IT University Travel Report

Host University: Parsons School of Design, New York

Study Programme at IT University: DMD

Activity Abroad: Summer Intensive Course

Exchange Period: Summer 2016

Your stay abroad

Please describe your stay abroad:

I attended Parsons School of Design in New York during the Summer of 2016 for the course Graphic Design 1. The course lasted 3 weeks from 9-16 and 2-3 hours of homework from Monday-Friday.

School website: http://www.newschool.edu/parsons/

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

I had never taken a course in Graphic Design before and wanted to improve my skills within the Adobe package. Further more, I had the school recommended from former student. It meet every of my expectations and I learned a great deal about typography, colors, layout, different type of concepts and much more.
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?

On a personal level, I got to live in New York City with all that entails of great food, friendly people and always something new to experience. It’s a great city and I’ll definitely go back.

With regards to the academically, the school and teachers challenged me in a different way than in Copenhagen and I learned not only new skills, but also different ways of working and how to attend a class with people from all over the world.

Arranging your stay

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

Start with the practical stuff in good time. Applying for the student visa, funds and finding a place to live can take some time. There is no way of describing the visa application in short, since there’s quite a bit of forms and practical things need to be done. Just remember to read the forms thoroughly and keep track of the deadlines.

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

I asked the people working at the student office at ITU, which was very helpful. In addition, I talked with people that had taken the course the year before which also helped with unexpected challenges that occurred along the way.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?
I travelled with a group of fellow student and we decided to rent an apartment in Williamsburg through AirBnB. We arranged it from home and it worked perfectly. I would recommend finding a place where you only need to take one metro train. We rented an apartment close to the L train, which meant that we only had to take one metro for 4-5 stops before we where at the school.

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?

I applied for 20-25 scholarships, but didn’t have much luck. I received the ITU Travel Pool, but no other scholarships.

Recommendations for other students:

If you decided to attend the Graphic Design course at Parsons, you will receive a long list of materials that they suggest you buy. Some of the things we only used once so wait, before you buy all of it. There’s no need for it. Also, there will be field trips so plan on spending some extra money on school expenses that’s not listed anywhere.

I didn’t bring my computer and there really wasn’t any need for it. The school provided us with computers in big computer labs.

All in all it was a lot of work for just 3 weeks, but it was worth it. We arrived in New York a week before school started and stayed a week after - giving us a total of 5 weeks in New York to both study and be tourist.