

**The University of Tokyo Study Abroad/Student Exchange Program Report Form
(for programs from a week to 3 months)**

Date: 09/09/2016

Faculty/Graduate School at UTokyo:	Graduate School of Interdisciplinary Information Studies	Year at the time of Study Abroad	M1
Program Attended:	IARU GSP	Host University:	University of Copenhagen
Occupation after graduation (intended):			
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Research		
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Specialist (Medical • Judiciary • Accountant)		
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Civil Service		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	4. NPO		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5. Private sector (Type of industry:)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	6. Entrepreneurship		
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Others ()		

Outline of the receiving institution overseas

KU is the oldest university in Denmark, and the second oldest for higher education in Scandinavia. Its campuses sprawl all over the city, and they hold one of the architectural wonders of a dormitory in the south side.

Reason why you decided to participate

I wanted to grab opportunities provided by the University of Tokyo, in liaison with leading research universities around the world. I wanted to go outside my comfort zone, meet new people, and travel by myself across the globe.

Preparation for the program

(1) Application process (please give any advice on dealing with the application process)

Apply in advance, always. It is to leave sufficient time for mistakes and other paperwork needed prior departure.

(2) Visa application (type of visa, where to apply, processing time, any advice on visa application)

It would be best if there is an endorsement from University of Tokyo because I had experienced delays due to clarifications by the embassy to the university. Also best to have English forms by default because the embassy does not accept Japanese ones.

(3) Medical check-ups (health check-ups before departure, inoculations, etc.)

I had no medical check-ups before departure.

(4) Insurance (information about insurance for travel/studying abroad purchased)

I had purchased insurance and had some trouble with the number of days and payment, but was able to arrange everything prior departure.

(5) Procedures required by your Faculty/Graduate School (any information about course registration, credits, exams, submission of dissertations etc)
Course registration is still pending because the host university has yet to provide certification for my study abroad.
(6) Language preparation (language level before the program, lessons etc.)
The course only required English, no preparation required prior departure.
(7) Items which should be taken with you from Japan and any other advice on things which should be done before leaving Japan.
I had arranged a Japanese credit card before my departure, as well as enabled international withdrawal from my debit card with Shinsei bank. Both pre-departure preparation provided to be very helpful and I would highly recommend cashless transactions abroad.
Information on the academic/research program
(1) Outline of the program (Style of the lessons/preparation study/review study, thing which left an impression on you, etc.)
It might be best to read on the material beforehand as summer courses could be quite material intensive. To follow through properly with the course, it is suggested to be familiar with the material provided on the syllabus.
(2) Advice on aspects of academic/research work
I would advise on writing the course paper little by little after every session for freshness as the program could be very intensive.
(3) Problems experienced with language issues, advice concerning language, etc.
No problems in Denmark.
Aspects of life
(1) Accommodation (Type (home-stay, room-sharing etc.), cost, atmosphere/appearance of accommodation, how you found it, etc.)
The accommodation I got was through the university housing foundation. I would recommend a University of Tokyo internal network of alumni for insight and suggestions prior booking, similar to what I had observed with NUS students who had stayed in the same accommodation.
(2) Living environment (such as climate, environment around the institution, transport facilities, food, managing your money (overseas money transfer, credit cards))
Summer in nordic countries have very long days, as opposed to summers in the kindly temperate countries, or tropical countries as I have been used to, it still remains cold and rainy. Please be prepared and bring layers of clothes, just in case.

(3) Aspects of risk and safety management (safety of local region, condition of medical facilities, any action taken in maintaining your mental and physical health, etc.)
Copenhagen was a very safe and clean city. It was easy to get around but also as there are not many people, it would be best to always travel with a buddy, just in case.
(4) Details of expenses (breakdown of costs, such as airfare, program fees, cost of required books, rent, food, travel cost, money spent on entertainment)
I had utilized scholarship money for accommodation and transit tickets, but had given myself allowance for entertainment within the region. Taking special care not to spend money I do not have. Food will be cheaper when cooking, even just for breakfast. Program fees are similar to what is posted on the official website, I would also suggest talking to non-locals as they know the best deals in case of touring the location.
(5) Financial aid (if you were receiving financial aid/scholarships, please give the name of the source of the aid, amount, and how you found it, etc.)
I had received Santander scholarship, in direct affiliation with IARU.
(6) Activities other than academic/research work (sports, cultural, volunteer/internship, weekend activities, etc.)
We had field trip on the country side during the first weekend. Following weekends and free days were also spent with friends in suburban areas. In Copenhagen, it is an additional experience to transit using the bicycle and would highly recommend this as opposed to buying a metro pass.
Environment of the receiving institution
(1) Support facilities for students taking part in the program (such as language, academic, living support mechanism and counseling services)
I was unable to obtain my ID card due to student support miss.
(2) Facilities (libraries, sports facilities, cafeteria, IT equipment and facilities, etc.)
I was able to go to the library of the college of theology, center of Kierkegaard, holding my summer course. Otherwise, I was not able to go around much of the other campuses because of my lack of access.
Looking back over the program
(1) The significance of the program and how you have developed by taking part in it, any other impression from having studied abroad
I have obtained a wider worldview, and made friends with an interesting mix of people of various ages and background. Moreover the course content, I believe this is what I cherish the most.
(2) Your plans having studied abroad

Study abroad had no direct implications towards my future plans, but had satiated my wanderlust enough to focus on my research without looking back. :)

(3) Any messages or advice for future participants

Have fun, do not be too serious in class, but do not slack off as well. It is a privilege to be in a talented pool of students from all over the world, make sure to socialize and expand your network- not just within your comfort zone.

Miscellaneous

(1) Websites or publications which were useful while preparing for or during your time overseas

Mobile applications are godsent- in Copenhagen, please take special notice of the following:

Rejseplanen

Mobilbiletter

Google Maps!

(2) Please submit any photographs which may be used on the University of Tokyo websites or publications.

