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: IED - ISTITUTO EUROPEO DI DESIGN, Barcelona, Spain
Study Programme at IT University: Digital Design & Communication
Activity Abroad: Summer School: Two week intensive course in Innovation & Future Thinking
Exchange Period: Summer 2018

Your stay abroad

Please describe your stay abroad:

“Innovation and Future Thinking” at IED in Barcelona was each day (Monday-Friday) 16:40-21:40 in two weeks with approximately 20 students from all over the world. During these two weeks, we were introduced to three overall themes with new professors to each ones. Throughout the course, we were having a few classic “lectures” where people from the innovation field would come in and give a very interesting “talk”. Afterwards, we would usually be placed in groups to work on the topic from that day. It was a course that was filled with many practical probs where we learned to use new ways of thinking when being given a challenge.

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

I wanted try new ways of dealing with challenges and therefore, by placing myself in a new country with people from 10+ different countries, I could accomplish just that. Besides that, I found it very rewarding to work intensively on a project for two weeks instead of spreading it out on a four month semester. This way, I was able to have a less stressful autumn semester afterwards.

However, the academic level was not as high as I had hoped. It was clear, that the students from ITU had a bit more knowledge within the topic than students from e.g. Brazil or
Barcelona. Yet again, it was a completely new way of learning, which was very rewarding for me.

Also, I wanted to explore the culture of Barcelona and working in a new environment.

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?

The course “Innovation and Future Thinking” gave me new interesting ways to deal with problems, challenges and opportunities. I gained a lot of new methods in which I can use in my everyday life at ITU and at my work place. ITU focuses a lot on articles and research, whereas the approach of this course was more on the hands-on methods and how to move forward towards innovation, and learning to think of the future and how to spot areas of change in society. Additionally, I loved the more practical way of working because it is something I can translate directly into future group work.

Arranging your stay

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

IED was very easy to communicate with and answered within a day each time a sent them an email. As I got all the answers I wanted, I could apply for the summer course at ITU and wait for their approval of the course. After that, I could apply online to IED and fill out their formular. We did not need to take a language test or get a VISA or anything. It was very quick and I received the acceptance letter a few days later.

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

I have been studying abroad in New Zealand in 2016, so I new how the process was. I travelled to Barcelona with two of my friends from ITU, so we arranged and talked to SAP together.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

The two other students from ITU and I arranged to stay at an apartment close to IED in Barcelona through Airbnb. As we had to wait a long time for the approval from ITU and the fact that the summer course was in the middle of July, all hotels and apartments were quite expensive.
Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

The course was approximately 12.000DKK and we received almost 8.000DKK from SU-udlandsstipendium. We payed 3.000DKK each for flight tickets and received 1500kr from ITU Travel pool.

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

I did not apply for any scholarships besides the ITU Travel Pool.

Recommendations for other students:

I am now in the middle of my autumn semester and I can highly recommend taking a summer course as it will lighten the semester a lot. Other than that, IED is a very up-to-date design school with competent teachers and interesting materials to work with. If you want a more hands-on and practical course, you should definitely take this one.