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: ITU

Study Programme at IT University : E-business

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Courses studied abroad: I wrote my thesis in Irvine, California where I lived for almost seven months. I was not enrolled on University of California Irvine. Instead I was only enrolled at ITU in Denmark. However I used the facilities at UCI such as the library at the university. Additionally I made friends on UCI.

Your stay abroad

What was it like to study at [the university] (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)? It was fantastic to write my thesis in Irvine California. Being away from Denmark gave me time to study without having friends and family around me. In weekends I went on sightseeing in California and also I went on a road trip with visiting friends in my spring break.

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

I have for a long time wanted to study abroad but for various reasons I didn’t succeed in planning an exchange program until now. My motivation was to become better at English and to gain insight in another (study) culture.

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 learned how to handle the challenging situation of arriving in another country without a place to live, furniture, friends, contacts or a car. In the beginning it was stressful but after a few weeks I had a nice apartment and everything I needed.
Everyone around me was very helpful. The stay in California was a springboard for personality development and a lot of great experiences that I will never forget.

Academically I have improved my English skills and it has been a great challenge to write a thesis away from Denmark. I did not have my supervisor around me but instead we had to arrange meetings at Skype. It was very challenging to collaborate from distance. My supervisor encouraged me to write my thesis in English because I was speaking English everyday living in USA. I accepted the challenge, which I presumably would never have done writing the thesis in Denmark.

Arranging your stay

Please give a short description of the process of arranging your stay: My choice of staying in Irvine was based on the factor that my boyfriend was a visiting research scholar at UCI. We wanted to travel together and share the adventure together, which has been great. We decided not to find an apartment until we arrived in Irvine, because we wanted to get to know Irvine a little better before we pinned ourselves down on a specific apartment.

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

The employees at UCI was helpful and kind as everyone else helping us to get a bank account, social security number and to accomplish other basic needs.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

The first week we found a place to stay via airbnb.com (https://www.airbnb.dk/). We lived in a nice apartment for a week and asked if the rental office in the community had vacant apartments. They helped us find an apartment, however in another community.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

I used my savings to pay for the stay in Irvine and had saved my last months of education grant to the stay. Additionally my boyfriend and I shared all the expenses, which made it a little easier to cover the expenses.

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

Recommendations for other students:
It was seven wonderful month and I think it was great to write my thesis in USA away from my everyday life in Copenhagen where friends and family always tempt you with gatherings of different kinds.