IT University Travel Report

Host University: Boston University

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Innovation & Management

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Study abroad

Courses studied abroad:

- IT Project Management
- Program Management
- Project Communication Management
- The Innovation Process: Developing New Products and Services

Exchange Period: Autumn 2015

Your stay abroad

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

The academic level at Boston University is similar to the IT University or slightly easier, depending on your exam style preferences. At BU your grade is determined by a combination of weekly assignments, quizzes, group presentation and class participation. As a result, weekly workload is quite high compared to the IT University. The only issue with Boston University is in some courses, it felt like rote learning was far more important than being able to fully understand and reflect about a given concept.

The social life at BU is quite good, there a lots of exchange students from all over the world. However, for graduate students, depending on your classes, most of the students are ‘adults’ working full time and have 1-2 evening classes a week. Furthermore, for the initial introduction meetings, graduate students from partnerships universities, such as ITU, are isolated from exchange students. The issue it that there are only give or take 50-60 students from partnerships universities compared to the several hundred exchange students. I would recommend upon arrival to track down some of the introduction events for the undergraduates and exchange students and tag along.
What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?

My initial motivation was based on two things; 1) a change of pace from the regular study environment, 2) living in a different country for longer period. I have been at the IT University since I started my bachelor in 2011. While, I like ITU, I wanted to try a different study environment, with people from different countries and with different backgrounds. Secondly, going abroad is a great way of experiencing a country. Compared to going on vacation, where you get to experience a culture for a few weeks, going abroad lets you be a part of the culture.

Finally, it is hard work preparing for going abroad, and at some points, I considered if it was even worth it. However, I would do it again if given the chance.

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?

Going abroad is a great way of growing as a person. There are several challenges you have to pass, both during the preparation and during the actual stay. More important, I met many new people and had a great time.

Academically, the courses a DIM has a high level of abstraction, which is why I choose to project management certificate at BU to gain more directly applicable knowledge. Secondly, I choose the courses to prepare for the master thesis.

Arranging your stay

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

There are several things you need to sort of before going abroad.

- Applying for the option to go abroad through ITU
- Send application to BU
  - You need a TOEFL test (Schedule a time early, don’t wait too long)
  - You need a statement from your bank, to prove you are able to pay for your stay.
- Apply for scholarships (Start early, even before you get approved by BU)
- Apply for VISA
- Find accommodation (once again start early. In August/September it is chaos)

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

When approved by BU, you will eventually receive a ‘welcome package’, which contains a lot of practical information, regarding housing, transportation, classes, life at BU, etc.
Otherwise reach out to Rikke or the MET international team at BU.

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

- I found accommodation at https://www.reddit.com/r/bostonhousing/ before I went to Boston.
  - But Craigslist is how most exchange students found housing.

**Expenses and Financing**

I spent approximately 110,000 on one-time expenditures, which includes tuition fee, flight tickets, hostel, TOEFL test, VISA books etc., and covered it with scholarships and the udlandsstipendium. My monthly expenditures was approximately 14,000, depending on how much I would dine out or if I was traveling.

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

- Augustinus Fonden
- Dansk Tennis Fond
- Oticon Fonden
- ITU Travel Pool
- Nordea fonden
- Knud Højgaard

**Recommendations for other students:**

Start applying for scholarships and grants early; ideally before you have been officially accepted into Boston. The udlandsstipendium only covers half of the tuition, so scholarships are crucial.

Lastly, travel as much as possible. New York is only a 3-4 hour bus ride away and Boston Airport has direct flights to most of the major cities in USA.