

Name Module	Computer Science / BIT Study Tour
Language	English
Contact person	Geert Heijenk
Specific prerequisites (regarding incoming exchange)	The minor is only accessible for B-CS and BIT third year bachelor students. Students need to fulfil the study progress requirements for minors. (This minor is not open for incoming exchange students). Students for this module will be selected, based on an application and interview.
Participating study	Technical Computer Science (B-CS), Business and IT
Starting block	1A

Theme

This minor module gives students from the bachelor programs Technical Computer Science (B-CS) and Business and IT (BIT) the possibility to go abroad and to experience what it is to be active in an international context in a certain field of study. Students will visit e.g. companies, (governmental) institutions, universities and alike (from now on: companies) to study a theme which has been prepared before actually going abroad. Students will spend approximately 2 weeks in the destination countries, during which around 15 companies are visited.

Content (including project)

Participation in the study tour can be in the role of participant and in the role of organizer. The organizers form the study tour committee, and will jointly perform all organizational aspects of the study tour.

This module consists of three phases (theme research phase, preparation phase, and company research phase (the actual study tour)), which have the following contents:

1. Theme research phase.

All participants perform research on one of the research tracks that are related to the course theme. Each participant carries out a scientific study that matches one of the tracks and is linked to a qualified supervisor on the basis of the selected track.

The purpose of this part is to write a scientific paper. First, a proposal will be written containing a research question. After approval of the research question by the supervisor, participants will perform their research and write a paper. All participants will present their research in a small workshop, where all participants, organizers, and supervisors are present. At the end of the module all students have a sound understanding of the research tracks.

2. Preparation phase.

All participants will explore the macro and meso contexts of the visited region / countries and compare it to their home country.

3. Company research phase.

All participants will perform a company research project. This project deems as a preparation so that every student knows what each visited company does. The students are supposed to prepare critical questions for the company hosts to complete their research upfront, but are also expected to listen and ask critical questions based on what the hosts say during the visits.

The organizers of the study tour have the task to successfully organize and complete the study tour. The study tour committee has the following positions: Chairwoman/Chairman, Research Coordinator, Treasurer, External Affairs and Travel Coordinator. During this module, organizers will put more emphasis on the organizational aspects of the study tour, compared to the participants. They will have a different role during the theme research phase and the company research phase. Their reporting and grading will also be different. They will write a reflection report, regarding their role in the organization of the study tour.

Active participation in all common activities (preparation phase, theme research workshop, company visits) is mandatory for all participants and organizers.

Learning goals

The high-level learning goals for this module are as follows:

1. Knowledge: Students should be able to explain the most important characteristics of the country or countries visited, and the theories around the theme to be researched.
2. Comprehension: Students should be able to discuss the theories and select the components that are of importance for the research at home and abroad.
3. International experience: Students should be able to apply the knowledge while being abroad and demonstrate a thorough understanding of the differences between their home country and the countries that are visited.
4. Organization: Students should be able to plan and organize a large international activity.
5. Analysis & synthesis: Students should be able to design a research plan, collect data and analyse the data gathered regarding the theme and the organizations visited.
6. Reporting: Students should be able to write a scientific paper about their theme research, report an analysis of the visited organizations, and/or write a reflection report on the organization of the study tour.

Educational forms

- workshops
- company visits

Assessments

For participants, assessment will be based on the report for the preparation phase (33%, at least 5.5), the scientific paper and presentation for the theme research (33%, at least 5.5), and the company research report (34%, at least 5.5).

For organizers, the assessment will be based on the reflection report (100%, at least 5.5).