SUMMARY:
STUDY ABROAD, SPRING 2016
QUEENSLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

COURSES:
- BUSINESS OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
- ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE
- PROJECT MANAGEMENT
My stay

I studied abroad at Queensland University of Technology (QUT) during my 4th semester at my bachelor’s degree in Software Development, in the spring semester 2016. I can without doubt say that it was the best experience of my life!

THE UNIVERSITY

QUT has three big campuses with great facilities. I studied at the Gardens Point campus, which is in a great location in the middle of the city. The campus is like a small city with everything you need and great outdoor facilities. Some of the facilities includes a big library for studying, a training center with swimming pool and much more.

I took three units (22.5 ECTS) at QUT and one summer unit back at ITU (7.5 ECTS). The units were:

- Business of Information Technology (IAB202)
- Artificial Intelligence (CAB320)
- Project Management (IAB304)

Project Management covered the unit “Systemudvikling og projektorganisering” from ITU, while the two other units covered both of my electives.

Studying at QUT was a great way to challenge myself educationally. I experienced different types of teaching and surrounded myself with different types of people. The lectures were generally shorter (1-2 hours) and after the lectures we either had a practical session, workshop or tutorial.

The academic level was satisfying. I had great teachers and exciting units. However, I did find that there was less work to do in regards to assignments and exam preparation, but since I only had 22.5 ECTS, I think it is hard to compare.

THE SOCIAL LIFE

The social life at campus was great. QUT have a student organization for anything you could imagine, from QUT Surfers to QUT Brewing. QUT also organize a lot of trips throughout the semester, which is a great opportunity to meet new people. In addition the QUT Exchange Buddy organization have a lot of events as well. Creating a social life at QUT should not be one of your concerns, this will happen very easily.
MOTIVATION FOR STUDYING ABROAD

Back when I applied, I wrote in my motivational letter that I wanted to give a new perspective to my studies and experience how studying in a foreign country compares to studying at ITU. I wanted to meet people from all over the world and grow academically and as a person. My semester abroad gave me that, and so much more.

From an academic point of view, you get excellent teaching. Attending QUT gave me a whole new view of how teaching could be done and I think it was great to try a different style of teaching. In addition, I was also able to attend units that I otherwise would not have attended, such as Artificial Intelligence.

As a software developer, I also find that it is important to be able to write and speak good and correct English. What better way to do that than living half a year in Australia and studying a university degree at QUT?

You cannot explain how much an experience like this gives you personally. I have friends from all over the world and I have countless experiences that I never would have had otherwise. I grew a lot personally and became much better at meeting new people. I came home with new dreams and goals. Living in a foreign country, so far away from everything you know cannot be explained, it is just something you have to experience.

Arranging my stay

THE PROCESS

It is a long process from sending in your initial application until you land in Brisbane. But once you do, it is worth it all. The process can be long and frustrating, but I found it straight forward when I followed the guidance from ITU (Rikke).

RESOURCES

- **Travel Reports**: Just like this one! I read many reports to get an overview of how studying at QUT would be and how to arrange my stay.
- **ITU (Rikke)**: My primary resource was Rikke (thank you Rikke). If you do what Rikke tells you, you will eventually be in Brisbane.
- **QUT**: QUT is also a good resource to use. They are very good at answering your questions. You can write directly to their international student administration. Later in the process, you also get a contact person at QUT, which can definitely help you out a lot with the practicalities.
PRACTICALITIES

I used a lot of the free services that QUT provided. The airport shuttle, which picks you up in the airport and drops you off at your temporary or permanent accommodation. The Welcome to Brisbane session, which introduces you to all the practicalities of living in Australia and the Accommodation Service which helps you find somewhere to live.

I had booked a hostel for 5 days when I landed in Brisbane. I sorted out my accommodation the day after I landed. My advice is to not book accommodation from home, it is much easier to find something down there. Most international students live in shared houses and I did as well. I lived in a big shared house with 30 people, something I can only recommend. It is also possible to live in student housing, but it is very expensive and I only met very few people who did that.

Expenses and financing

Studying abroad is probably going to be more expensive than you think. Brisbane is quite expensive to live in, quite the same as Copenhagen, probably even a bit more expensive in regards to housing. Also, when you are abroad you are just doing much more stuff than you would at home. We did some sort of trip every week, from three day trips to Fraser Island to one day trips to Surfer’s Paradise.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FUNDING

As a bachelor student, I found that it was very hard to find scholarships. I did a lot of research but most funds does not allow bachelor students to apply or favor master students much higher than bachelor students. So unless you are a master student or you have some small local fund or company that you know, I would not use too much energy on that.

The only fund I applied for was ITU's Travel Pool, which I got DKK 2500 from. I can definitely recommend that.

Recommendations

- Travelling alone should not scare you, it is a great way to learn a lot about yourself and see who you are when you are not around the people you usually are.
- You will not regret going. You will only regret if you do not.
- Contact someone from ITU who have already been there. We love to talk about our semester abroad when we get the chance and can probably give you some good advice.
Some of the stuff I also did...

Studying in Australia also means you live there. Here is some of the stuff I did there!

Lived with these amazing people from all over the world

Traveled to New Zealand and climbed Mount Ngauruhoe (Mount Doom from Lord of The Rings)

Learned to surf.. Kinda

Fed kangaroos

Went to Whitsundays... For this view

Went to this place in Melbourne

Celebrated Norway’s National Day... Apparently it is a pretty big thing there