IT University Travel Report

Host University: Parsons – The New School for Design

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Design & Kommunikation (DDK)

Activity Abroad: Summer school, Course: Illustration beyond the page

Exchange Period: July 2015 – 3 weeks intensive study

Your stay abroad

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

My motivation for studying abroad was to experience a different and more creative focused course in another country. Additionally, by taking a summer course I wouldn’t loose a whole semester of DDK which was perfect for me. Beside this I had also heard a lot of good things about Parsons and about New York as destination.

The course Illustration: Beyond The Page did meet my expectations about being very creative. The assignments build upon learning about illustrating in 2D the first week, 3D in the next week and 4D in the third week. Every assignment focused about the clever idea and storytelling. The assignments were very fun and challenging even though I had experience with graphic design from home. Every week focused at one assignment at a time, which gave the possibility for immersion. The teaching method was based on learning by doing, which meant that we immediately after being presented the assignment started on our projects. Continually we got feedback on our projects and at the end of the week the projects was presented for the class during a crit-session.

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?

The Illustration course at Parsons has giving me more confidence in my execution of ideas. During the course I learned how to challenge myself in my storytelling with my illustrations and I learned a
way to give critique and feedback on more creative and aesthetic projects. These are skills that I can use in future projects during brainstorming sessions and in execution of final ideas.

**Arranging your stay**

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

It was a long time-consuming process to plan the study abroad. This was partly due to the visa application process. Even though you only are going to study for three weeks in the United States you need a student visa, which costs approximately 3000 DDK.

I started planning my study abroad 8 months in advance. At first I applied for a pre-approval at ITU. Next I registered for my summer intensive study. After receiving my acceptance letter from Parsons I applied for my visa that consisted of several steps.

**What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use?**

It was very helpful that former students from ITU had attended the summer school at Parsons which, I think, made the administrative process faster at ITU because they already knew about the school and the summer courses. Additionally I travelled with other students from DDK which made it possible to update each other regularly during the long application process.

**How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?**

Together with the other students from DDK we found an apartment in Manhattan 30 minutes from school. We got the contact through a friend. If you don’t know any in New York or don’t know any who knows any, I can recommend using Airbnb since it is very expensive staying at a hotel or at the Parsons student housing.

**Expenses and Financing**

**Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad and did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?**

Since the exchange rate was really high when travelling, it ended up being an expensive stay abroad. Though since I was aware of this before leaving I applied for several grants this including Augustinus Fondens grant which I was lucky to get. Unfortunately not many foundations want to support short-term studies abroad. Beside the grant from Augustinus Fonden I received a grant from ITU’s Travelpool and the SU Udenlandsstipendium.
Recommendations for other students:

Start planning your trip well in advance. It is a long time-consuming process because of the visa application process but also because it takes a while to get responses from Parsons International Student and Scholar services. Having said this I can only recommend other students to investigate their options in regard to electives abroad. If you decide to attend the summer intensive study *Illustration: Beyond the page*, be aware of that you should be able to execute your ideas at some level as the course will not give you lessons in drawing or how to use the programs in Adobe creative suit.