IT University Travel Report

Host University: Victoria University of Wellington

Study Programme at IT-University: Digital Design and Communication

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Exchange Agreement

Courses studied abroad: Graphic Design, Professionel Practice & Matauranga Design

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:

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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)?
I liked the courses that I ended up getting, and the campus I attended was the smallest of all of them. Compared to danish university I experienced the courses to be less theory heavy and more about practice and guidance. I found that the teachers cared more about guiding the students that to maintain a strict regard for the hand-in guidelines and so there was a lot of creative freedom in the classroom. I know that my experience differs from the other danish exchange students in nz and so this depends on the courses and not on the university.

What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?
I’ve always wanted to study abroad but also always felt that there were at lot of planning that I could not comprehend and it felt unmanageable to start the process. I ended up finding that much of the process happens by itself and if you just don’t give up you’ll be able to go. So since I went through the process step by step and only felt committed when I bought my plain tickets I did not have a lot of expectations for my time abroad. My stay not only met my expectations, it went above and beyond.

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 had half a year of joining social clubs at the uni and thereby getting friends, trying a lot of new things, experiencing the country and the locals and also meeting a lot of exchange students. Academically the minimal required effort will find you without much gained knowledge. I therefore did strive for good grades and this made me gain some interesting understandings of design. I ended up with results that can be used for a portfolio.
**Arranging your stay**

Please give a short description of the process of arranging your stay:
Thought it was possible to apply for a University Hall I decided to arrange living quarters together with some of the other Master students going to NZ in the same semester, to find living arrangements together and save some money there. It is very important to be sure it is a good place that you find because there have been stories with badly isolated house-experiences in Wellington before.

What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use (if any)?
Eva the exchange coordinator was a great help regarding the university and signatures for different documents.
The other people going to VUW were great at finding information about living in Wellington on facebook groups. We met up a couple of times before leaving dk to talk about living together. Though living together was the main subject, I found that talking to everyone was a great way to acquire information that I did not have time to find myself.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?
We found accommodation on Airbnb but last minute decided it was too expensive and too far from the city. We found a place to live in the centre of Wellington during the first two weeks of being in Wellington, by looking at trademe.co.nz and going to open houses every day. We ended up finding a very nice, but also kinda expensive, two story apartment where we had the best time together. Having only two other people to come to terms with and moving into a very clean and lovable apartment was great and the stories I heard about the Uni Halls makes this the best solution.

**Expenses and Financing**

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad
Living in NZ is expensive, and my budget before going were about 75.000 DKK. I have been able to fund this mainly with a SU-loan and then scholarships of around 22.500 DKK.

Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?
Definitely apply for scholarships, thought it was hell in the middle of the hardest semester on my Master I managed to collect 22.500 DKK. The Lemvigh-Möller Foundation that you can get through ITU is a definitely must do, also Nordea-foundation was a great help for me.

Recommendations for other students:
Find the money, do the arrangements, be careful of where you sign to stay, and then just go do it! It was amazing and I’m so thrilled that I actuarially managed to try studying abroad in such an amazing country as New Zealand. And btw. 4 month of studying and then 2 month for travelling, is barely enough to explore this amazing country - you don’t need to go visit other countries.