



## **IT University Travel Report**

**Study Programme at IT University:** DIM

**Activity Abroad:** Thesis project related visit to Hamburg

### **Your stay abroad**

**Please describe your stay abroad:**

My thesis partner and I traveled to Hamburg as part of our thesis project. We wrote our thesis about the biggest smart city project in Germany: The Connected Urban Twins. Our thesis had a qualitative focus and we wished to conduct interviews on-site through an ethnographic approach. We were able to conduct our interviews over a few days.

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

Since we wrote about a German project we felt it was purposeful to travel there and speak with our informants personally. Our visit went beyond our expectations, since we were not only able to meet with our interviewees but also see their work places. For example, we saw the CityScience Lab at the Hafencity University, and we visited the workshop of the Hamburg Port Authority. This added to our perspective in the project beyond just the interviews.

**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?**

Personally, we were able to build trust with our interview partners on another level than if we had done the interviews online. To me, it was also an opportunity to brush up on my German skills, a language I have always enjoyed. Academically, our stay was also very important. I believe it is beneficial to be in the middle of what you are studying, rather than just reading about it, observing, and doing online/phone interviews.

### **Arranging your stay**

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

Firstly, we arranged our interviews by email. Then, I booked tickets (bus to Hamburg and flight home). I booked a hotel room that was close to most of our interviews.

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

Hotels.com, Momondo.

**How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?**

Booked a hotel room that was central in the city and close to where most of our interviews would take place.

## **Expenses and Financing**

**Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad**

Apart from travel tickets to and from Hamburg and accommodation, I had expenses using public transportation in the city as well as on meals.

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

I did not apply for any scholarships.

## **Recommendations for other students:**

When doing academic work about other countries, If at all possible, do travel there. It is very rewarding. In my case, I ended up spending money myself on the trip, but I did that willingly. With good planning, I am sure there is scholarship funding to find.