

GUIDELINES FOR WRITING THE STUDENT REPORT

You can write the report either in English or Icelandic

Name of the University: BI Norwegian Business School , Oslo

Names of the students: Gunnfríður Björnsdóttir

Exchange semester: Fall 2013 and Spring 2014

Faculty: Business Administration

I GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

1. Describe the school and its surroundings – very short
Very modern, huge building and seems difficult to know your way around at first. Offers the whole BBA program in English but also in Norwegian. There are quite few international and exchange students every semester.
2. Current faculty divisions and special areas.
BBA has its own dedicated study and learning area in the school and most classes take place in the same area.
3. Number of students - graduate and undergraduate – number of exchange students
20.000 students, 1200 international students
4. Study structure
3 years for BSc and 2 year Master.

II PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Information before you left

- When did you receive the information package from the University?
The summer before I left
- Any difficulties?
No

Visa Procedure and travel experiences

- What problems, if any did you encounter?
No problem, Nordic students don't need Visa and don't have to register in the country either. I brought my family along, so we registered therefore.
- Does the visa cost anything?
Don't need one.
- How did you order your ticket – any problems?
Online, Icelandair, no problems

Academic Calendar

- Arrival date – introductory week
Introduction week started week before the school or 13th of August
- First day of the semester?
19th of August for fall, 6th of January for spring.
- Last day of classes?
End of November and mid-April
- Examination period?
November/December and Mid-April – 19 June
- Any special events?
Career week in the fall.

Reception

- How was the reception at the school?
Very good.
- Was the administration and faculty well prepared for your arrival?
Yes very well prepared and organized.
- Did the school's students participate in the reception of the exchange students?
There is a program called "fadderrullan" for all new students, exchange, international and Norwegian. Everybody are divided into small groups and few older students are the

“fadder” (fathers) of that group and show them around school, make sure everybody know there way around town to get to parties or other gatherings the first week.

Housing

- Did you have housing at your disposal or did you have to find your own housing?
Since I had my family with me, we had to find our own housing. But all international students (that are by themselves) are guaranteed housing if they apply within the given deadline.
- What support did you receive from the school in locating housing?
None since I needed family appartement.
- Any special issues or good ideas for prospective students?
If you are moving into your own house, find one that is furnished and buy the rest on finn.no or find it there for free (gis bort). If it is not in walking distance from school, then it's good to have t-bane station (underground) close by.

Costs

- Describe the most important expenses such as rent, books, food, etc.
Coming from Iceland, everything is double. And get used to it right away so you don't go mad. On the other hand, all the supermarket have specials on something every week, so make sure to look those up. If you have a family I recommend membership at the COOP chain, there you get membership deals on diapers and specials every week. You get your membership refunded after minimum of three months membership time. There are also organized trips to Sweden to buy cheaper food and alcohol, look up Harry-tur and you will find it.

The International Office

- Is there an international office?
Yes and they are great. Will do their best to help you with any kind of issue you have.
- Who is responsible for incoming exchange students?
Kine Robertsen, best coordinator for Incoming Exchange students there is.
- How does the international office function?
They have office on the third floor, can drop by on office hours or send e-mail and they will answer quickly. There are also facebook groups for the exchange students.
- Do you receive all relevant information?
Yes, there are always e-mails in advance if something is happening, and students also help each other in the facebook group, plus the staff at the international office answer questions in that group as well.

Exchange promotion

- What kind of activity did you take part in to promote exchange to Iceland at your exchange university?
I was in an interview in the school paper.

Social Activities

- How is your relationship with other students?
Very good, everyone in the English program were very helpful and nice.
- How is the relationship among the exchange students?
Good, there are facebook groups and the Blanners.
- Is there a student organization, and if so, are the exchange students part of it?
Yes, and yes if they choose to.
- Are there any special activities and gatherings for exchange students?
Yes the BINNERS (BI + Dinner)
- How do you like it at the school?
I thought it was a great school and I liked my stay there very much. I was in little bit different position as most exchange students since my afternoons and weekends were dedicated to my family, and therefore I didn't attend many of the events or parties that were planned.

Culture and Language

- Do you have any language problems with the faculty or other students?

- No, everyone at school spoke very good English
- How are the possibilities to experience the country and the culture?
There are some organized trips, and no problem to get around yourself in the underground or buses.

Cultural and Social Effects from the Exchange Experience

- How do you think the exchange experience will affect you from a cultural and social point of view?
More tolerant of other cultures, easier to get to know new people and talk to strangers.
- How do you think the exchange experience influences your future career possibilities?
I think so yes, the school is much respected, so it is good on your CV, and I think it is good characteristic to have experienced living in another country and widens your horizons.

III ACADEMIC INFORMATION

The Teaching situation

- In which language are the courses taught? Any problems?
English and no.
- How would you evaluate the level of study in relationship to the level at RU?
About the same
- Is the teaching primarily practical or theoretical?
Combination of both, but also depends on the teacher.
- Are the professors using cases, group work or lectures (or a mix)?
Mixture of everything, most of them have group work.
- How is the workload compared to that at RU?
About the same, maybe little bit more cause it's all in second language for most students.
- How is the relationship between faculty and students?
Good.
- What is the relationship between the students in the classroom?

Required Literature

- Is the literature in English?
yes
- How do you estimate the level of the literature?
Same as RU, some of the text in Financial bubbles were very hard to read.
- Is the literature used for detailed knowledge or a broad overview?
Detailed knowledge, some have extra literature on the list as well.
- Is exam based on the literature or on the lectures?
Both, mostly literature though.

Exams

- What types of exams were you given?
Some classes had term paper as final grade. Other were up to 5 hours final exam counting 100% of the grade.
- What knowledge level was required to pass the exams?
Think it is about the same as in RU, need to show basic understanding of the subject, but grades are given in; A,B,C,D,E and F is fail.

Other

- Do students have easy access to the library and it's resources?
Yes, the library is very good, lot of places to study and helpful staff.
- How is the access to the computers?
Many computers in the library, student Wi-Fi all around school
- How is IT used in the teaching or as a distributor of information?
Software called atbi or @bi, which is similar to myschool at RU. There you can find, previous exams, timetable and all information you need. From @bi you log on to "its

learning” which is software where you can find all the lectures, notes from the teachers and turn in assignments.

Description of Courses

Please list all the courses you are taking in the form below:

- Name and code of the course
- Prerequisites, if any
- Exam form
- Comments: Relevance, Difficult/easy, Practical/theoretical, Enrolment problems

<i>Course name:</i>	<i>Prereq.</i>	<i>Exam</i>	<i>Approved as</i>
<i>Strategy</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Term paper</i>	<i>Stefnumótun</i>
<i>Business research Method</i>	<i>Statistic</i>	<i>Term paper and written exam</i>	<i>MAVÍ</i>
<i>Business and Professional Ethics</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Term paper and other assignments</i>	<i>Siðfræði</i>
<i>Financial bubbles, crashes and crisis</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Written exam</i>	<i>Elective</i>
<i>Internship</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>240 hours of internship work, term paper counts 100% for grade</i>	<i>Elective</i>

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Please fill in all the courses you have taken

Any other experiences:

Names and e-mails:

The International Office will appreciate if you will inform about your e-mail addresses, so that other students can contact you for more information.

Feel free to contact me at: gunnfridur10@ru.is