



EXCHANGE RAPPORT 2023

GIRONA - ERAM

DETAILS



When and where?

I studied abroad during my third semester in 2023, from September 4th to January 16th, 2024, at UDG (University of Girona). The university has a smaller facility named ERAM, located in Salt, which is approximately a 35-minute walk from the center of Girona, the main town.

What KEA program i attend?

Back home in Copenhagen i study Entrepreneurship and design

What classes did i take?

Audiovisual Direction: This course involved about executing creative ideas through a film project, where my role was that of a producer. The emphasis was on teamwork rather than traditional lectures, fostering collaborative work within the class.





Editing Theory: Focused on providing a comprehensive understanding of editing, filming techniques, and the historical context of these elements. 

Illustration: In this class, gave a good theoretical knowledge of illustration, starting from the basics of hand-drawn techniques. The seminar covered various aspects, including techniques, the history of illustration, and guidance from an excellent teacher. 

Camera Operation: This class is about fundamental tips and tricks of working with a camera. Where you earned how to navigate the core basics of camera operation, execute their creative ideas, and how to reach high-quality video content. 

Photography: A class that gives essential knowledge about photography, combining theoretical classes with practical applications, with a professional. 



ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

How helpful was the school in class selection and settling in?

While I was still aligning my academic preferences before arriving, I found the host school was super welcoming and efficient in providing guidance. They provided useful links, addressed my specific questions in detail, and even provided translation assistance to ensure clear understanding. It's worth mentioning that my schedule faced a significant disruption, leading me to make several changes to my chosen subjects to make everything work. I am genuinely grateful for the assistance I received, and despite facing a big compromise / expectations in the end, I decided to embrace the changes, and get the best out of it.

Which classes were most rewarding for you and why?



I'm so grateful for the illustration and photography classes. The professors were truly exceptional, and through these classes, I developed skills I never knew I possessed. The joy and fulfilment I've experienced make me excited to carry these newfound skills with me into the future. Audio visuals also leaves me with a great impact, and wouldn't be without it.

Which classes were least rewarding for you and why?

Personally I faced quite some struggles with Editing Theory and Camera Operation, primarily because I believe the subject descriptions don't fully match the actual content. Additionally, as it's not really my field, and being the only Erasmus student in the class, was challenging in various aspects.

Any academic advice for other KEA students?



Hopefully, this experiences will has helped in order to improve for the future, and I won't face the same challenges. When you're here, be courageous and take responsibility because in the end of the day it is you who is responsible for the outcome. Feel free to discuss, ask questions, and ensure you are understood. Additionally, take advantage of the offered Catalan course as it will greatly help you to navigate here in Catalonia.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE



The application process

Applying has its share of tasks, but don't let it scare you off—it's not as tough as it sounds. Just tackle one thing at a time, and you'll make it through. Plus, both academies were really supportive whenever I needed guidance as well as advice.



The settling process

Personally arriving in Girona was quite smooth. Fun fact: UDG is a large university spread across different parts of town. Despite that, there was a central gathering point at the main campus for all Erasmus students, and also at ERAM, the campus in Salt. This not only helped with socializing but also provided a hub for any practical questions, with guidance and information very available.

The accommodation 🏠

The host school provides websites to help you find accommodation, and initially, there are plenty of options. However, I discovered my apartment one month before arriving through a Facebook group, - It was only a 5-minute walk from ERAM, which was convenient. However, even though it's just 2 km outside Girona, there's a significant difference, and it's not as easy to get around or meet new friends compared to the Girona old town. Be cautious because there are scams, especially involving money. Personally, I paid 400 Euro/month, but with awareness and in time, finding a room in the Girona old town around 350 Euro should be quite realistic.

WARNING!!!: Do yourself a favour and avoid living in Salt (where ERAM is located)

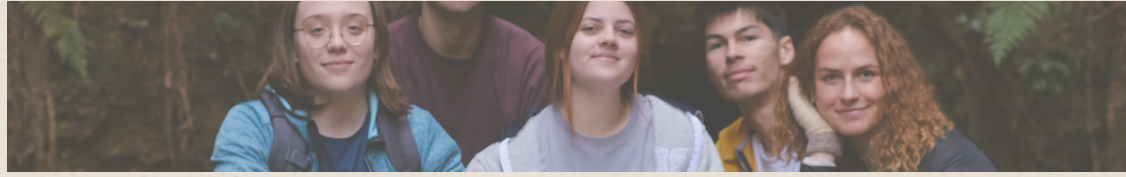
The Expenses: I personally chose to shop at the local food markets, offering a variety of products at reasonable prices. 🤲💰

Girona is more affordable than Copenhagen, although I did find it necessary to purchase drinking water, which is something to keep in mind. Throughout my stay, I had both my SU and Erasmus funding. Dining out is relatively inexpensive.

FACT: However, if you want photography or illustration, be prepared for additional expenses as they require specific materials. For instance, I had to invest 400 euros in a camera that I didn't initially have, and 180 euros for illustration materials.



CULTURAL AND PERSONAL EXPERIENCE



Challenges abroad

Culturally, I found great pleasure in the vibrant outdoor lifestyle that differs from Denmark. Personally, I am quite adaptable, but the strange eating times, siestas, and other cultural practices initially left me a bit confused and disoriented since I wasn't familiar with them beforehand. As mentioned earlier, my home was in Salt, a place characterised by a big diversity in cultures and religions. This was a challenge in the beginning, and I had concerns about my safety that I had to overcome mentally or at least get used to.



Best cultural experiences

Attending the local holidays here in Girona and Catalunya has been a blast! From their Independence Day to the "3 Kings," these events have given me awesome memories to look back on. They've also helped me understand what it really means to be part of Catalunya. Also Shoutout to my fellow students who welcomed me into their homes, giving me a closer look at daily life here. And we were over 200 Erasmus students starting at UDG, studying and exploring the world together learn different perspectives and lifestyles.



Advice for future KEA students

May sound a bit cliché, but I challenge you to be genuinely open – not just socially, but also take the time to really understand where others come from and their cultures. It's such a joy to compare and blend perspectives. ERAM doesn't have a ton of Erasmus students, so picking up the basics of the language would be super beneficial, given the teachers, students, and the awesome artwork all around.

- & here's a little nugget of wisdom

Embrace the unfamiliar, do not hesitate to ask questions or concerns, Stay humble and present cause before you know it's over
- Best of all = you are responsible for how your Experience turns out to be, based on what you embark in. Maybe even set an intuition before u land.

