IT University - Travel Report

**Host University:** Oulu University

**Study Program at ITU:** Digital Design and Communication

**Activity Abroad:** UBI Summer School - Design Fiction for Data Geographies

**Please describe your stay abroad**
My stay abroad was a great and useful experience. It was well planned by Oulu University, both before hand, when being there and afterwards. We were well informed and taken care of the whole time. Information and communication with the professors and the staff was easy and fast and they were very welcoming and helpful. Our accommodation was suitable and a bus was scheduled to take us back and forth to campus every day. Activities were planned and arranged throughout the week, which was a dominant factor for a lively and social time as well. The course was challenging, but fair. It had a good balance between elements of learning new things and using your preset skills. Our professor was really easygoing, clever and a good teacher, which created a great learning environment.

**What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?**
My initial motivation was to try and work with different students, both background (country, culture etc.) and studies (Other skills, PhD level etc.) and in a new university and country. Also I wanted to try and study in Finland, having heard many positive things about their school programs. I also heard from previous students that this summer school had been an great experience both study wise and socially. – This was another motivation for me to go.

**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?**
Personally I got a lot of social experience from both traveling and meeting all the other students and professors. Academically I like to believe that I grew, in terms of handling an intense week of hardcore academic pressure, studying in a new country and adjusting so quickly to the different ways of living and learning.
Arranging your stay - Please give a short description of the process involved in arranging your stay:
When arranging my stay, almost everything was handled through the staff at the summer school. When applying for the summer school and when getting accepted, I was informed about these prearranged cottages, where we could stay. Everything in terms of planning and all information needed, was given to me by the staff. I was informed about dates, price and everything and just had to transfer the money and then everything was set.

What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use (if any)?
The internet, the UBISS website, Emailing and most of all the staff at the summer school. Information was given on their website and emails were send out regularly with more specific information regarding my stay.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?
The internet, the UBISS website, Emailing and most of all the staff at the summer school. Information was given on their website and emails were send out regularly with more specific information regarding my stay.

Expenses and Financing
Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad
I paid a registration fee of 380 euros for the course. I paid around 2500 DKK for the travel expenses, but should get some covered by the ITU Travel Pool in which I applied and got accepted for. Otherwise the University provided three dinners (with free alcohol), and free coffee, fruit and snacks every day at campus.

Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?
No I did not apply for scholarship.

Recommendations for other students:
I would definitely recommend this summer school for other students. It was a great experience and a great university for learning!