

Exchange Report

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Period of study: *From 10/01 to 22/04 - 2022*

The report contains both practical information about accommodation and information regarding the classes which I attended and what my experiences were. Feel free to reach out if you are considering going to Toronto to study.

Picture taken from Toronto Islands towards the mainland.



Questionnaire Study Abroad/Exchange

I attended George Brown College winter courses which began January 10th and ended April 22nd. The physical address of the college which I should have gone to was Casa Loma Campus at 160 Kendal Ave, Toronto, ON M5R 1M3, Canada. But with the ongoing corona situation the semester was carried out via online classes.

I attended the following classes:

ARCH. Technology & studio

This course could be considered as the main one. It had the same interdisciplinary characteristics as how the Danish education is carried out at the architectural technology and construction management education. The "Materials, Methods & Components" course and the "Structural Systems" course both had classes that directly tied into ARCH. Technology & Studio.

Would I recommend this course **YES/NO**

Why YES: The course is great because it revolves around communication with your study partner and finding solutions to everything in regards to the project you are working on. I have only had great experiences with this course.

Digital Practices for ARCH

This course was primarily directed towards Revit and programs that could tie into the workflow in Revit that was being used by professionals in the building industry.

Would I recommend this course **YES/NO**

Why YES: This has got to be the most rewarding course of them all in regards to becoming better at Revit, Justin Horvath is an excellent new teacher who focuses on speed and smart modeling in Revit. The course is taught in such a way that it first lets you practice on a practice Revit file and in the next class the week after you will be given a similar task but only this time it's time limited to 3 hours, which sounds like a lot but it's not. It really makes you push yourself in such a way that it forces you to know the ins and outs of Revit, otherwise you won't finish the test.

Materials, Methods & Components

As the name implies it was focused on materials, methods of building and components.

Would I recommend this course **YES/NO**

Why NO: I went on exchange in my 5th semester, and it seemed like everything that was being taught in the course I already knew from previous semesters in Denmark.

Practice Management

This course revolves around the marketing of a company, how should a website be designed in order to draw in the clients you wish to reach out to. The course also made the students create a form of sales material in Adobe InDesign where you showcase your fictional past work and write about your company and its specialties.

Would I recommend this course **YES/NO**

Why NO: It was a problem throughout the course that there were too many people put into the groups compared to the amount of work that needed to be done. It was a very small workload that was put on the students, which was made worse when 4 students needed to work together on such a small task. The professor seemed later in semester to have understood from feedback from the students that the groups were too large compared to the workload, so it might be better for future students in this course.

Zooming out and away from the problem with the workload and looking at the quality of the course, I was still very much dissatisfied with the course.

Structural Systems

This course taught the students how to calculate and set dimensions of different building elements.

Would I recommend this course **YES/NO**

Why YES: Great course content with a great teacher. The course was at times challenging but in such a way that it was very rewarding.

Academic Experience

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

Answer: George Brown College has been helpful right from the start if any issues should occur. Everything related to practical matters and being set up has been a breeze. Aida Viveiros is the go to with general questions, and if she cannot answer a particular question, she will get you in touch with a coworker that can.

Cultural/Personal Experience

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

Answer: None that requires mentioning, there were almost no challenges. Our landlord was really helpful with every question my roommate and I had in regards to practical matters and in general.

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

Answer: Say what you want about online classes, but it comes with great freedom. My roommate and I found a group of 8 people or so that we traveled with in both Canada and USA. On our first trip we drove up to a cabin north of Toronto and everyone attended classes from there, we had a great time and went for walks in the beautiful nature. The second trip was to Miami where we rented a house through Airbnb, it was an amazing experience with amazing adventures.

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

Answer: To be honest going on exchange you won't miss a beat back home, everything the Danish students learn on their 5th semester you know as well by the time you are done with your semester. Even though I have written YES/NO recommendations to every class I attended, have in mind that it's taken from a point of view that considers the received learning outcome of the course. You are most likely going on exchange both to experience another country and attend school to learn about how they are approaching projects and try to work with the people there, which is great. But remember to pick some courses that has light workload so that you will be able to travel more.

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

KEA has an online website that guides you through the application process and makes it easier to get an overview of the next steps. In my experience it was a quite easy to get through the application process and send the required documents to both KEA and the school you wish to go to.

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

As mentioned in the section about "**Academic Experience**" George Brown College is really helpful in regards to questions regarding practical matters and in regards to the courses.

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

No, everything was taken care of.

3. Where did you live?

- a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

My roommate and I were lucky that we had a friend that lived in Canada at the time that recommended a landlord that we ended up staying at. We couldn't have found any better accommodation.

- b. Was it expensive?

My roommate and I each paid 7.000 kr, so in total 14.000 kr. for an upstairs apartment with two rooms, bathroom and kitchen in total around 35m².

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

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

Because all the courses were online it was in general cheaper to live in Toronto. It's not a cheap city by any means, going to a bar or a club is expensive, it's the same prices as in Denmark. Groceries are the same price as in Denmark as well.