IT University Travel Report.

Host University: Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

Study Programme at IT University : Software Development

Activity Abroad: HackUPC hackathon 2016

Exchange Period: semester (autumn/spring) Autumn year 2016

Your stay abroad

Please describe your stay abroad:

HackUPC is a 36-hour Hackathon in Barcelona, with 500 students from all over the world, sponsored by large tech companies but arranged by fellow students.

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

I wanted to evolve my skills within computer science in another form than the regular academic setting that I am used to. A 36-hour hackathon sounded like a great way of testing my knowledge, in a stressful drive to deliver results in a short time-span. Likewise, meeting 499 likeminded students from around the globe was just as appealing.

The event was very well organized with large companies such as Microsoft and Bloomberg having tech-talks and inspiring the hackers to think creative. All in all it was fun, inspiring and interesting to try out.

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?

It was especially interesting to hear the about the projects the different groups were working on and seeing how many different creative ideas had sprung from the same setting and goals.
It was a great challenge to ideate, create and implement a solution within such a small time-frame, with almost no sleep, in a hectic environment. I learned a lot about how to spend my time smart, and avoid stressing.

**Arranging your stay**

**Please give a short description of the process involved in arranging your stay:**

We traveled as a group of 3 students from ITU and arranged for common accommodation during our stay in Barcelona. It was a combination of sleeping at the premises where the hackathon was held, staying at hostels and other accommodations, depending on what was cheapest on the day.

All of the sleeping arrangement was planned from before the hackathon.

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

- Google flight planner for flights and Momondo
- [reddit.com/r/barcelona](https://reddit.com/r/barcelona) for the best student budget tapas
- Google Trips was great for finding nearby places to eat, see and giving tips.

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

Through online resources such as AirBnB and hostelworld.com.

**Expenses and Financing**

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

Flights and accommodations. Mostly food was provided at the event, however some meals I had to pay myself.

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

The ITU travel pool is a great place to start for events related to ones studies.

**Recommendations for other students:**

Just try it out! Even though you might be super comfortable with code, going to a hackathon can give you so much perspective. At the same time, it is a great opportunity to see new place all over the world.