IT University Travel Report

Dear Student, this is a template – the aim is to inspire other students who may wish to follow in your footsteps. You are free to give your report the shape you want and to go beyond the questions, as long as you cover the information asked for below. You are also very welcome to include pictures and contact information – but you need not. Remember that the report will be made available on the intranet.

Host University: University van Amsterdam

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Innovation & Management

Activity Abroad: Summer school at DMI.

Exchange Period: semester (autumn/spring) Spring, 2016

Your stay abroad

Please describe your stay abroad:

I stayed in Amsterdam during a two-week summer school at University van Amsterdam. The summer school consists of two data sprints over different projects.

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

My motivation for going abroad was the summer school itself because of its reputation. I wanted to extend my technical skills within data visualizations as an extension of the course Navigating Complexity. Whereas much of the summer school was not as I imagined, I did come back with a much deeper understanding of some tools, the technical and cooperation challenges that lies doing research in the digital sphere.

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?

The stay in Amsterdam have resulted in very close, local friends, gained over a very short time. We stille have contact and the summer school Facebook group is still active with knowledge sharing and invitations to data sprints around in Europe. My critical approach towards digital methods have been sharpened and I use it constantly in relation to my position as Junior Researcher at EthosLab.
Arranging your stay

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

Preparations included reading the compendium, book a room through AirBnB, get passports and gain knowledge of the different digital tools that we would be working with.

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

https://wiki.digitalmethods.net/Dmi/DmiAbout - it is hard to navigate, but there are a lot of valuable information on their webpage. Other than that was our AirBnB host really helpful and the contact person at the University was also quick with replying on mail.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

Practicalities regarding accommodation and travel was done through AirBnB and Momondo.

I will recommend to stay within bicycle range of the University as it is by far the best way to get around in Amsterdam and a cultural experience in itself.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Travel: renting a bike – it was almost 700 DKK for two weeks, but you can buy a used one very cheap online. I would recommend that.

Food: the food prices are very much like the Danish on cafés etc. Maybe a little cheaper. Otherwise are the supermarkets really great. 150 DKK per day is no issue.

Museums, party etc.: the prices are very much like in Denmark. A little cheaper but not a lot. Remember to use your UvA student card whenever possible.

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

I only applied for the travel pool.

Recommendations for other students:

Try to find a room or flat through facebook groups before AirBnB – sometimes a whole month rent on a room is cheaper than two weeks of AirBnB.

Buy a used bike instead of renting one. But get a bike no matter what.

Try to take the ferry to the North and visit the small concert areas and dining places. It is hiding in middle of alle the industrial buildings, but it’s really nice and a lot like Christiania in its architechture.