IT University Travel Report

Host University: Parsons School of Design, New York

Study Programme at IT University: Digital Design and Communication

Activity Abroad: Summer intensive course

Exchange Period: Summer 2018

Your stay abroad

Please describe your stay abroad:

This summer I attended at Parsons intensive summer program in New York for the course; Graphic Design 1. It was a 7.5 ECTS course that lasted three weeks where I went to class Monday-Friday 9-16. After class there was, most days, homework where I used 1-3 hours daily. Most of the homework was things that I could do sitting outside or at a café in the park.

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

I have always wanted to improve my skills within graphic design, such as Photoshop and InDesign. I have used the programs before, but I thought that I needed to know all the basic things before I could really work with these programs. This course taught me all the basic things that I needed to be aware of and it also taught me to think in a more creative way. It wasn’t a difficult course, but still I learned a lot - and I learned by doing, not by reading. So, summative, the course met all my expectations.

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?

Academically I learned all the basic things in Photoshop and InDesign, which was the point of my stay. Personally I love New York - and I loved staying there for the summer. In 2015 I took a semester abroad in California, which taught me a lot about how it is to live in another country where the culture is different than in a little country like Denmark. At Parsons I was only attending for three weeks, but I still feel that I learned a lot about living in New York. New York is a city that moves fast
and where everyone is busy all the time. So sitting at a café in the middle of Manhattan doing my homework was an experience in itself.

Arranging your stay

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

It is a long process because there are many practical things. For instance the student visa, which you need to book a meeting for, can take some time to get. Also finding a place to live can take time. New York is expensive (!!!!) so me and two other girls from ITU ended up at the residence hall at Parsons. It was still pretty expensive but the location was good and it was in a safe neighborhood. There was mouse in our room, it wasn’t clean when we arrived and there was a funny, disgusting smell in the hallway, but we didn’t spent that much time in the room, so it didn’t matter!

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

I used google and talked to the two girls that I was travelling with. We used Parsons website to find out where to live. They recommended that we didn’t use Airbnb because many students has been tricked at that website. So we decided to take the safe way and stayed at the residence hall.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

Inspiration from Parsons website and by talking to the two girls that I was travelling with.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

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

I only applied for 3 scholarships – one of them was the ITU Travel Pool. Many of the scholarships that I was looking at were for students there would be abroad for over 5 month.

Recommendations for other students:

Stay at a place near Parsons so you don’t have to use a lot of time on public transportation. We could walk from the residence hall in seven minutes – and grab a coffee on the way (you walk past three Starbucks on the way).
In the letter you receive from Parsons there is a list with materials that you need to buy before attending to class. Many of the things on the list weren’t necessary to buy, and some of the things could also be shared. They also write that you need to bring your own computer and download Adobe. I brought my computer and downloaded the program, but I didn’t use it at all because we used a computer room where the programs already was installed.