Travel report

Host University: University of Oslo, Norway

Study Programme at IT University: 5th semester DMD student

Exchange Courses studied abroad: Qualitative methods, Social science research and Large and complex information systems (all of the courses is in Norwegian)

Exchange Period: Fall 2016

Your stay abroad

What was it like to study at the University of Oslo?

In general, I did not find living and studying in Oslo that different from living and studying in Copenhagen, as the culture in Norway and Denmark is similar. However, the University of Oslo (UiO) is a bigger University than ITU and therefore have a much bigger campus, more students and student organisations. UiO have a large international student environment, and as an incoming exchange student, there is an introduction week before the semester starts, where you are introduced to the other exchange student, the university and life in Oslo.

I had three courses doing the semester at UiO, all of them in Norwegian. I was generally happy about the courses and the academic level was similar to ITU. I would have preferred to have at least one of the courses in English, but most of the available courses in English at a bachelor lever was not relevant for my studies at ITU. However, I knew that I would have to have courses in Norwegian when I applied to UiO and as expected, I understood most of what was said after just a week. An important detail is that I could hand in all of my written assignment in Danish. This also included group assignment, where I would write my sections in Danish and the rest of the group would write in Norwegian.

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

My initial motivation for taking a semester abroad was to have the experience of studying in another country and being in an international environment. In addition to the general motivation to do a semester abroad, some of the courses offered at UiO motivated me to apply for this specific university. My semester at UiO defiantly met my expectations. I had some interesting courses and made many new friends from all over the world.
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?

Doing my stay in Oslo, I had some amazing experiences and got to meet people from all over the world. Even though the culture, and even the language, is not that different in Norway, I feel like I personally have learned a lot from being on my own in a different country.

Another thing I got out of my stay at UiO, was to have one specific course. This course was really interesting and I don’t believe that I would have been able to take a similar elective at ITU. In addition, I think the course was a really good supplement to my bachelor degree in Digital media and Design and I believe it will have a positive effect in my further studies.

Arranging your stay

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

Arranging my stay at UiO was not too difficult. The university’s website is very descriptive and it was easy to find the deadlines for the enrollment, course registration and housing application. Given that I am a Danish citizen and I stayed in Norway for less than 6 months, I didn’t have to apply for any type of visa or register me arrival.

The biggest challenge I had was getting courses at UiO preapproved for the mandatory course DMD students have on their 5th semester. There was no obvious substitution for this course and it took a few application to find a combination of courses at UiO.

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

As mentioned, UiO’s website was very useful when I was planning my stay.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

As an incoming exchange student at UiO, you are guaranteed housing though SiO (Student welfare organisation), if the application deadline is met. SiO offers many different types of accommodation in a wide price range, which also includes some cheap options.
Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

Norway is in general an expensive country to live in, but I believe it is manageable if you think about where you spend your money and make your own food. Food and especially alcohol is expensive, even in the supermarket.

There is no tuition fee at UiO, and the agreement between ITU and UiO covers the small semester fee students have to pay. The agreement is a part of the Erasmus program, which made me eligible for an Erasmus scholarship. Along with my SU, this scholarship almost covered all of my daily expenses, including rent and transportation. In addition, I used money on traveling around Norway.

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

I only applied for the Erasmus scholarship.

Recommendations for other students:

I can really recommend doing a semester abroad and especially a semester in Oslo. It is a nice city and the university offers a good international environment. In addition, Norway is a beautiful county with an amazing nature. If you are considering going to Norway, see if you can go in the spring semester, as I believe it is a better fit with the seasons. In the spring semester, you will have the skiing season doing the wither month and when spring comes around you can go hiking in the beautiful nature. Also, start preparing your stay and looking into courses as soon as possible!