



## 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:** Georgia Institute of Technology

**Study Programme at IT University :** BDDIT

**Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad:** Exchange

**Courses studied abroad:** Principles of Information Design, Principles of Visual Design, Communication & Culture

**Exchange Period:** semester (autumn/spring) Autumn year 2021

**If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here:**

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## Your stay abroad

**What was it like to study at [the university] (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)?**

It was a really good experience. I did run into some major problems with course registration, though, and in the end, I was not able to get all the courses I needed which means that I'll now have to extend my degree with one semester. I went on exchange on the 5<sup>th</sup> semester of BDDIT and generally, it's probably easier to go on the 4<sup>th</sup> semester because you can move the electives from 6<sup>th</sup> semester to the 4<sup>th</sup> and have more freedom with course registration. If you want to go on the 5<sup>th</sup> semester and want to do Undergraduate research to replace KVFAF, arrange it with the College of Computing beforehand (the sooner the better!).

The academic level was much lower than what I was used to at ITU. In the three courses I took, I only had a total of about 8 contact hours a week. There was a lot of mandatory homework due throughout the semester so you were required you to do the homework on time (no way of not doing the reading until the exam period as is often possible with ITU's courses) but the workload was much, much lighter in total. The readings were

mostly short and easily read texts, and the homework itself mostly consisted of small creative projects and reading reviews. I still learned a lot but you should expect a lower academic level.

The social life was definitely what made my semester abroad so amazing! I lived in the I-House which is a dorm on campus for both exchange students and local students and I was able to make close friends that I'm sure I'll have many years in the future. Lots of fun stuff is always going on around campus and all clubs and societies are generally open to exchange students so there are endless opportunities to have a rich social life!

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

I really wanted to experience living in a foreign country while being on my own and going to school in a completely different educational environment. I also wanted to experience the fun social life of exchange students that I've heard described from people having been on exchange in the past. My stay definitely lived up to all of my expectations. I had such a good time and no matter what your motivation is for going on exchange, I couldn't recommend it more!!

**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?**

Besides improving my English quite a bit, I definitely learned a lot about myself and the fact that I'm capable of taking care of myself while being on my own far away from my support system in Denmark. I also think that the cultural awareness that you gain as an exchange student is extremely valuable.

## **Arranging your stay**

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

Arranging my stay was an incredibly long and tedious process that took up so much time and energy that I was questioning at times whether it was all worth it (It was!!!). You'll need to go to an interview at the US embassy and I was initially not able to book an interview due to the pandemic (I eventually succeeded) so at first it looked like I'd have to go to a different country to have my interview at another US embassy. As I mentioned, the process was very much worth it but it was incredibly frustrating and there wasn't really any help to get from neither Georgia Tech, the US authorities or ITU.

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

I talked to a BDDIT student in the year above me who had studied abroad at Georgia Tech which was very helpful. Besides that: Facebook pages and Georgia Tech's own informational pages online.

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

I lived in the International House (I-House) which was on-campus accommodation. I would strongly suggest anyone going to Georgia Tech to apply as it was through i-House I made most of my friends and the community is very, very strong. Put in as much effort as you can with your motivational essay as this will decide whether or not you get in!

## **Expenses and Financing**

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

Atlanta is an expensive city to live in and my SU wasn't even able to cover my rent. So I would strongly recommend starting to save up in advance.

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

I applied for about 15 scholarships and ended up getting the ones offered by ITU – The Travel Pool and the Lemvigh-Müller scholarships.

**Recommendations for other students:**