

I studied at ESDI in Sabadell, close to Barcelona, in the winter of 2021/22, while attending the Multimedia Design programme at KEA.

There, I attended classes like;

**Communication**, which was a class about the history of communication and media, the different ways of communicating (mostly through media) and how it affects us today.

**Representation Drawing**, which was a more practical class focusing on different drawing techniques and skills.

**Technical Drawing**, which was a very mathematical and technical class, learning the basics of technical drawing using tools like triangles, rulers and compass.

**Art Theory and History**, which was, as one can probably guess, about the history of art. Unfortunately, this is a class of several semesters, which means that it moves very slow and you don't get to finish it. Apart from that, there's a whole complication of being graded by the end of it, since the teacher doesn't really have any means of doing so, so early on in the course.

**Design Theory and History**, moves parallel to Art Theory and History, there's a lot of interconnected elements and the problem with the length of the course and the grading is the same.

**Photography**, was a course on the basics of photography. If you already have some experience, I would suggest the photography 2 course, where there's a lot more studio work. Unfortunately this course is only offered in Spanish.

**Computing**, which was a course on the basics of Photoshop and Illustrator. The class moves very very slowly and I wouldn't recommend taking it, if you already have some experience with the adobe programs.

**Projects (Graphic Design)**, was a course, where you get to work more independently (and in groups, but without presentations from the teachers) on different graphic design related projects like making cards and rebranding a chosen company. This is similar to the teaching style at KEA, where you get to apply the knowledge you have more hands-on.

**Calligraphy**, which was a course on the art of calligraphy. It teaches you the basics and what tools to use.

**Business**, which was a very easy course, if you have already had some teaching in the subject. We spent 4 months doing a Business Model Canvas and a SWOT analysis on a chosen company in groups.

When I arrived at ESDI, they had a different student counselor working there, than the one who works there now. There was a lot of late and mis-communication, but it also meant that you had some time to try on the different subjects before you decided on the final ones. There's not a lot of help to get from the office at the school, since everything you do has to go through and be planned with the teachers. Basically, the office is just there for admin reasons, not to guide you. The communication, when you're ill or have other reasons to not go to school on a particular day, is communicated directly to your teachers. They have a system of checking attendance for every class and it has to be at a certain percentage for you to be able to pass the semester. Furthermore, they lock the 10 minutes after the start of the class and won't accept any late-coming.

When you're used to the teaching style at KEA, it can be a little hard to settle in at ESDI, where the teaching system is stricter and more old school. Most of the classes are teachers talking from a powerpoint and there are no connections between the different courses or hands-on work where you get to apply what you've learned.

I found technical drawing to be the least relevant of the courses, because I was only there for a semester, so I learned to draw triangles and perfect circles, without learning how to apply it in real work of design today.

The most rewarding class was the projects class, where you worked with graphic design projects, which suited the level of KEA Erasmus students much better.

The problem was that I had to pick mostly 1st year courses, since the later courses were in Spanish and the ones where weren't didn't give any credits. This meant that I had to almost go a bit back from what I had already learned at KEA, studying there for a year already.

I would highly recommend students who consider studying at ESDI, to have at least a basic level of Spanish, so they can follow the later courses.

The most challenging part of the semester has been the travelling between Barcelona and ESDI in Sabadell. I wouldn't really recommend students to live in Sabadell, since nothing really happens there, but the train connections from Barcelona are very unreliable and you have to leave at least an hour+ before you have to be there. This means that you will spend a lot of time every day on transport and waiting, which is something to really have in mind.

Apart from that, the people of Barcelona have been super welcoming and friendly and it has not been a problem at all that my Spanish/Catalan language levels are very low. I was living in El Born, which is at the very centre of the city, so it has been very touristy, which is a bit of a shame if you come here for the cultural experience, but I have not at any point felt unsafe or been robbed, which often happens to students living in the El Raval quarter.

The best part of my Erasmus semester in Barcelona has been the endless creative workshops that you can attend for very little money almost every day. There is always something creative going on somewhere, in my four months here I have been doing ceramics classes, watercolor classes, croquis drawing, mindfulness painting and drawing sessions and have found a group of other designers, that I meet up with several times a week to talk about individual projects and give each other advice. All of this has been separate from my studies, and has very little to do with design, but I see now how it has made a major impact on my design work and in my studies, very unexpectedly. Sometimes, changing the scene and being creative in other ways that you have to be at school can really benefit your way of thinking about professional projects and give you the ability to sketch things out in hand, that you're not really used to, when you work as digitally as we do at KEA.

The application process of the Erasmus exchange was very simple and there was a lot of help to get from the advisors from KEA. All it takes is just a little patience. I didn't really have any communication with the school abroad before arriving here, but they have been helpful in the process of getting me into the online system at the school.

I found my first apartment on spotahome, but there had apparently been a misunderstanding, so I found out the week before arriving, that there was no apartment available for me. They refunded me the money within a few days and then I found a much smaller place on barcelona-home.com, which was a very easy process and the agency has been very helpful throughout my entire stay.

As previously mentioned, I was staying in the El Born area, which is very expensive (almost Copenhagen prices), so I ended up spending a lot more money than I had expected on food and rent. If you live in other areas like Gracia and Eixample, then the rent will be much cheaper and going out for food will also be much less expensive. I don't recommend living in El Raval, even if the low rent is very tempting. The area is super nice in the day-time and is definitely worth checking out for vintage shopping, but I know several internationals who have been robbed there at night time.

All in all, I spent four months living here on SU without working and going out to eat regularly. I did spend all my savings, but it has definitely been worth it. Barcelona is a great place to be for creative people and food lovers.

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