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: Mills College, Oakland, CA

Study Programme at IT University: DDK

Activity Abroad: Research

Exchange Period: semester (autumn/spring) _______autumn________ year _______2016_______

Your stay abroad

Please describe your stay abroad:

My stay abroad was centered on an interdisciplinary study and practice-based research project of aesthetics and phenomenology of post-Internet electronic sound and music culminating in my graduate thesis at ITU. The stay included a month-long artist residency at Mills College in Oakland, CA, as the main reason for travel, but also a vibrant study and art milieu.

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

The initial motivation came from professor Maggi Payne in the Center for Contemporary Music at Mills College in Oakland, CA. She encouraged me to apply for an artist residency at her university in connection with my thesis project at ITU. The facilities at the university and the arts community in the Bay Area exceeded my expectations by far.
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 was awarded a tremendous amount of artistic freedom at Mills College, which was paramount for my research. Furthermore I was able to participate in a lot of different smaller projects during my stay that all ended up feeding my thesis project with a vast amount of insights. I was able to network with several different universities, including Stanford and Berkeley, but established a very special connection with Mills College, which will definitely be a place where I will conduct further research in the future, maybe even apply for a PhD.

Arranging your stay

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

I visited the Bay Area a year before my stay, which was extremely important for my chances at getting accepted for the residency there. Also a lot of networking at conferences helped me out with planning. An open project description helped me form the project on the go: this was especially important for a creative process. Things should breath.

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

Funding for this project was very similar to artist funding in general, so I turned to my experience as an artist and composer. Also my thesis supervisors and my undergrad uni helped me out with letters of recommendation. Extremely important.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

Mills College provided housing for my residency. For the remainder of my trip I met people there and things just happened. CraigsList is your friend, but don’t count on it. Meet people instead.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

The US is expensive, but San Francisco/Oakland/Bay Area is particularly expensive. Housing is insane. Funding is needed.
Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?

I applied and was awarded the Augustinus Foundation grant and grants from KODA and DJBFA. Augustinus is wonderful if you’re doing music or sound studies. Knud Højgaards fond is also recommendable.

**Recommendations for other students:**

Travel as much as you can. It’s worth it. I didn’t travel abroad as an exchange student, but arranged this artist residency completely on my own. You should do the same. Don’t be discouraged by university regulations or Erasmus-deals with partners you’re not interested in. Do your own thing.