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 (AUT)

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Media and Design

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Exchange Agreement


Exchange Period: Autumn semester, year 2015

Your stay abroad

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

My semester at AUT was in general a very positive experience. AUT was good at welcoming the new students, as they had planned introductory meetings as well as social events and gatherings for the new students. The academic level was a bit different than at ITU. AUT’s design and creative courses was, through my experience, more practical than academic. I was challenged sometimes during the semester, but I definitively still had time to be social and go on weekend trips.
I got most of my social connections through living at Wellesley student apartments (WSA), which are the student apartments AUT offers. I can highly recommend living there, even though it is a bit pricey.

What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?
My motivations for going abroad were several. Firstly I wanted to meet new people again and I wanted it to be in another country than Denmark. I therefore found New Zealand as the perfect choice, as I always have had a desire to go there. Another plus in my eyes, for choosing New Zealand, were AUT’s early semester start which meant the semester ended early as well, compared to in Denmark. The semester ended in November and therefore provided me with the opportunity to travel for a long time afterwards, before going back to ITU.

Secondly I found the creative courses AUT offered very interesting and many to choose from. I further found it appealing that the school had more focus on being practical than academic.

Lastly, I wanted to approve my English, both written and oral. I therefore also found an exchange semester in an English speaking country as New Zealand as a good opportunity.

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?

Academically I learned new practical skills. For instance, did I get more experienced in using the Adobe package and I learned to design and produce products. However I also learned the basic academic knowledge regarding advertising and campaigning and got a more thorough understanding of design theory.

Arranging your stay

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

I personally thought it was a complicated process to arrange my semester abroad. This is mostly due to all the applications and paperwork you need to fill out and get approved, along with all the important decisions you need to make before going (for instance where to live, which courses to choose etc.). Because AUT has a very early semester start (mid July), it also made the process more stressed. However, in the end it is definitely all worth it, and I learned a lot from the process as well.

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

I used Rikke Ustrup as guidance several times and AUT also had a good and helpful contact person. Regarding Scholarships, I found ‘Legathåndbogen’ and other’s recommendations and experiences helpful.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I choose to live at AUT’s student apartments, as it were recommended by others.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad
As New Zealand is an expensive destination, I did use a lot of money on transportation. I experienced New Zealand as about the same cost to live in as Denmark, however it was cheaper to go out to eat, but more expensive to go grocery shopping.

My accommodation (WSA) while I was there were around 24,000 DKK for four months.

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

I applied for many scholarships, and ended up receiving three. I would recommend applying for ITU Travel Pool and Verner Overgaards Familiefond.

However my experience was that it was harder to receive scholarships as a bachelor student than as a master student.

**Recommendations for other students:**

In general I can strongly recommend taking a semester abroad at Auckland University of Technology. The University was good and New Zealand as a country was amazing both to live in and to travel around.