

Questionnaire Study Abroad/Exchange

1. Where and when did you study abroad?

I studied in Birmingham at Birmingham City University in the spring semester 2019

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

I attended the Multimedia Design and Communication program.

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

I took 2 different classes and then a collaborative project.

The first class I took was “*Creating Compelling Content*” Which was about creating content from a PR perspective, and collaborating with influencers and different clients and how to target and create content for a specific target audience and how to attract the press and the media and create good content.

The second class I took was “*Advanced Visual Communication*”, which consisted of creating a lot of different visual communication, and designing different things from Website design to package design.

Both classes were more practical, so for the final report was there a portfolio part and a small written part.

The collaborative project were a project where you collaborate with students from the entire faculty/ from different studies. We were giving a word and had to think creatively how we could create a product or project out from that specific word. The only thing was it had to be connected to Birmingham somehow.

Academic Experience

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

Birmingham City University was very helpful and answered my questions as soon as they could.

The Erasmus coordinator was only working part time so sometimes it could take a bit longer to get an answer. But other than that, were everyone very helpful. And wanted you to feel as home as possible. Everyone at Birmingham City University had a personal tutor you could talk to.

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

I found my “Creating Compelling Content” class most rewarding as I gain a lot of new knowledge of creating content, but from a different angle. I even went to a BBC conference to get an insight in the media industry.

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

I felt that the collaborative project not as relevant for me, as we do have a lot of group work in the Multimedia design and communication program, and this was the first year that the university had the class so no one really new how exactly we were going to do things. None of my fellow group members were motivated to do anything. I did not gain any new knowledge from that class, and felt a bit disappointing.

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

I would advice to take the “Creating Compelling Content” class if you want to get more knowledge within creating content. Which are not only visual content but also written content. The class has both visual and written content.

The “Visual Communication” class would I say that you can take if you want to practice your design skills, as most of the theory they learned was something I learned on my first semester. So I did not gain a ton of new knowledge from that class, but I did get to practice my design skills.

I would not advice you to take the Collaborative project, even though I know they were going to make changes to the class, it was more of a struggle than an enjoyable class.

If you can take the Live project class instead, I would advice you to do that, as you will do project for a company and might be a bit more fun to do.

Cultural/Personal Experience

1. **What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad.**

I did not really find any culturally challenges while I was abroad, the only challenge would be getting use to people being so polite and say “thank you” and “sorry” all the time.

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

I did not need help from the school for that. If I needed help I could go to what they called the “ask desk” or talk to my personal tutor.

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

The best experience I had during my studies was all the people I met, I was lucky to have some lovely flat mates. The school facilities at Birmingham City University were also incredible and new. There were a lot of workshops you would attend and also talks. Plus all the trips you could go on.

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

Tell your teachers that you are an exchange student, so they are aware of your situation, and can help you settling in. As the teachers are not always aware of who is an exchange student and who is not.

Another advice would be to get involve in some of the school activities, for example attend the welcome week and the fresher’s fair. Maybe join a society, or go join a walking tour with the international buddies. The school has so many things going on all the time, and the students enjoy meeting new people.

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

The application process was not that difficult, sometimes could it be a bit stressful, as in my situation I had a bit of problems in getting information’s from Birmingham City University.

a. What did KEA help you with?

KEA helped me with advising me which school to take and which classes that would fit in with my program at kea. They also helped me getting in contact with the receiving university and helped me getting the information’s I needed.

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

Birmingham City University helped me with the different classes, and also with accommodation.

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

I did not have any practical difficulties settling down, everything went smoothly.

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

The school offered some workshops for international students on how to settling down and feeling at home. Every student did also have personal tutor you could talk to, and it could be about school things or personal things. And if you had other questions could you also go to a ask desk and ask for help.

3. Where did you live?

I lived at the schools accommodation, as I found out quite late, I had got into Birmingham City University. So I did not have time to find a private accommodation.

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

It was not difficult to find an accommodation. The school had different accommodations they offered around the city.

b. Was it expensive?

Compared to where I lived in Copenhagen was it the double of the price of what I would pay as I lived in a very cheap dorm in Copenhagen. But compared to the “normal” prices for rooms in Copenhagen was it the same price. So yes a bit expensive. Be aware that most of the accommodations you have to pay for the full of money for your entire stay before you move in. and not per month.

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

I had expenses in trips / travelling, I wanted to see as much of the UK as possible, going out eating, going to the pub or attend a party or two.

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

I spend a bit more money than what I first had put on my budget, because I went out eating more than I usually would do. But because food in the UK is in general cheaper than in Denmark, so it was not too much over my budget.