IT University Travel Report

Dear Student, this is a template – the aim is to inspire other students who may wish to follow in your footsteps. You are free to give your report the shape you want and to go beyond the questions, as long as you cover the information asked for below. You are also very welcome to include pictures and contact information – but you need not. Remember that the report will be made available on the intranet.

Host University: Swinburne University of Technology

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Design og Kommunikation

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Exchange agreement

Courses studied abroad: Engaging Audiences, Social media analytics, Media Economy: Markets, culture, power.

Exchange Period: semester (autumn/spring) Autumn year 2018

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

Your stay abroad

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

It was overall a great experience to study at Swinburne University of Technology. The courses were very different from each other and different from courses at ITU. The academic level wasn’t very high but the workload was pretty big because we had a lot of tasks and projects every week. I didn’t have any exams at all which was very different from my earlier experiences in Denmark as well. The social life was okay. There was a lot of different events you could participate in the beginning and Swinburne did a lot to make the exchange students feel welcome and to help us make new friends. But there wasn’t much social life in the everyday life in school.

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

My expectations were to be better in English and to have the experience by living in another country and get to know another culture. Furthermore, I expected to learn a lot from the studies and get a lot of new friends from all over the world.

The stay lived up to my expectations, especially in terms of social life and cultural life, and a little less according to the level of the courses at the university.
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 learned a lot from the stay personally. I become more independent and I’ve learned to think more about my own needs instead of the people around me. Furthermore I’ve learned to be looser about things and not plan everything. I’m sure I can use this during my work with my thesis because I hopefully will have less stress than I usually tend to. Academically did I learn a few new things, and especially the course ‘Media Economy’ did I learn a lot from. I had a great teacher who was very involving. I was inspired to my thesis topic from this course and I can definitely use some of the theory again. Furthermore did I learn a lot from the way they structured the teaching. We didn’t have any exams but a lot of tasks and projects during the semester, which were hard in another way than I’m used to. Furthermore did I learn a lot by going to school with people from other countries – both on a personal and an academically level.

Arranging your stay

Please give a short description of the process of arranging your stay:
I spent a lot of time to read about the different courses at Swinburnes website. Furthermore it took me a while to apply for the visa and scholarships. I arranged a lot of the stay and bought the my flight tickets with Caroline, who was the other student from DDK who was going to study abroad at Swinburne University. It took quite a lot of time but it was totally worth it.

What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use (if any)?
I don’t remember that I used any specific recourses despite from Studyguide and Swinburne University’s website. Caroline and I helped each other a lot during the planning and furthermore did we get a lot of help from Eva from SAP.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?
Caroline and I rented an Airbnb room for the first 2-3 weeks after which we found a room in a sharehouse. It was pretty easy to find a room on the Facebook page called Fairyfloss. I will highly recommend to wait until you are in Melbourne, it’s easier than finding something when you are in Denmark.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad
The prices in Australia are pretty much the same as in Denmark according to food, rent and experiences. I was lucky to have a pretty low rent, but I did still spend a lot of money (more than 100.000) because I was travelling a lot and used a lot of money on food and drinks. Furthermore are the flight tickets very expensive.

Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?
I applied for some different scholarships and received some different which was a great economically help. It took a lot of time to apply for the different scholarships but it was totally worth it.

Recommendations for other students:
All the hard work before leaving was totally worth it. I will highly recommend taking a semester as exchange student if you have the opportunity.