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: Parsons the new school, New York

Study Programme at IT University: Digital design and communication

Activity Abroad: Summer course

Exchange Period: Summer 2014

Your stay abroad

Please describe your stay abroad:

I had a good stay abroad. Expensive, but good. If you are able to save up a lot of money, I would highly recommend it. You will use a lot more money than you think.

My stay was fun, tough and a nice experience. I took one week before and one week after the course in New York, which I can highly recommend since the course will take up so much of your time, you don’t really have that much leisure time.

I studied Strategic Design and Management. You have to remember to choose a course that suits your interests, and don’t choose a course you know way too much about. Because the level of their education is not that high, compared to ITU. Still I thought that the course was interesting and the teacher was very good. He had his own DNA branding company, so you could really feel that he knew what he was talking about.
What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?

My initial motivation for taking a summer course was actually the fact that I had the ability to take a course less during one of the semesters on ITU - To make the work burden easier. But it was also important to find a course that I found interesting and experience something at the same time. I wasn’t interested in taking a summer course in Denmark and New York and Parsons, have actually always been on my wish list.

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?

I have been abroad before. But every time I feel like I have achieved something extra personally, higher self-esteem and a believe in yourself. In my studies at Parsons I learned a lot of new methods, I improved my English skills and learned how to pitch an idea in front of a client. They focused a lot on being able to use what we learned in our future career and not just in our future studies.

Arranging your stay

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

I already started in November the year before I took the summer course, because we heard that there was limited availability in the class. We learned later that this early start-up wasn’t necessary to get a spot in the class. But still it was nice that our process wasn’t that stressed – because we had a lot of time to get everything in order.

We started by writing a pre-approval for SAP, for the course we wanted (you are welcome to write more than one class, and then choose afterwards – to be sure that you get something that you want). Afterwards we enrolled in Parsons The New School. Be aware that you have to pay the whole intuition fee when you get accepted. For me, it was about 14 days after I enrolled.

Afterwards you have to start on the visa-process (which is long) and find a place to stay (I can’t recommend the dorms – I heard a lot of nasty things about them).

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

We actually talked to a former student from ITU that had been to parsons, so she told us which steps we needed to go through.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?
I used airbnb, facebook and craigslist (but stay away from craigslist – people are mostly trying to sham you). We found our apartment in a Facebook group called ‘danes in New York’. My advise when looking for an apartment in New York is to figure out what the most important thing is for you. Is it location, size or price? Because you can’t have it all. We lived three girls in a studio apartment, and it was a blast, we chose to save money, wise choice. Because you will spend a lot.

**Expenses and Financing**

**Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad**

There are a lot of unforeseen expenses when traveling abroad – especially when traveling to the states. Of course there is expenses for a place to stay, plain tickets and a metrocard (wise to buy) It cost 112 dollars for one month.

At the same time you will need to get a visa (parsons demand it), you will have to show it at check in. No way to get around this. And it cost around 2.500 DKK. You will need to get a specific travel insurance, the normal ones, doesn’t cover summer courses. We found the cheapest one at Tryg - around 720 DKK for 6 weeks.

There are different expenses connected with the different courses on parsons, it varies. In Strategic Design and Management, we fortunately did not have that many expenses as they did on some of the other courses.

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

Yes. I applied for several scholarships, but most of them don’t support summer programs, you have to be gone for a minimum of one semester.

But I can recommend Augustinus and Oticon they support summer programs. And this was where most of the summer school students got from.

**Recommendations for other students:**

My stay abroad was one of the best things I have done for myself. And I would recommend it to everyone. I thought it was a nice thing to have someone to travel with, living with over there and help with the planning, because there are a lot of things to do and forms to fill out, especially if you travel outside the EU and need a visa.
But don’t expect a summer course on Parsons, New York to be a walk in the park. You will use a lot of hours on your course, so chose something that interests you. Don’t just do it to earn your ECTS points.