

Where and when did you study abroad?

I studied in Humber College (North Campus) in Toronto. I went on exchange in my 5th semester, during the period of September to December.

What KEA program did you attend at the time?

I was a student of Architectural Technology and Construction Management in the international line of my bachelor's degree

What classes did you take during your semester abroad?

Environmental Systems – theory about HVAC systems and how to make the systems more sustainable and beneficial

Mass Timber – theory about different kinds of wood and structural connections, the benefits of using wood in buildings

History of Architecture – brief history about each era in history of architecture, most well-known and influential buildings and architects around the world

Digital Communications – BIM class where basic Revit was being taught

Drafting and Detailing – class where teacher explained recent projects, current assignments and helped with work if necessary

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

All of the information prior to my arrival was sent to me by email, and there were coordinators assigned by the school to answer any questions that could come. There was also a Welcome Week where all of the students had assemblies and were given tours. I luckily already had a friend who went to Humber who could show me around and help me settle in.

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

History of Architecture class was the most rewarding, as it gave me the newest information to me and I was intrigued by the subject.

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

The Digital Communications class was quite irrelevant for me as the students there had just started learning to use Revit. Previously they have only worked with AUTOCAD and the teacher had to teach all of the basics in Revit which already took multiple classes. Those lessons were very slow for me and I didn't learn a lot of things about Revit that I hadn't already known.

Drafting and Detailing class was both a hit and miss for me. In their third year in Humber, the Architectural Technology students can enter a competition and work in groups to create a project by themselves. However, they can do the project for two semesters. Teachers told the exchange students that you may also enter the competition, but then you either do the whole work in one semester or continue the project when you leave Canada. That means you have to dedicate a lot of time and effort into your project if you want to accomplish that. If you don't want to enter the competition, you had an option of following a manual which was basically copy-paste work of old drawings and you had to fix them according to the newer rules. I chose the manual because I wanted to have more free time to explore Toronto and not dedicate too much time on the competition. But the manual was very simple, and I got the drawings done very easily. It was interesting to see the differences and similarities that are in Canadian and Danish construction drawings, but I missed having a semester project like we have in KEA. It was also easier to learn other subjects in KEA because

they were all connected to a project. In Humber none of the subjects connected and it was harder to memorize certain things without implementing them to a building.

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

There were classes similar to Process and Planning which I didn't choose but some other exchange students did. They had problems following the course as everything was about Canadian law and they didn't find much relevancy there, therefore I don't recommend that class.

I had the Mass Timber class online, I didn't know about it until the start of the classes. I would have loved it to be in a classroom instead because I could focus more there, rather than behind a screen alone and listening to the teacher with headphones. If you choose the class then make sure you know whether it is online or in a classroom

What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?

The only challenge was in the beginning as Canadians speak English so fluently and at times it was difficult to understand each other.

How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

The school was very helpful, as they spread awareness about diversity and were accepting of every kind of person.

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

I enjoyed seeing the city of Toronto the most. As I had a lot of free time, I explored the city a lot and visited many spots on my list. My personal favourites were Toronto Island and the Distillery District during Christmas time.

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

Make sure to keep an open mind about everything and everyone. People that I came across were very welcoming so I think you should act the same way.

How was the application process?

Simple and understandable.

What did KEA help you with?

The whole application process and what is needed to get the spot.

What help did you receive from your school abroad?

Helping find accommodation, first-thing necessities, basic information about Toronto and Humber College, how to apply to classes.

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

No

How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

The coordinators gave all the necessary information in the beginning, so I had no trouble settling down.

Where did you live?

I lived in the dorm in North Campus.

Was it difficult to find accommodation?

It wasn't for me, but I am aware that not a lot of exchange students got the dorm room, even though they applied. They have a limited number of spots with first-come-first-serve, so if you want to get the dorm room then you have to act fast.

Was it expensive?

It was pretty expensive for those conditions, even compared to my living in Copenhagen. It is a small bedroom, you have a public washroom on your floor that you can use, and a common kitchen near the cafeteria which was far away from me. And if you want to store food, you must either rent or buy a fridge for your room.

What kind of expenses did you have in general?

I didn't get the fridge in my room, so I didn't cook my own food the whole semester. I went to the cafeteria 3-4 times a day where most of my money went. On average I spent \$25 a day. There are not a lot eating spots or shops near the campus, so the cafeteria was the main source. The prices were very high, considering the food options. There were warm food options but most of it was junk food, and not a lot of variety.

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

I spent more than I thought I would