IT University Travel Report

Host University:
Queensland University of Technology

Study Programme at IT University:
Global Business Informatics

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad:
Study abroad

Courses studied abroad:
I studied 4 courses, which they in Australia call ‘units’, of 12 credit points each (7.5 ECTS):
- Business of IT
- Global Business
- International Logistics
- Managing Innovation, Technology, and Commercialisation

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

My stay abroad

What was it like to study at Queensland University of Technology? (academic level, social life at campus)?
Firstly, the whole process of going abroad for a semester seemed very unrealistic and far away in the future (as you start applying for credit transfer very early) but as I started to research courses at QUT it motivated me to continue. I chose my courses I wanted to study and applied for pre-approval from SAP’s side and received the approval later. Now jumping to when I started at the university in Australia I quickly realized that it was different from small but nice ITU, where you only see familiar faces. The campus was overwhelmingly huge and their blocks was larger than ITU’s building, so it actually required a map to find your way to class. Many of the classes had 400 students enrolled and we were in auditoriums as big as A1 on ITU. It is both nice and confusing, as the teaching gets less personal though seems very professional. The academic level was almost equal to Denmark yet hard to judge as the courses have 3-4 exams in each course and it differs in so many ways.

What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?
My initial motivation was to get somewhere and explore new places in the world is I have been studying for 15 years in the Danish educational system now and it rarely changes. Studying here in Australia has certainly met my expectations, yet I did not really know what to expect before going on the trip. I have lived in a student house with 28 people from all across the world who also studies in Brisbane and that gives some great experiences and at times also challenges!
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?

On a personal level I have learned a lot about living with multi-cultural people as you are forced to interact with your new roomies. It gives you perspective on the Danish lifestyle and that can only be good. Academically, I have learned that in some countries, like Australia, they care so much for referencing in your academic work, that I have become a master of referencing. We often have the requirements to write a 1000 (2-3 pages) word paper (15-20% of your final grade) in which you need 20 individual references, which seems ridiculous compared to all of my former academic work in Denmark. It is something that I can definitely use when I come back to Denmark, though in a less extreme manner.
Arranging your stay

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

First you must apply for credit transfer for your chosen courses at the university you want to go and as that is done you can start the long process of all of the formalities that needs to be done. I had EDU arrange it for me and I was specifically told everything I needed to do and then they kept contact with QUT and updated when progress were made.

What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use (if any)? Contact EDU if you think it is overwhelming, they will help you the whole way through it and even host information meetings.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?
The university provided a real estate agent for us who took us out driving in Brisbane and showing us everything in our prize range, so we got a new house in one day. It seemed very easy and less confusing than in Denmark.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad
I attached a print screen of my budget before travelling (in Danish-sorry), and as you see it is very expensive so you either need a job down here, SU-loan, or rich parents 😊. If I were to re-do the budget then I would raise the point of ‘travels and cultural experiences’ to double the amount to make it realistic.
Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?
I applied for ITU’s travel pool, which I received as the only one.

**Recommendations for other students:**

Earn a lot of money beforehand, as it is way more expensive than you would think.

And of course, enjoy!