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 (HPU)

Study Programme at IT University: B.Sc. Software Development

Activity Abroad: Software Development

Exchange Period: semester (autumn/spring) 5th semester (Spring) 2013

Your stay abroad

Please describe your stay abroad:

I studied at HPU for one semester, while living together with three fellow students from ITU. Most of us attended the same courses, so it was fairly easy to plan our activities outside of school. Here we interacted with a variety of nationalities, mostly students studying abroad themselves. At Hawaii it is super easy to find activities to do outside if you are a little adventurous, so we did a lot of hikes, snorkeling, scuba dives, etc., and we of course spent a lot of time at the beaches as well. We planned our trip so we would arrive two weeks prior to the start of the semester in order to settle in, and also made sure to have some spare time after it ended, which gave us plenty of time to explore additional things.

What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?
My initial motivation was to get out and explore the world and interact with different cultures, expand my international relations, all while broadening and consolidating my international language proficiency. I feel that my stay abroad fully lived up to the above mentioned intentions.

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 I got a good relationship both with the guys I was traveling with and others I met along the way, and it was a great experience to see try and live in a different environment than at home. Academically I feel like I have broadened my horizon in regard to my studies by seeing things from another perspective than I am used to, and I would definitely be open to take a semester abroad in a different context.

Arranging your stay

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

A fellow student and I first decided which university we wanted to go to. We then send in a letter to ITU for pre-approval of the courses we would like to attend at HPU, while at the same time started our application process together with EDU. As soon as we got our acceptance letter from HPU, we send in our VISA applications and arranged accommodation for the duration of our stay.

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

EDU were a great asset during the application process and were really helpful with answering questions that arose along the way. ITU can also assist you if necessary in the process of selecting the relevant courses for your stay.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

We contacted students from ITU who had previously attended the selected university and they gave us the contact info of their landlord.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad
I had to take into account that living abroad can incur some additional expenses compared to home. Food can be an important factor here, so it is a good idea to check up on that in relation to the place of stay. Also, it can be a good decision to make some room in the budget for explorations, be it skydiving, scuba diving, cultural activities or whatever other possibilities that are available at the chosen destination.

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

I did not apply for any scholarships, I only applied for the ITU Travel Pool to help cover some of my travel expenses.

Recommendations for other students:

If you have a desire to explore the world and broaden your horizon and cultural experiences, then go for it, it will be well worth it!