT University :**

Digital Innovation & Management

**Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad:**

Study abroad

**Courses studied abroad:** Global

Strategy, Information System Analysis

and Development, Databases and

Analytics, Strategic Information

Management

**Exchange Period:** semester (autumn/spring): Autumn year 2019

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

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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)?**

In the beginning it was very rough. There was a lot of things that had to be adjusted to and settled. For example, I experienced some issues with getting courses assigned which was relevant for my studies since the content of many of them were something which had already been taught to me at ITU. I therefore spent a lot of time speaking with professors to find a course which suited my level. The social life was fantastic, I highly recommend staying in one of the provided accommodations by Uni hall since you will make friends here which are going to last throughout your time abroad. The academic level was different from course to course, in most cases it was relatively low compared to what I am used to at ITU.

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

That it was my final chance before being done with university to study in a foreign country and meet cool people from across the globe. New Zealand definitely met my expectations as I made a lot of very nice friends from all over the world which I hopefully will stay in touch with forever.

**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 mentioned, a lot of new hopefully everlasting friendships. I learned a lot about what it means to adjust to foreign institutions as well as what problems a country less financially advantageous than Denmark has to face. Academically, I've become more experienced with the theoretical aspects of IT development and creating an information strategy within an organization.

I hope this can be used to improve my capabilities for writing my master thesis.

## **Arranging your stay**

**Please give a short description of the process of arranging your stay:  
Incredibly frustrating.**

There were a lot of steps that had to be taken and in a very short time. Getting a study VISA settled took much effort, and I wasn't able to get my VISA before on the day of departure from Denmark. This was due to a lengthy processing for the emigration office to evaluate my application and for me to acquire the necessary documents for submitting my application, amongst these proof that I had paid for my courses at Victoria University.

ITU's process for getting courses abroad approved needs to be optimized, since this combined with the time it takes for Victoria University to approve available courses is very lengthy.

These approvals were necessary for finding out which courses I should take and as a result producing the invoice which I had to pay to study at the university.

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

Victoria University has financial guide which helped a lot when I had to create a budget for my travel. Furthermore, Kilroy was very helpful in terms of arranging my travel to New Zealand and back again.

**How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?**

The university offers (expensive) accommodation for those in need. I simply decided for one of these to make it easy for me to get place to stay, as well as make it easier for me to hang out with other exchange students.

## **Expenses and Financing**

**Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad**

Everything is a little more expensive in New Zealand with the exception when eating out. Furthermore, travelling in the country, was also very costly. Plan on spending approximately, about 150k kroner in total if you wanna travel while being down under. These costs also included the tuition fee (53.657,18 kr), which I had to pay in my case.

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

Besides, Udlandstipendium, I also applied for Lemvig Müller fonden.

I spent a lot of time on my applications, and got approved for these two out of about 15 submitted ones. I propose for future exchange students to find help from others with experience with writing scholarships applications to increase their chances of having the approved as well as save time.

As mentioned, the whole process for getting abroad was incredibly stressful and every possible method for getting more time available, you should take!

## **Recommendations for other students:**

If you wanna keep your travel insurance from home, make sure to look into your insurance provides policy when staying abroad for long. Furthermore, get hold of an English version of the insurance policy before leaving for New Zealand, since this document will be necessary for Victoria University to decide if your insurance covers the same areas as the one they offer (an

insurance which I both found costly (1330 kr.) and less advantageous than the one I already had.

Get started with your travelling preparations as soon as you can. Make a list of the necessary tasks for doing this including their deadlines, since otherwise you might end up in a pickle.

Get hold of an international driver's license before going, it will save you at least 400 kr.

Take all the opportunities available when down there in terms of travelling, hiking and the clubs which are present at the university, they are simply fantastic.

Don't let finance hold you back!

Be smart with your money, but remember that some things are not possibly to do back in Denmark or might become even more experience when going home. Take a loan from your parents or the SU administration if necessary. You shouldn't leave this country regretting that you didn't do some things.