IT University Travel Report

Dear Student, this is a template - the aim is to inspire other students who may wish to follow in your footsteps. You are free to give your report the shape you want and to go beyond the questions, as long as you cover the information asked for below. You are also very welcome to include pictures and contact information - but you need not. Remember that the report will be made available on the intranet.

Host University:

Study Programme at IT University : Digital Design and Communication

Activity Abroad: Visit to the New Media Art festival Ars Electronica in Linz, Austria. Attended workshops and conferences along with experiencing a range of art exhibitions.

Exchange Period: 04.09.15 - 06.09.15

Your stay abroad

Please describe your stay abroad:

We visited the city of Linz in Austria in the first weekend of September 2015. This was part of our thesis project that evolve around the subject of New Media Art and innovation.

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

Ars Electronica is one of the biggest and most influential art and science festival in europe (and perhaps the world) and has been so for more than 30 years. As our master thesis project deals with media art and innovations within the art & technology community we felt that it was important to visit the festival and experience the artworks first hand. The trip also made it possible for us to meet the artists and join the debate in the lectures and talks that was facilitated throughout the festival. This put us in a position to more thoroughly explore and challenge our research question and the trip made sure that our contributions to the debate will be as relevant as possible. The festival did meet our expectations although we did not realize just how much science and research based the festival was.

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 it was a very rewarding experience because we attended several talks where subjects such as hybrid art and art/sci was discussed according to the most recent academic work. This was helpful to us in order to know what is going on right now in our field of study and how to navigate through it. Furthermore these conferences served as a networking opportunity where we got in contact with a professor that we later on conducted an interview with.

Arranging your stay

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

As we made the decision to go in the last minute we had a lot of difficulties finding accommodation and we also had to choose an alternative way of travelling to Linz. As all the flights were taken we had to travel by plane to Vienna and then by train to Linz to make the most budget friendly solution. We recommend starting arranging the trip earlier if at all possible.

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

We used the webpage and the program of the Ars Electronica festival to carefully plan which conference/workshop/performance/exhibition to attend and at what time so that the limited time could be used
correctly. Furthermore we used our external supervisor who had some knowledge of the festival and which research areas would be useful to us.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

We used different websites to compare prices of hostels, hotels and Airbnb.

**Expenses and Financing**

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

It is expensive to get to Linz as it is not a popular destination among tourists. Regarding the price level in Austria it is a little less expensive than Denmark when it comes to food and transportation in the city. The festival ticket is expensive but it is possible to get a student discount.

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

We only applied for funding through the ITU travel pool fund as we never managed to find other funding opportunities elsewhere.

**Recommendations for other students:**

We recommend having more time at the festival as we arrived late Friday and left early Sunday but could have spent more time there. It takes most of a day to get there and therefore we recommend others to make sure to spend all of the Friday as well as the Sunday at the festival, as these days are packed with interesting events.