
EXCHANGE REPORT

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From KEA, Copenhagen - To ESDi, Barcelona
Entrepreneurship & Design - Graphic Design

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Academic Experience

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

Honestly, it's been stressful and unsatisfying.

Before going on exchange, I choose the different classes, as you're suppose to. When I then came to ESDi, some of my chosen classes either didn't exist; or they were taught in Spanish (which I don't understand or speak, especially in an educational context); or the information about how many ECTS point each of the different classes gave, was wrong. Then trying to combine a schedule for myself, so I had enough ECTS point (30), took about 1,5 month, and I ended up with having a lot of classes that didn't even make sense for my education Entrepreneurship & Design.

Then almost in the end of the semester, two of my classes (photography I and computing I), suddenly changes into special Erasmus classes, because the original classes were too big. It was annoying to suddenly stop in the projects and process I already had in these classes, to start with new teachers that didn't really know what else we've been doing. I get that it was a way of taking more care of the different levels us Erasmus students had, but why was this implemented so late?

I also know that the international coordinator suddenly stopped two months into the semester, and a new coordinator had to take over, and I really think it must've been a tough one to just get thrown into.

There's been so many problems. For example, our assigned email, we got from ESDi didn't work properly, so I couldn't rent photo equipment or get into some links my professors sent me. It took about two weeks, before I was even in the system. And often when you have questions about logistics (I had to end the semester earlier, than the other Erasmus students), you get sent back and forth between then school administration and the professors, and it feels like no one really take the control over the issue.

I'm well aware that when you transfer from one school to another, there's always going to be some difficulties. I also understand that because of the first international counselor suddenly quit, something has been lost in the transfer to the new counselor. I get that.

A shout out to Sara (the new international counselor at ESDi) she really turned the boat around, but sadly, she was only there for the last month I stayed there. She really did her best to help the Erasmus and international students, and she did such a good job!

I also know that being an Erasmus student, is so much more than just the school. It's the whole experience, but I feel like I'm so behind my classmates who stayed in Denmark, and that I lack a lot of knowledge I need for my further education.

This has been my experience, and especially in the beginning at the semester, it kind of felt like the staff at the school didn't really care about you as an Erasmus student. And after talking with some of the other Erasmus students, I got to know, that a lot of them had the exact same experience, which is a shame, because I really think ESDi is an interesting school, but they did not live up to their demand.

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

Computing II (coding)

This was the only class I had, where I really learned something new.

The professor Ivan Marino knows just about everything about coding. At the same time, he is so patient and takes his time to help you out and have a good way of explaining what coding is all about. I ended up with a quite decent website, that I coded almost by myself

Form Theory and Workshop

This class wasn't really something new for my, but the professor Maja Cecuk, is amazing. She is so passionate about her classes and she's trying to give her students another way of looking at assignments and problems. I think, especially for the younger students that just finished High School benefits from being in her class, as she changes one's view on how to take responsibility for one's own leaning, and how to be and think wildly creative, and not just to do what you're taught in school.

Business I

This class didn't teach me anything new, but that wasn't because of the professor! Alexandra Masó is such a good teacher, especially if you don't understand BMCs and how to analyze companies etc. She's teaching in a very understandable way, and there are no dumb questions. For me the class itself wasn't giving me much, since I already have been taught in this stuff, but I was always looking forward for this class, because Alexandra made it really interesting anyway.

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

When you're not a Spanish speaker as me, you can almost only choose 1st and 2nd year subjects, and even though I only had one year of education behind me at KEA, the levels in most of the classes I had, was low.

And because I had to take classes that wasn't even relevant for my own studies, it has, academically, all in all been quite a disappointment.

I think ESDi is a really cool and interesting school, IF you understand Spanish. Because then there're so many more options for choosing the right subjects and combine theories and practical teaching.

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

I would only recommend you going there if you understand Spanish and can choose the Spanish speaking classes.

Cultural/Personal Experience

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

Trains, busses, metros are NEVER on time.

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

I didn't use the receiving school for anything else than school.

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

Everything cultural I LOVED.

Despite my dissatisfaction about ESDi, I would do it all over again, to just be in Barcelona. I LOVED it there.

The food, the art, the wine and drinks, the people, the parks, the everything.

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

I would recommend that you research the school in advance. And I would really recommend that you only go there if you understand Spanish.

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

a. What did KEA help you with?

EVERYTHING - Hanne Vang my exchange counselor, has been so helpful with everything

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

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

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

3. Where did you live?

I lived three places (Air BnB), and in some hotels.

I lived in L'eixample, El Clot and El Born.

I loved living in L'eixample and El Clot! L'eixample is quite chic, and there's a million restaurants, cafes, bars, and clubs. This area is only concrete, with a lot of streets and cars are driving around constantly, but things there are not so touristed as in El Born for example, so the prices are a bit lower and the people who lives there doesn't, try to scam you as much.

El clot is super cute. It's like a little city in the city, and the same as L'eixample, it's not very touristed and you can have the greatest food in small bars there.

El born resample strøget in Copenhagen, which I don't like at all. More expensive, VERY touristed and just a bit boring for my taste.

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

Yes, it was quite difficult. But I was staying with my boyfriend, while I was abroad, so because of the two of us, it was possible to just stay in Air Bnb's, which was around the same rent as in Copenhagen.

b. Was it expensive?

The rent is the same as in Copenhagen, if you don't have any contacts, who can help you find housing. Otherwise, it's very cheap to live there. I when ate out in town around 4-6 times pr week and went to bars a lot. Just living life, you know. You can also buy a transport card for everything public transportation, which really cut down expenses for seeing the whole city. Also, every 1st Sunday every month, you can get free tickets to almost all the museums and art shows. But all in all, everything is just way cheaper than in Denmark.

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

Cultural expenses, food and drinks, public transportation and then stuff for school. But because of the Erasmus grant I got, I didn't really feel there pressure of needing money. The grant helped me a lot!

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

I spend around my budgeted. I didn't have a hard time moneywise.