Host University: Georgia Institute of Technology.

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Media and Design.

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Exchange Agreement.


Exchange Period: Autumn semester 2013 and spring semester 2014.

Your stay abroad

What was it like to study at [the university] (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)?

I very much enjoyed studying at Tech where both the academic approach and social life are far different from ITU’s. Overall I really liked the courses I attended and I like that Tech has a more practical approach compared to ITU where the focus is mainly on theories and analysis. This, also, has an impact on the way of studying, which is completely different, meaning that you have homework assignments each week, tests during the semester and class attendance is expected and most often also required to pass. Thus, it took a while to get use to the different way of studying I found it very effective and educative. Due to the fact that Tech is a much larger school than ITU the study environment is really great and it helps you get motivated when seeing other students studying no matter what time it is. Furthermore it is very easy to get involved in student associations and societies and Tech offers a variety of voluntary work as well.

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

My initial motivation for going abroad was to improve my English but more important to meet people from all over the world and try to live in another country with a different culture while studying. My stay definitely met my expectations, and I would highly recommend other students to study at Tech if they get the chance.
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, I got a lot of experience from working in a more “hands-on” way, and I now have a lot of projects and specific assignments, that I can add to my portfolio. During my two semesters at Tech I learned to translate ideas and analytic material into a “product” such as a webpage and a mobile application instead of just keeping it at a theoretical level, which is often the case at ITU.

Personally, I have got a lot of new friends and acquaintances from all over the world, and got an insight in the American culture and way of living.

Arranging your stay

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

It took a lot of paper work and time to get acquainted with the procedures and systems they use at Tech, which sometimes felt overwhelming since I had lectures and exams at ITU, while preparing my stay. Moreover it was complicated to register for classes and since I could not register prior to my arrival it resulted in some classes being closed for registration.

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

I found it very helpful that we were seven of us going at the same time, making it easier to ask questions and to help remind one another of important deadlines etc. The exchange coordinator from Tech was also very helpful answering questions even though you had to remind him from time to time.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

With recommendations from students who had been at Tech before me, I used the Tech housing page to apply for accommodation. I did not, however, get accepted to my first priority, which led to some frustrations since I could not sign-up for another place before a certain time, resulting in me worrying about if I would be able to find a place to stay on campus. After all it worked out and I really enjoyed staying at the North Avenue Apartments.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

I spent much more than I originally planned on since I had some unforeseen expenses such as kitchen and living supplies, travel expenses and also I spent more money on food than originally planned. Also I did not take into account the various amounts of sights and tours available, which also are
quite pricey. On top of that came flight tickets, immunizations, fees and so on, which all had to be paid in advance why it also seemed like a lot of money.

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

I applied for a few, but wasn’t granted any money. I was only granted money from the travel pool at ITU to help cover my travel expenses. So I would recommend future exchange students to apply for the travel pool.

Recommendations for other students:

If you want to improve your academic skills I would highly recommend Tech. Atlanta as a city is not that exciting but it was very fun to experience to live on campus at an American college, which is where you spent most of the time anyway, and Tech also offers a wide variety of interesting courses. One should, however, be prepared for the different way of studying and a high workload during the entire semester. Overall I would highly recommend other students to do exchange at Tech since it has been one of the most incredible experiences in my life so far.