

1. Where and when did you study abroad?

- I studied at HoGent University, mainly at campus Schoonmeersen, from 21/09/2023 - 29/01/2024

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

- Business Economics and IT

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

- Business Software
 - o Using and navigating through an ERP-system, Microsoft Navision
- Business Process Management.
 - o Discovering and analysing processes, to then identify certain bottlenecks that can be improved by mapping possible solutions.
- Financial Markets & Banking Game
 - o How the banking sector works both in a macroeconomical perspective, together with playing the "Banking Game", which is an online simulation, where you compete against the rest of the class in groups about being the most valuable bank.
- Digital Marketing Advanced
 - o Learning the concept of advertising online through campaigns using both Google Ads and Google Analytics.
- Reporting Value Creation
 - o How to ensure more sustainable production
- Sustainable Development
 - o How to ensure continuous development in the world without compromising the future generations.
- Human Resource Management
 - o Organisational Theory, how to manage a team, how HR works in companies
- Topics of International Law
 - o Concepts of European and International Law, learning how to reflect on current social and economic events
- Financial Statement Analysis
 - o Analysing and calculating income statements and balance sheets

Academic Experience

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

- It all went to plan, i had a contact person who answered almost immediately every time, who helped me changing classes in the beginning (this is possible, if you regret a choice)

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

- There were some classes that involved more interaction with the other exchange students, than others. These tended to be a bit more rewarding in the sense of experiencing an actual exchange semester. You wouldn't want to go to a whole new country just to study alone (I will list the classes below, which i think is more solo-ride, listening in the classes and doing exercises/papers/presentations alone)

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

- Topics of International Law, Financial Statement Analysis, Digital Marketing Advanced (Great and energetic teacher though)

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

- As i already covered the social aspect/experience, i will now tell you some classes that i think were really hard and made my life a misery haha.
 - o Financial Statement Analysis
 - I have probably never learnt as much in any course as in this one, however it was a really really tough class, especially if you do not have experiences within this subject. The teacher is teaching really fast, as he expects you to would have some beforehand knowledge already. Long classes in the evening. I wouldn't recommend unless you are ready to study really hard or you find this topic interesting as fuck! Again, i have never learnt as much as in this course, but i also had to beat myself with a stick to keep up.

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

a. What did KEA help you with?

- The communication from KEA was really good. Filing in all practical mandatory information to get myself ready to go was primarily with assistance from KEA

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

- Same as above, really great communication

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

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

- I didn't seek any help, so i wouldn't know.

3. Where did you live?

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

- I didn't get any study accommodation room unfortunately, so i found an apartment that i rented with one of my buddies.

b. Was it expensive?

- We paid around €500 each a month

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 than i budgeted, but this was on experiences and other things that i didn't account for. Cost of living was around the same as expected

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

- a. Did you receive SU and/or Erasmus
 1. Yes
- b. Did you apply for any grants and did you receive any?
 1. Yes, Erasmus

Cultural/Personal Experience

1. What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?
 - One thing that surprised me was that you don't actually hang out with Belgium people. You get together with all the other exchange students, and barely ever speak with a Belgium student.
2. What was the best cultural/personal experience during your studies abroad?
 - The Belgians have the best beers in the world, going miss that forever.
3. What advice would you give other KEA students going to study abroad at the receiving school?
 - Don't stress it. Go talk to people on the very first day, get some friends - Everybody is there alone and more than willing to talk and hang out, nobody knows anyone, but everybody wants to know one another. The thought of speaking English everyday can be terrifying to someone, but hey... after the first week you don't even notice that you're speaking English. Do not always prioritise your studies, you are going there for only 4 months, so make it worthwhile and drink some good tasting strong ass beers.