

Final report – A semester at Birmingham City University

1. Where and when did you study abroad?

I was studying in Birmingham at Birmingham City University from January to June.

2. What KEA program did you attend at the time?

I am studying Jewellery, Technology and Business at KEA.

3. What classes did you take during your semester abroad?

My school/department was called BCU - School of Jewellery and I had two courses here. They were called 'Event and project management' and 'ADM Live project'. In the 'Event and project management' course I had to plan a fictional event for an English jewellery brand. I had to focus on the right planning methods with help from models and which desions

Academic Experience

1. How helpful was the receiving school in the process of choosing classes and settling you in?

BCU were extremely helpful throughout the whole process. The ideology of studying abroad is a very exciting prospect, but the transition was a lot more complex than I'd once imagined, BCU were very welcoming and helpful every step of the journey.

2. What classes/study experiences did you find the most rewarding? Why?

Event and Project Management – Because it is something that I can relate back to the real world quite easily and find it extremely useful if I am ever to start up my own business one day.

3. What classes/study experiences did you find least relevant or least valuable to you? Why?

ADM Live project – I found the class structure wasn't as well prepared as I would have hoped. Also, I was never supposed to have this class, they just put me in it because I needed to have more hours on the school.

4. What classes would you advise other KEA students going to the receiving school to choose or not to choose?

I would recommend Event and Project Management because it is very relevant and interesting. It was some good methods and model we learned about and I can definitely use them in my own life one day. I would also recommend ADM Live Project, but I would also want them to know that the classes can seem a little unorganized.

DESIGN, DIGITAL and TECH students

Cultural/Personal Experience

1. What challenges did you experience culturally while Being abroad?

First and foremost was the language barrier, although I can speak great English, people would still notice my accent and automatically close themselves off. It was much easier mingling with the other exchange students.

a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

There isn't much BCU could have done about the general public being more open with foreigners. However, I feel as if the common area near my student dorm was constantly thriving with likeminded students, so that was a great solution for me.

2. What was the best cultural/personal experience during your studies abroad?

Being able to 'live' somewhere else, not just travel. I found it very rewarding to experience a home away from home. Making friends and studying in another city/country was challenging, but also beneficial to my growth as a person

3. What advice would you give other KEA students going to study abroad at the receiving school?

I think it was a great idea to go with a friend, or somebody you know, to make that initial transition a little less daunting. It also made my time a lot better when I created close friendships with my flat mates, and eventually started taking day trips around the country.

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

It was long and complex, but also necessary. It would be nice to have someone like a 'mentor' to help through the process. Maybe someone that's done it all before.

a. What did KEA help you with?

Coordinating documents and anything relevant necessary for the exchange.

b. What help did you receive from your school abroad?

Guidance from the Erasmus coordinators.

2. Did you have any practical difficulties settling down in at your destination?

No, it was smooth.

a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

Very helpful!

2. Where did you live?

Birmingham, England.

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

No

b. Was it expensive?

A little

3. What kind of expenses did you have in general?

Food and drink, occasional personal shopping trips

a. Did you spend more or less money than you budgeted with?

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More or less pretty even.

We look forward to reading/seeing your report and to have you
back at KEA soon!