IT University Travel Report

Host University: Georgia Institute of Technology

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Media and Design

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Exchange Agreement

Courses studies abroad:
- LMC-4699 - Undergraduate Research (6 Credit hours)
- LMC-3314 - Tech of Representation (3 Credit hours)
- LMC-3259 - Experimental Film (3 Credit hours)

Exchange Period: Fall semester

Your stay abroad

What was it like to study at [the university] (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)?
The choice and enrollment of courses was confusing and over complicated, but you only have to deal with that in the beginning. But it helps if you have a list of courses you are interested in (even beyond the ones you get approved by ITU), just in case the approved courses are full when you arrive at Georgia Tech and have to register for them. Also the descriptions of the courses are very unspecific, and not very accurate so prepare to be surprised by the actual goal of a course.
The academic level was very fair. It was at a level where I was learning and challenged on new areas. I was not so low that I was bored doing the assignments, and not so high that I was overly stressed if I was distracted by other activities.
Social life on campus is very inviting and easy to get into. There is plenty of activities and events, most are free, and there's activities for all. And they're all
What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?
I just wanted the experience of going abroad, challenge myself in a new way, and have a change of scenery for a short time. And the experience exceeded my expectations! It sounds cheesy, but when everyone is saying it’s a unique indescribably experience, they're right.

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?
Academically, because I was working alone on a research project that was very independent with minimal supervision, I learned how I worked on research, and the mistakes I made, and how I worked without deadlines or a set schedule. And I hope to use what I learned from those mistakes, and the tricks I learned, when I’m doing my bachelor project, and hopefully other future independent research.

Arranging your stay

Please give a short description of the process of arranging your stay:
It is a very long, confusing and overwhelming process to arrange the stay. It helped me a lot to plan out what I needed to do, based on the deadlines with a little description of the task needed to be done, to get a sense of the time needed to do it. This especially helped me because the task of arranging the stay stretches over several months, so by arranging everything that needs to be done, in the order it needs to be done, you are assured to not forget anything.

There’s courses, VISA, the TOEFL test, immunizations, I-94, booking flights, finding grants, accommodations and so forth that all have different requirements, stages and deadlines. So find a system and plan how you want to do it, and do as much as you can when you can, this will help make the process a lot more manageable.

You should also take into considerations that Georgia Tech use different platforms for courses, health services, accommodations, enrollment etc. and this will take some time to understand and learn to use too.

What resources did you find helpful planning your stay and which people did you use (if any)?
I used the SAP advisor in charge of the exchange process as my main resource.
Since I wasn’t sure what department I should address my different questions to, either at ITU or Georgia Tech, I just addressed all my questions to her and she would find out for me. So she was a big help to me, and made the whole situation more manageable for me.

**How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?**
When you are admissioned to Georgia Tech, they sent out a document describing how to manage the financial requirements, the legal paperwork (Visa, I-94 etc.), and accommodation on or around campus.

**Expenses and Financing**

**Please comment on expenses connected to stay abroad**
It is expensive to be abroad, you are going to spend a lot of money on both experiences, food, shopping etc. However, the worst of the expenses are in the beginning.
If you are not up for cooking yourself, and spend a lot of time on that, I would recommend that you get a meal plan. You pay an amount of money at the beginning of the semester and get a certain amount of swipes you can use at different dining halls.
The dining halls don't have fancy food, but it is edible and easy accessible, and there is usually multiple people with a meal plan, so you can do like me and make a group that goes together.

**Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?**
I applied for several grants and scholarships, but was not approved for any.

**Recommendations for other students:**
Before you buy too much stuff for your room or apartment or whatever, check out the facebook group “GT Thrift Shop”, where other Georgia Tech students sell all kinds of stuff, barely used, for reasonable prices. It’s a good way to save money when you are only staying for 5-10 months.

It is going to be stressful, confusing and overwhelming in the beginning, and it going to be difficult to find the balance between the academic and the social. But try to stay calm and live in the moment, because it is an amazing experience that is going to feel like it’s over in the blink of an eye, so try not to
stress and just enjoy it.