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: Auckland University of Technology

Study Programme at IT-University: Digital Media and Design

Activity Abroad: Study abroad

Exchange Period: Autumn 2015

Your stay abroad

Please describe your stay abroad:

My stay abroad was fully amazing! Not only because Auckland University of Technology (AUT) was a great school where I really learned a lot, but also because I got to know so many sweet people from all over the world. That probably sounds like a ‘study abroad cliché’ – but it’s a cliché where there’s really something to it!

When studying in Auckland I chose to live at Wellesley Student Apartments (WSA), and that I have not regretted for one second. You get to live with so many people, because you to large extend not only live with the people in your specific apartment, but also with the rest of the people in the building. It is so easy to just run up and down to each other’s apartments and hang out, and that really create a close bond between you and your new friends.

Another great benefit of studying in New Zealand is its beautiful nature and the sweetest locals I’ve ever known. They are so helpful and kind, and you really feel safe and welcome in this country.
What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?

My motivation for studying at AUT was to improve my English skills, challenge myself with some new and different courses and of course to meet new people and travel the beautiful country of New Zealand.

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?

Again, I will have to say that the part of getting to know so many new people was one of the best parts of studying abroad. Because even though I got new friends who live far away now, I also got a lot of new friends from around Europe, whom I therefore am able to see several times a year.

Academically I learned a lot of practical things, which I had not been taught on ITU and hadn’t found the time to learn in my spare time. Therefore, I am now really happy to possess those skills and take them with me as a great outcome of taking courses at AUT. Furthermore, it will always be a bit scary to start in an unfamiliar and new school, but I learned to trust my own academic skills.

Arranging your stay

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

I have to be honest and say that arranging the stay was a rather long process that involved a lot of paperwork and a lot of waiting. I arranged my stay through EDU Danmark, and they were really helpful and always ready to answer questions, which helped a lot during the process of arranging my stay in Auckland.

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

It helped a lot to know other people arranging their stay abroad at the same time as me, as we could help each other out if we were in doubt about something with the application and arrangement. And as mentioned above, EDU Danmark was a really good and helpful organization which also hosted several (free) presentations about going abroad to study.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I researched on my options but quickly found that WSA was a highly recommended place to stay – both in social and practical respects. Once this decision had been made, it was easy to apply for the accommodation through their website.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

I have to admit that my stay in Auckland has cost me a lot of money – but New Zealand is also a very expensive country to live and travel around in. If you want to study in Auckland, I can assure that it is
worth all the money, but of course you have to be able to pay in the first place. I can recommend applying for some scholarships and spending some time on it, because even though I only got one, it helped me a lot!

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

As mentioned above I applied for scholarships, yes, and I got one called Verner Overgaards Familiefond.

**Recommendations for other students:**

Challenge yourself and go study abroad! I myself like to be in places where I feel safe and I really like being home in Denmark, so it was kind of scary for me to make the decision and go away for half a year. But I am so grateful that I decided to do so and I wouldn’t swop that experience for anything else!