Host University: Boston University Metropolitan College

Study Program at IT University: M.Sc. in Digital Innovation & Management

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Study Abroad

Courses studied abroad:

- CS432-632 IT Project Management
- AD643 Project Communications Management
- AD646 Program Management
- AD741 The Innovation process: Innovating new Products and Services
- AQ201: Swimming, Stroke Improvement
- FT222: Power Lifting

Exchange Period: Third semester, fall 2015

Your stay abroad

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

As a M.Sc. (called graduate in the US) you can choose to pursue different Graduate Certificates, which are constituted by fixed courses. Due to some courses not being taught in the fall, I was granted the freedom to choose courses that were not a part of my certificate, while at the same time obtaining the certificate. I had to agree individually with each professor, and make sure that I avoided schedule clashes.

The level of teaching is fairly high, but not as philosophical and reflective as the teaching at ITU. It is short and straightforward, however the workload is very intense. The US education system commonly grading is done continuously throughout the semester, and your final grade is constituted by a bunch of weighted factors (e.g. participation 20%, assignments 20%, presentations 20%, final examination 40%).

At the graduate level, the majority of the US citizens are working during the week, and most of them are taking a maximum of two courses pr. semester. This makes it quite hard to get to know them very well, however there is also a big proportion of exchange students in each class, and this eases the making of friendships. I would highly recommend to strive for creating groups in which both US citizens and exchange students are represented.

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

I have been on several journeys around the world, but none of these has led me to Boston. I love the experiences, memories, and competencies gained by traveling, and in the fall of 2013 I completed the 5th semester of my B.Sc. from Singapore Management University, and this stimulated my already strong wanderlust.
All in all my stay in Boston met my experiences, but ever since it was my second exchange semester it was not as enchanting as my first semester abroad. Nevertheless I established cross-cultural friendships, extended my professional network, explored new areas of USA, and acquired new tangible competencies for my future career.

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 acquired tangible knowledge, tools and techniques taught in the common tongue of the business world. I cannot underestimate the value of getting a totally different perspective on academia, and this have matured my way of thinking.

I am a big proponent of traveling and all the experiences that come with it. You will mature as a person, and learn to understand where, and why people act as they do. Additionally the process of arranging a study abroad in itself provides a good project management exercise on a personal level.

Arranging your stay

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

1. Apply for nomination at the International Office at ITU  
   a. Start applying for grants before your nomination  
2. Apply at Boston University  
   a. Continuously apply for grants  
   b. Take TOEFL test  
3. Upon receiving letter of acceptance apply for pre-approval at SAP  
4. Initiate the process of obtaining a US visa.  
5. Find accommodation  
   a. Book a hostel in Boston  
   b. Ask around in your network  
   c. Go and watch the places in real life  

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

• I used the International Office at ITU for sparring  
• I know Martin who went to study abroad in Boston University the year before me, and he assisted me when I had questions.  
• Craigslist.com – but beware of scammers  
• Boston University’s off campus housing portal  
• Kristen Molter, Senior Program Administrator at BU’s Metropolitan College  

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

First thing I bought a bike (and a helmet – its not like riding a bike in Copenhagen!!), and drove around the city to view rooms that I found on Craigslist. I struggled finding a place to stay, and started to fear that I would be homeless, but as September 1, 2015 approached, I got contacted by a bunch of people who found a tenant that opted out in the last moment. Hence I had plenty of possibilities
Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad
Depending on the fluctuations between the USD and EUR/DKK, you can expect to spend roughly
180,000 - 200,000 DKK during your semester abroad Including everything from tuition fee, insurance,
and TOEFL test, to housing, books, bike, food, shopping etc.

Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?
Either I am very good at writing applications, else I am extremely lucky – maybe a mix. I was
extremely fortunate with my scholarship applications and, to the best of my knowledge; I received an
unprecedented amount of monetary support from various foundations. Therefore, I obviously urge
my fellow student to apply for as many grants as possible. From the beginning I drew up a strategy,
and a structured plan that could aid me in reaching the quite unrealistic goal of obtaining 150,000
DKK from foundations. I used a spreadsheet to keep track of the different grants, and their deeds of
foundation, deadlines and reporting requirements.

In my opinion, applying for grants is a somewhat daunting task, but if successful, the ‘hourly salary’
will be extremely high (I can reveal that my hourly salary from grant application exceeds 8,000
DKK/hour). Another motivating factor is that writing the applications serves as a great exercise of
selling yourself, and might come in handy when applying for jobs in the future.

Recommendations for other students:

JUST GO! – and feel free to contact me if you need help applying for grants.