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: Parsons The New School for Design

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Design and Communication

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Study Abroad

Courses studied abroad: Summer Intensive – Photography: analog and digital

Exchange Period: Summer school, 4 weeks (July) year: 2014

Your stay abroad

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

Parsons is a great school for short summer courses. My course, photography, was amazing! It was a combination of analog and digital photography, and even though both techniques was taught and expected from the students, we could choose to concentrate more on one of them. I already had a lot of experience with digital shooting and editing in Adobe Photoshop, so I spend most of my time on taking analogue pictures and developing the photos in the darkroom.

The academic level was, for me, perfect. I knew a little before I started, but some of the other students had no experience at all, and we were taught basic technical and expressional techniques. It was very much up the individuals to set the level for themselves. Besides taking pictures we learned
a lot about American photographers and different styles and visited museums like MoMa, DIA Beacon, The Met and others.

We were 17 students in the age of 19-37 (but mostly young students) from all around the world. I went with two friends from ITU, who attended different courses at Parsons, so I did not spend that much time with the class outside of school. But we did have a nice social life and there were plenty of opportunities to explore the city with people from the class. The teacher, Jodie, was great. The class got pretty close in that month and Jodie had a great influence on that.

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

My motivation was the ETCS points, the opportunity to attend a photography class and that Parsons is located on Manhattan. It was pretty much what I expected. The city was amazing and I only got to see even closer due my choice of class.

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?

I believe that the course will give me a more unique and interesting profile as a creative. I think that pictures are an essential part of communication and to be able to articulate and talk about photography with clients and photographers for assignment is very important.

Arranging your stay

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

We met up with another ITU student, who attended Parsons in 2013. She helped us a lot with the practicalities. First we applied for a pre-approval for each course at ITU, then we applied for the course at Parsons and from thereon we got all the information about VISA, fees etc. from Parsons. There was quite a lot to do and remember so we were glad that there were three of us to do it. The most important thing is to read all of the stuff you get closely, and keep it all on file and in a physical folder.

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

ITU students who attended Parsons in 2013 and Parsons.
How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I lived together with the two girls from ITU. We found an apartment in Brooklyn through the Facebook page *Danes in New York*. It was OK, but not great, so maybe it would be better to use something like AirBnB where you can read reviews and so on.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

It was pretty expensive to stay in New York for seven weeks. The school is very intensive and I recommend that students arrive a week before school starts and stay at least one week after. There is not a lot of time for sightseeing while going to class. There are expenses on flights, VISA, the school fee, school equipment (around 400 dollars), the apartment and hotels, subway card and food and drinks. We used a lot of money on food and even though we made simple sandwiches or noodles at home sometimes, we had most of our meals out.

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

Yes, I applied for a lot of scholarships and got help from Augustinus Fonden, Oticon and ITUs Travel Pool.

Recommendations for other students:

I would recommend taking this course if you like photography. The school is great and New York is a great place for taking pictures and finding unique and interesting situations, places and people to photograph. I learned a lot in one month and I am very happy I did it. I would really recommend combining the school with vacation and to plan the trip with other students like I did.

The sooner you start planning your trip the better.