Host University: Boston University

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Innovation & Management

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Study Abroad

Courses studied abroad:

- IT Strategy & Management
- Information Systems Analysis and Design
- Database Design and Implementation for Business
- Business Data Communication and Networks

Exchange Period: Autumn 2014

Your stay abroad

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

As a graduate student at BU, you will have to choose between different programmes, which consists of specific courses. I like this structure, since I had to stress less about registering for courses and actually get the courses, which can be a challenge at other universities.

The academic level is similar to that of the IT University of Copenhagen. However, the difference is that BU uses a lot of tests, quizzes, weekly assignments, group presentations and homework in general (as any other American university). Sometimes I felt that the level of reflection was too low compared to the IT University, but on the other hand I also learned a lot of valuable lessons that are very applicable in a job one day. This goes mainly for the “soft” courses in IT strategy and System Analysis, whereas the “technical” courses in Database and Networks were very good and well structured.

As a graduate student, most of my fellow students were working full time during the week and many of them were older than me. Therefore, I would mostly hang out with undergraduate students that I met during the introduction week. Notice that BU does not have an introduction week, so if you want to make friends from the beginning, I would suggest to tag along to the undergraduate introduction. You will meet a lot of other exchange students.

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

My main motivation was that I love travelling and living in other countries for longer periods. I think it is a great way to learn about the culture and broaden your perspective. Secondly, Boston University is a good school, which will always make my resume stand out from students who have not gone abroad.
The stay at BU definitely met all of my expectations, but I think it is important to say that it is hard work to make everything happen. However, for me it was all worth it and I would go again, if I could.

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 got some more technical courses on my resume, which I felt that I needed as a GBI/DIM student. I wanted to learn more about data and databases, but since I am not a very technical person in terms of programming, I also wanted to develop my skills within IT and business.

As a person, I have also learned a couple of things about myself. When you are abroad, there are many challenges that you will need to pass, which will make you grow as a person. I made a lot of new friends and had a really great time.

Arranging your stay

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

These are some of the things that you need to sort out:

- Apply to go to BU at the International Office @ ITU
- Send application to BU
- Get approved by BU
- Get courses pre-approved @ ITU
- Apply for scholarships
- Get a visa from the US embassy
- Find accommodation

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

- I mainly talked to Rikke and got information from her
- Here is a list of the Computer Science and IT graduate certificate programs:
  - [http://www.bu.edu/academics/met/programs/computer-science/graduate-certificates/](http://www.bu.edu/academics/met/programs/computer-science/graduate-certificates/)
  - The amount of information about each courses is somewhat sparse, but I found some short descriptions on the website, which was sufficient to get the courses approved.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

- I found my accommodation on craigslist.com
- When you get your @bu.edu mail account, you can also access the internal BU facebook group (only possible to get in with BU account) - There are also listings.
- [https://www.facebook.com/groups/groupsatbostonuniversity/?ref=br_tf](https://www.facebook.com/groups/groupsatbostonuniversity/?ref=br_tf)
Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>DKK Total</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>One time costs</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition fees &amp; Health Insurance @ BU</td>
<td>(72,549)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application fee</td>
<td>(400)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flight</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOEFL</td>
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<tr>
<td>VISA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bike</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Check in DK</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Monthly costs</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leisure money</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel Insurance</td>
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<td>Food</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transport</td>
<td>(2,500)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clothes</td>
<td>(5,000)</td>
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**Income**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SU</td>
<td>18,350</td>
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<tr>
<td>Udlandsstipendium</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarships</td>
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Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?

I applied for about 20 Danish scholarships and I got five scholarships worth 45,000 kroner. I would say that it is definitely worth it, since it does not take very long time to make a CV, standard application, budget and cover letter. All in all, I might have used 24 working hours and money for stamps and envelopes, so the investment is more than worthwhile.

I did not use any scholarship books or companies, instead I mainly used Studerende Online’s homepage www.SO.dk, which has a lot of information about scholarships.

Make a spreadsheet with all of the information you will need (most importantly deadlines) in order to keep track of what you have applied for and if they have any requirements (i.e. returning receipts).

I got scholarships from the following foundations:
- Augustinus Fonden
- KONPA
- Dansk Tennis Fond
- Oticon Fonden
- ITU Travel Pool

Recommendations for other students:

Go and have a great time in Boston!

And feel free to reach out to me, if you want to have a talk over coffee in Analog. You can reach me on mcla@itu.dk

Martin Clausen