

Exchange Report

1. Where and when did you study abroad?

I studied at George Brown College in Toronto, Canada in the Spring 2023 semester.

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

I attended the Computer Science Program at KEA and the T227 Computer Programmer Analyst program in the receiving institution.

3. What classes did you take during your semester abroad?

I attended four courses at George Brown College.

Intro to Cybersecurity: We learned the fundamentals of cybersecurity. We learned how to secure web applications from threats and different attacking techniques. We also learned about the different cyber-attacks and how to prevent those. We also used a little php in this course.

Intro to Full Stack Development: We learned the fundamentals of frontend and backend programming. The focus was on JavaScript, HTML and CSS. We learned about different functions in JavaScript, JSON, and API.

Object Oriented Programming: We learned to code in C#. We learned about all the OOP principles in C# such as array lists, classes, methods, access modifiers etc.

Web Application Development: We learned to code web applications with C# and ASP.NET framework. We learned about MVC (Model-View-Controller), connecting databases to your project, and finally hosting it.

Academic Experience

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

The receiving school was very helpful with every question and concern I had regarding courses, first day at the school and navigating around in general.

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

I found the Intro to Full Stack Development course very rewarding. I had the best professor who only had student's best interest at heart. She clarified every new concept that we learned and taught it a way so that you could understand. It was very motivating.

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

The Object-Oriented Programming Course. I loved my professors and the way we were taught. But C# is very similar to Java, which is the language I started learning at KEA, so I felt like I didn't learn

anything new. I am glad I got the introduction to C#, but I would have chosen differently, if I could.

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

If cybersecurity is interesting to you, then I can recommend the Intro. To Cybersecurity course. The professor knows what he is doing and has a lot of knowledge.

I wouldn't recommend the Object-Oriented Programming Course in C#, if you already have knowledge in other OOP languages.

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

The application process was very straightforward. It was easy, and I got an answer if I was accepted rather quickly.

a. What did KEA help you with

KEA helped with what school to choose to apply for and had answers for all the practical questions I had.

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

George Brown College helped with what courses to choose, how to enroll in the courses and with all the administrative aspects of enrolling in the new school in general.

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

No, it was easy settling down in Toronto. My international coordinator even emailed me how to get to my campus with public transport when I arrived.

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

They were helpful with every administrative aspect of the process.

3. Where did you live?

I lived in a house with two other exchange students right outside downtown Toronto.

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

It was very difficult finding accommodation in Toronto. I wish George Brown would have been more helpful in finding accommodation.

b. Was it expensive?

It was very expensive. The rent in Toronto only gets more expensive the closer you get to downtown.

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

The same as in Denmark. The only difference was that I used public transportation the whole time I was living there, so that was a little more expensive than normal.

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

I spend more money than I thought I would. I think there was a lot of unexpected expenses, that I hadn't thought about such as travelling while being in Canada.

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

Only SU and grants.

a. Did you receive SU and/or Erasmus

I received SU every month and I received the Erasmus grant.

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

I applied for many grants, and I received 5.

Cultural/Personal Experience

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

It was challenging to mingle with the students already studying there.

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

I wish George Brown College took better care of exchange students. It was only me and two other students from KEA that was exchange students at Casa Loma Campus so there weren't any orientation days or any introduction to the school.

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

It was nice experiencing the passion they have for school sports in Canada! I went to a lot of ice hockey games, and they have a lot of events and clubs in general.

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

You must be very open and reach out to people yourself. Always say yes to opportunities! I met a lot of new people by attending events and parties. Even though it can be a challenge to do, it is very much worth it.