
Exchange Abroad

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Toronto 2023



University in Toronto:

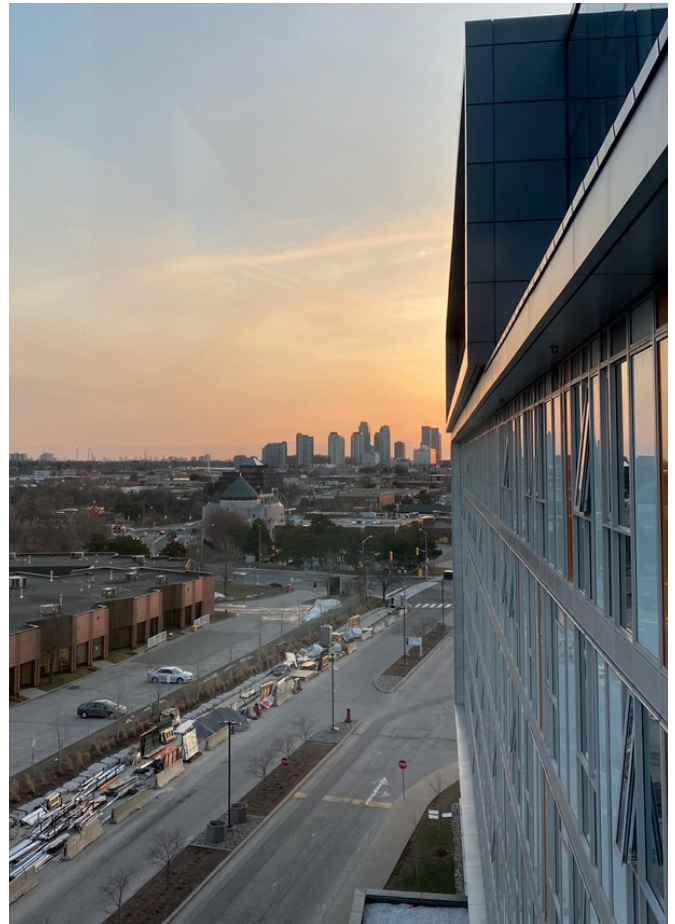
Centennial College
Story art campus

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Spring 2023
January 9th - April 21st

Kea program:

Multimedia design
2022-2024



The courses i took abroad

Graphic design courses:

Print Production:

This course was about the point where graphic design meets print production. When you complete this course, you will better understand how to align your design with the demands of print and paper.

Editorial design:

The point of this course is to get familiar with everything regarding the “magazine world”. The project for the semester was a 16-page magazine, where you build up your own front cover, articles, and ads inside of it.

Intro/Advertising and Copywriting:

This course will encourage you to take a strategic approach to the conceptual design and development of advertising materials.

Interactive design for the mobile platform:

As it says in the name of this course, we

worked on the interactive design for the mobile platform and how the UI and UX elements work. The goal for this course was to create our own app and build it up with all the design elements we know of.

Illustration workshop:

The course was about expanding one’s creative horizons, in the form of illustrations and new ways of thinking outside the box. Almost all the artwork that we worked on, was created in Adobe Illustrator so you get a good feeling of how to use the program.

Web design 2:

This course is about getting basic knowledge of the coding world. The end goal was to code in HTML and CSS and build up your own portfolio by the end of the course, as the final assignment.

Academic Experience

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

I feel very lucky to have had Jocelyn as my exchange coordinator from Centennial College. She was always ready to answer any of my questions over e-mail and guided me through the rollercoaster of choosing all the courses since it's not something we do in Denmark. It's also important for me to note that I have now met the whole "exchange" team and I can reassure you that everyone is just as sweet and welcoming as Jocelyn.

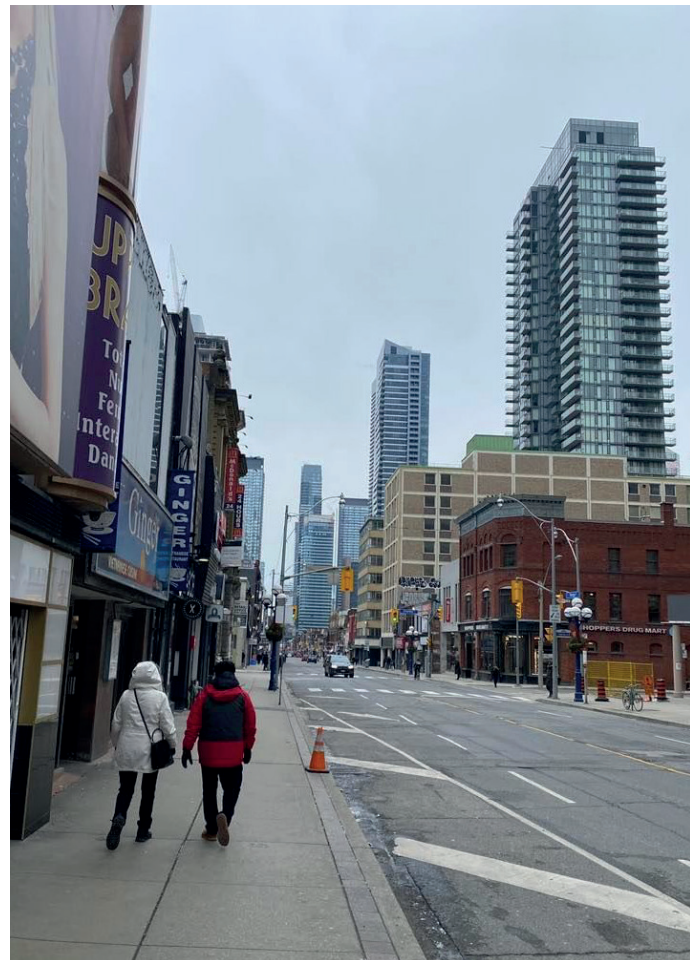
You get the MyCentennial website presented, as the website you need to use forward the whole program, to keep track of your courses and assignments. I would say though, that I didn't get any instructions on how to navigate around, which made it a little difficult in the beginning. Because they do things very differently compared to Denmark, it made the process a little frustrating, but I got a hold of the program quickly.

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

Since I'm mostly interested in the design part, I would say that the Editorial design course and illustration workshop were the two most rewarding courses for me. I feel like they pushed me to think more creatively and unfold my work in a new way, which I don't feel like I could have done in Denmark. They also help me get a good grip on Adobe programs, Illustrator, and InDesign.

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

The least valuable study experience, that I found irrelevant to my education was print production. I would say that it gave me a good knowledge of how to use InDesign and package files the correct way, but I had a hard time finding the motivations for the assignments since they didn't interest me at all.



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

It really depends on what you're most interested in, but if you're just as design interested as I am, then I would advise you to take the Editorial design course. I really enjoyed the whole designing process, but I would say, that it comes with a lot of assignments, which can make it stressful.

If you study multimedia design and are in your 3rd semester, then I would advise you not to take the web design 2 course. Not that it wasn't interesting but a lot of the stuff was a repetition of the knowledge that we got from our 1st semester.

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

I would say that my application process was pretty easy, it wasn't necessary for me to send an application letter to Centennial College, but with that, I also ended up getting my acceptance quite late. I guess that's one of the downsides of applying for a winter semester abroad. I got the acceptance letter very late because there were a lot of things to get done before, which made the process a bit stressful.

a. What did KEA help you with?

I was so lucky to have Anne as my exchange coordinator from KEA, who helped me a lot in the process. She was with me almost every step of the way and was always ready to answer any of my questions.

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

I was all settled with my accommodation before



I came to Canada. Which was such a big relief, but it's honestly something you really must have patience with. It was a stressful process because it can feel like you have a thousand things, that you need to get a hold of at the same time. Let me tell you, everything will work out.

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

Centennial College was extremely helpful in the process and was so good at reassuring us, that they would always be there to help us out. An example would, for example, be the search for accommodations. They were very involved and continued sending recurring emails, so hear where you were in the process. Also, if you haven't found accommodation before the semester starts, they would gladly help you out when you arrived at Canada.

3. Where did you live?

I lived in "East York", near Woodbine station in a house, with 2 other Danish girls. Before it was time for us to find a place to live abroad, Anne our exchange coordinator put all the people together that was going abroad to Canada, so we could get in touch with each other. I therefore ended up texting two of the girls and we ended up being lucky enough, to find a place together. It was also a very convenient location for me, because i only was 15 min away from my campus by bus and 40 min away with the subway to downtown.

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

Another piece of advice I would definitely give is to follow your gut, when it comes to talking to the landlord. One of the reasons why we ended up choosing the house, was of course because of the price but also because we felt very comfortable with him. It made the whole process way easier and it felt more secure.

b. Was it expensive?

It was expensive but affordable. Another good piece of advice that I would definitely recommend to others, is to negotiate the price, with

the landlords on air bnb. This was something that I haven't given a thought of myself but most of them are more interested in having people for a long stay than a short one. So, what we did, was to send a short and precise message, explaining how many you guys are, that you're students, and what your budget is. Basically, letting them know, what the benefits of having us would be.

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

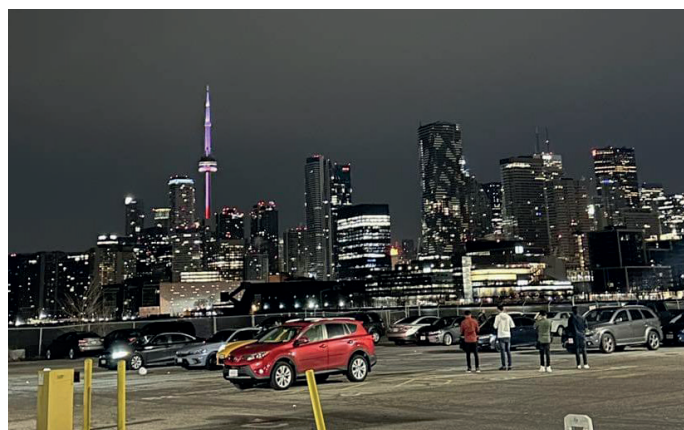
One of the most expenses I had in general, would probably be grocery shopping. I heard that the prices in Canada should be around the same as the prices in Denmark, but I would definitely say, that the prices are a bit higher over here, which I was quite surprised about. Heads up, it can also feel more expensive, because they don't count taxes in the price. So, if you eat out, both the taxes and the tips are counted on top of that price.

5. What kind of income did you have during your exchange?

I didn't have any income during the exchange period abroad, other than my monthly SU income and the grants, that I was lucky to receive. I also figured that it wasn't worth going through the struggle of applying for a work visa when I knew, that I was only going to be there for 4 months.

a. Did you receive SU and/or Erasmus?

I only applied for the two grants that KEA offers, which were Erasmus and Knud høggaard. I was lucky enough and ended up receiving both, which greatly helped me!



Cultural/Personal Experience

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

- Why I choose Canada?

I choose Canada because I was mostly interested in going to a new country that I haven't been to before, outside of Europe. I also wanted to go to a city, where I really could experience a different culture from Copenhagen. I ended up going to Toronto because I had heard a lot about how open and multicultural the city is, and that it's known to be one of the best cities to study in. Which I now can confirm now for myself, I never once felt alone as an exchange student, because almost anywhere I went, there was either another international or exchange student like me.

Exchange abroad has been one of the biggest decisions I have had to take, and it has been so rewarding. I have honestly had the best time of my life, away from home and have learned so much.

I have got to experience a new culture, both from the city, but also from the people around me, who also came to Toronto on exchange. I learned a lot about languages and have met so many great new people. I have also learned that with the good, comes the bad too. It's a long time to be away from both your family and your friends, which can be a bit challenging.

So one last piece of advice I would give is to enjoy every step of it if you decide to go. Time flies away, when you're having fun.

