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: Hawaii Pacific University

Study Programme at IT University: Computer Science

Activity Abroad:

Exchange Period: semester (autumn/spring) __autumn____ year ____2013____

Your stay abroad

Please describe your stay abroad: My stay abroad was a great experience. The climate was unreal compared to the Danish as it went up to 35 degrees Celsius on normal days. The culture was also a thing that is fare from the Danish stress mentality (you see that in the traffic e.g.) and “Hang Loose” is everywhere.

My friends and I bought a car and drove around the island whenever it was possible. Besides studying – surfing and nature experiences can be a great spare time activity.

The University lies in Downtown Honolulu and is spread among different buildings. This is a disadvantage for student that wants to mingle with others in the daily study atmosphere. The academic level on Hawaii Pacific University is lower than the Danish, so be prepared for that. There will be multiple-choice questions and the teachers do not closely correct assignments.

What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations? Hawaii have always been a mystical place for me and when I found out that it was possible for me to take a semester over there I did not hesitate. I find surfing in my spare time very fund and there is not a better place to practice that activity than Hawaii.
If you stay at Oahu, Hawaii does not seam that idyllic, so you definitely have to travel on to the other Isles if you want to get the real thing.
I am a bit disappointed of the academic standard that was very low compared to the level in Denmark. Many of the professors was not prepared and did not correct the assignments handed over.
All in all my stay was a beautiful experience, though the lack of academic challenge was disappointing.

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?

Personally: My historical knowledge has been great improved, when I started reading about James Cook and have the whole culture had lived. I met a lot of people and I might have acquired some knowledge of how to interact with people that are not like myself in any way.

Academically: I participated in a programming contest, which was a good experience. My courses though were not that motivating.

Contribute to further studies: I did a lot of research on various outsource companies, new programming techniques and Internet users in China in my spare time, which gave my a good knowledge that I most likely can use as a software developer.

Arranging your stay

Please give a short description of the process involved in arranging your stay:
I was in close contact with EDU-Denmark, that helped me with all the formalities. First get to know which courses you can apply fore. Second get them approved by e.g. ITU. And after that be in close contact with EDU.

What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use (if any)?
My friends I was traveling with. EDU-Denmark. I asked some people that I knew had been there before.
Facebook is a good place to find people that have been there before. EDU signs you up for a group membership there.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?
A good study friend had a contact from one of the students that went there the year before.

Expenses and Financing
Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad
The flight is quite expensive, and the food over there is VERY expensive too. General living expenses is a pain except from meat and fast food. If you want to buy a car, it’s very cheap to.

Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?
No I did not.

Recommendations for other students:
If you want to improve your academically skills, do not go there. If it is a mix that you want to meet a new culture, do a lot of hikes in the nature, surf and study besides that – then it is the perfect place.