

Mobility to FH Salzburg

Multimedia Art - Computer Animation



1. Where and when did you study abroad?

Spring/Summer semester at FH Salzburg.

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

Multimedia Design

3. What classes did you take during your semester abroad? Please briefly explain what each class was about.

FH Salzburg has a variety of interesting courses you are able to attend. My agreement included courses from Multimedia Art Bachelor (Computer Animation Specialisation) and International Office Courses:

Visual Communication & Visual Communication (Project)

These 2 courses have to be taken together. It's an intensive 2 week course where you will learn how to draw products using pencils and Copic markers/ink. Our assignment was to create and draw a product that contains an upcycled element. The teacher was an Italian car designer.



Character & Effects 2

I was able to attend the classes with Jakob Christensen after he personally reviewed my portfolio to see if I would be able to complete the 3D courses. He teaches 3D character animation. You will learn how to create a walking cycle, an acting scene, and how to animate face expressions and talking scenes. It is harder than you might think, especially because all the 3D courses require Maya knowledge. I knew only some Cinema 4D.



3D Animation 2

This is the core course in Computer Animation. I could talk for 2 hours about it because you will have 4 teachers that will show you different areas of 3D (each one has his own assignments). Be aware of the difficulty because this is Advanced.

- 3D rendering using Maya, Vray, and Substance Painter. The assignments will be to create renderings that are as real as possible (1st assignment was to render a given product using correct lighting and texturing, 2nd to do an architectural visualization, 3rd CGI to render products that will be overlapped over a photo).
- Character Rigging: After the 3D characters are designed, you have to create a bone structure that is similar to our body so the animator will be able to use it for motion.
- Game Assets: Create a Game Asset using Maya for modeling, Substance Painter for advanced texturing, and Unreal Engine for presentation.



3D Specialisation

A course from the second semester. I recommend this one if you want an introduction to 3D. You will have 2 teachers and you will learn how to use 3D brushes, MASH and how to create a bouncing ball animation.



Graphic Design Project

You will learn how to create a branding project for a social movement.

German as a Foreign Language Course 1A

Amazing experience, the teacher was very nice at engaging us in learning the language. I recommend it if you want to understand a thing or two about Austria.

Outdoor Austria from the Ground Up

Climb up a mountain on 2 trails (red and black) and sleep together with your colleagues in a place called Hut. Additionally, you will learn everything about planning a trip yourself, how to choose a trail and what to pack.

Note: You will be given a Sport Program at the University. They either organise classes or have deals with other universities so you could practice sports at a very good price. I highly recommend this because I was able to attend swimming classes and fencing.

Academic Experience

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

Highly organised. Everything was smooth, and I can't complain about anything.

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

3D Animation 2 was the most rewarding because it was very complex. My portfolio included Packaging Design, so the rendering course was very useful to me professionally.

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

I don't recommend Graphic Design Project. We only had an introductory lesson, and these teachers weren't able to give proper lectures and feedback. I haven't learned anything from it. I do recommend it if you are looking to have fun during the semester.

Initially, I attended Digital Visual Effects, but I had to drop out due to the schedule being too packed. I don't recommend Digital Visual Effects if you are not passionate about this subject. You will learn about CGI integration in videos. It is very advanced if you don't have previous knowledge.

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

I recommend all the classes except Graphic Design Project. The only mention will be that I chose Advanced Courses that require a high workload. If you want to have time for traveling, I don't advise you to choose the Computer Animation specialization.

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

a. What did KEA help you with?

KEA helped me choose the best University for my academic goals and helped me with the necessary documents and processing. Anne was extremely patient with me and provided numerous insights about the courses and final experience.

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

During the application process I didn't need assistance from the 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?

Very helpful. They organized an online event with a step-by-step list of things to prepare before moving, as well as a welcome week and a WhatsApp group where you could ask questions. They helped me choose the courses with a faculty coordinator. They also scheduled events for us so that we could socialize with the other Erasmus students. Follow your email at all times.

3. Where did you live?

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

It was a bit difficult because I applied very late. It was my fault, but I got a room in Europa Kolleg at the last minute. I recommend you apply for accommodation as soon as you receive the link and choose a room at Urstein Campus or in the city at Salzburg Sud/city center, not in Kuchl.

b. Was it expensive?

415 euros for a single room.

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

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

I spent more money because the inflation was higher than expected at that time. I managed to stay within the budget I got from SU and Erasmus.

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

a. Did you receive SU and/or Erasmus

I received both SU and Erasmus.

b. Did you apply for any grants and did you receive any?

I didn't apply, and I didn't receive any.

Cultural/Personal Experience

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

The supermarkets are closed after 19 p.m. and on Sundays. You will have to plan your days more effectively. And you will have to carry cash with you at all times. Apart from this, I haven't noticed any big differences.

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

We had an introduction to both Austrian culture and campus life. It was very helpful.

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

The course Outdoor Austria. For the first time in my life, I was able to hike on a black trail (the most difficult) at 2200 m. The highlights of my trip was staying between the clouds, sleeping in the Hut, eating Austrian food, seeing wild goats and spending time like a true Austrian.

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

I advise you to choose Salzburg for its university but especially for its nature, for traveling, and for having an active lifestyle. I recommend spending your weekends swimming at Kuchl Lake. We had such a strong bond with the whole Erasmus group from FH, and I made friends for life. Be open to new experiences. There are a lot of interesting events organized especially for incoming Erasmus students.



