IT University Travel Report

Host University: Auckland University of Technology

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Media and Design (DMD)

Activity Abroad: Advertising and Society, Design Research II, Fundamentals of Advertising and Campaigning, Undergraduate Writing for Academic Purposes

Exchange Period: 5. Semester autumn 2015

Your stay abroad

Please describe your stay abroad:
I enjoyed studying at AUT, as the university had very new facilities, the professors were helpful and the learning environment felt welcoming. I lived at campus close to the university and it was easy to walk to class. The campus environment was quite like a kollegium in Denmark, which made it really easy to meet a lot of new international friends.
After the semester ended, I had a couple of months before returning to ITU, so I used them to travel around with some friends in Australia and New Zealand.

My semester abroad has surpassed all my expectations and it has been the best experience!

What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?
I wanted to study abroad to gain valuable experience working in an international study environment with different cultures and I was very curious on experiencing a different way of learning than the one at ITU.
I wanted to test myself by going far away from home, and putting myself in a foreign environment. Furthermore I wanted to improve my language skills and be comfortable when speaking English in an academic context.
The stay went beyond my expectations, and I found it very easy to adapt to a different learning environment! I feel very lucky that I got the opportunity to study abroad in New Zealand!

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?

A semester in Auckland has been so good for me both in personal and professional matter. I learned to adapt to a different learning environment, as it was much more practical and hands-on at AUT that on ITU.

The academic level wasn’t as high as I expected, but the different learning methods still gave me something to use in my future studies.

Personally, I was nervous that it would be a challenge for me to study and live in a foreign country, but it gave me so much happiness and knowledge that I can only recommend it for everyone to do!

Arranging your stay

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

I applied for studying abroad through ITU at first, but was unfortunately not granted a spot at the universities I applied for. Therefore I applied through EDU Denmark and got my 1st priority. (If you apply through ITU and don’t get in at the university you want, don’t give up!)

It takes quite some work and time to plan a stay abroad. (Application for the university, visa, scholarships, getting a place to stay, insurance, leaving Denmark behind etc.)

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

I planned my stay through EDU Denmark. The people from EDU were very friendly and helpful in making the exchange happen and they provided me with all the information I needed before going. EDU has a helpful webpage with information about budget, packing, application, visa etc.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

From home I had planned to live of campus, since this was the cheaper solution. I booked a hotel for the first couple of days, so I had some time to look for a permanent place to stay – I was advised not to pay for a anything without seeing it in real life first.
After the first couple of days in New Zealand, I quickly found that it would be much easier socially if I lived at campus. I applied for a room and was lucky enough to get one of the last rooms available.

**Expenses and Financing**

*Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad*

New Zealand is not a cheap country to live in. Rent and food will take up a lot of your budget, and presumably much more than it does in Denmark. But of course it depends on how you want to eat and live. I lived at campus, which was a great opportunity to meet a lot other international students, but it was almost double the rent I pay in Denmark.

The biggest one-time payment you will do linked to you stay abroad is the tuition fee. The semester cost around 60.000 kr. but if you apply for the udlandsstipendium through SU, you will get most of this covered.

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

I applied for a lot of scholarships but only one of them granted me any funds. Compared to students on their master degree, there are only a few scholarships available when you are studying within the area of IT and design. Although it seems like more funds are granted to students going abroad in the states.

**Recommendations for other students:**

Just go! It’s a great experience to meet a lot of people from all over the world, broaden your knowledge and to travel. It is an expensive and sometimes difficult process to take a semester abroad, but it is definitely worth the time and money!

One advice: If you apply for scholarships, start early..