Our stay abroad

Please describe your stay abroad:
As a part of our thesis research we planned to visit Tokyo to get some inspiration and new perspectives on our thesis topic. As our thesis is about wayfinding and navigation with focus on Norreport station, it was relevant for us to visit Tokyo as we they are rated as one of the best in the world navigation-wise. Another interesting perspective was to experience the wayfinding aspect in an unexplored city with a different culture and language.

In Tokyo we spend a lot of time in the subway to observe behavioral patterns, flow, placement and colours of signs and other essential elements in a wayfinding process. We visited other public places where wayfinding is essential to get inspired from other contexts. Finally we arranged a meeting with the Tokyo Metro. First it seemed unrealistic that a big company like the Tokyo Metro would have time to meet with us, but they were very flattered to be contacted by students from Denmark.

What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?
We expected to be inspired and get some new perspectives on wayfinding and for this Tokyo was a good place to visit.

Arranging
Please give a short description of the process involved in arranging your stay:
We applied for grants in October and was granted t in the beginning/mid of November. Compared to applying for grants for study abroad, the offer of financial support for projects and thesis research are more narrowed. Some of the grants required the application three month before project start, so the earlier you apply, the better.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?
We lived at a very cheap, but good and clean hostel in Asakusabashi (Anne Hostel). We payed 1500 DKK for 8 days. Breakfast (toast, boiled eggs, jam and Green Tea) was included. Asakusabashi is a more turisted area with a lot of hostels, but this was a good place to stay, close to the station and easy to take the metro or JR lines to other parts of the city.

Expenses and Financing
Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad
Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?
We applied for different scholarships and contacted relevant companies. We didn't have
success with getting financial support from companies, Københavns kommune or discounts on flight tickets.

We were granted financial support from Oticon and ITU’s travelpool.