IT University Travel Report

Host University: Queensland University of Technology

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Innovation and Management

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Exchange Agreement

Courses studied abroad: Design Thinking for IT, Digital Strategies, Programming Fundamentals and Project Management

Exchange Period: semester (autumn/spring) Spring Year 2015

Your stay abroad

What was it like to study at [the university] (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)? Studying at Queensland University of Technology in Brisbane, Australia, has been a really great experience and has for sure lived up to all my expectations for studying abroad. I am very pleased that I went to QUT for several of reasons. Firstly Australia has been a wonderful country to study in. People in Brisbane were so welcoming and I felt home right from the start. The subtropical climate in Brisbane was a perfect fit for me personally and I have no regrets about choosing Brisbane and QUT as my destination for exchange. The academic level at QUT allowed me to have the weekends off, which I used for travelling around in Australia. Compared to the IT University QUT offers a much more practical approach to the academic work, which I found really great. Looking at the load of homework we had very little stuff to prepare at home. The workload was more concentrated about team exercises in the class.

The social life at QUT was also really great. The first couple of weeks the university arranged a lot of different events, which allowed exchange student to meet and create a network, which became beneficial throughout the rest of the semester.
What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations? I had never had the chance to live abroad and I really wanted to fulfill this dream before finishing my studies. Furthermore I wanted to improve my English and obtain the competitive advantage you get from going abroad. My stay has for sure exceeded my expectations and the only regret I can think of is not going on exchange at my Bachelor.

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? The list for this question is very long! Personally I have developed a whole new mindset about travelling and living abroad. I have become more open to meeting new people from many different cultures. Living abroad furthermore makes you more independent and strong when dealing with new and unsure situations. My stay has also improved my ability to engage in new cultures and awoken my traveling dreams. Academically I have been inspired by the two courses ‘Digital Strategies’ and ‘Design Thinking for IT’ to try a new career path in Digital Consultancy.

Arranging your stay

Please give a short description of the process of arranging your stay: Going on an exchange program with the IT University has for sure made the process of arranging my stay more easy and smooth. When looking back I now see the process being very easy and without any big difficulties. Many forms had to be filled but Rikke was very helpful in this! Any forms and paperwork should never hold you back from going abroad! 😊

What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use (if any)? Actually I didn’t planned my stay very much before leaving Denmark. I suppose the most helpful part was different Facebook pages with people studying in Australia.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation? I found accommodation when arriving in Brisbane. QUT had a service offering exchange students to go along for an accommodation sightseeing tour with ‘Brisbane Students’. This enabled me to find a place to live after only 2-3 days in Brisbane.
Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad: Australia is a very expensive country to live in and if you want to travel during you time abroad it is important to calculate a very specific budget. I had made a budget beforehand but quickly found out that my actual expenses were much higher that first indicated. Nevertheless my stay has been worth every single dollar!

Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular? Yes, and I received around 80.000DKK in scholarships. Thus I recommend everyone to be structured and hardworking in the process of applying for scholarships. I recommend the following: Dansk Tennis Fond, Nordea Fonden, Oticon Fonden, Knud Højgaard Fonden, Augustinus Fonden and Hede Nielsens Fond.

Recommendations for other students: GO STUDY ABROAD! It has been the time of my life and I am sure you will feel the same way 😊