

Exchange report from Toronto

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Humber College

Phuong Anh

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Hi my name is Laura Elstrup and I have been studying at Humber College in Toronto in the third semester of studying Multimedia Design at KEA.

Going on exchange for me was both based on academic and personal development.

I here believed that going on an exchange to Humber College would help me learn and grow both a personal and professional skill set. Furthermore, Canada's environment and study opportunities have always inspired me. I, therefore, saw this as a great opportunity to explore and possibly create a better connection to Canada in the future.

Classes

I took five different classes from the faculty of digital communications that I will go more into depth about in the next five slides.

All students only have 15 hours of classes per week.

Visual Communications

Michael Rosen taught Visual Communications as a fifth-semester course. This course was for my education on KEA mandatory but I very much enjoyed it.

We were provided with important knowledge on how to design visuals properly and got a lot of tips and tricks for the future. We also took a closer look on ideological trends and movements that have helped to shape the culture of Visual Communications.

There was no readings for this course but we had four bigger assignments which all had very few limitations to allow students to be creative and think outside of the box.

Example of work from Visual Communication

An example of how open and creative we could be with our assignments. Our task was to make something creative with the letters from the alphabet. We chose to make a book with GIF's of something that started with that letter made with that exact letter. We here found a loophole and made the whole alphabet in danish.



See our assignment here:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1VHdfj5JWZ3oZDSbvxpEyTBC4N0nXpCb_LLYwdvReW40/edit?usp=sharing

Copywriting

Richard Bingham was teaching copywriting which might be my favorite professor and class. This class was in Media and creative arts and therefore had a lot of students studying the writing programs and not digital communications.

For this class you did not need your computer, only a notebook and a pen.

This professor really forced the creative thinking out in the students with different methods.

Intro to Code

This course taught by Jessica Wolfe I got put in by mistake. I already had this back at my home institution but code for me was not the easiest so I decided to stay in this class to get it refreshed which was a very good idea for me.

If you are new to coding you might find this class a bit heavy and fast going.

Interactive Design

The professor for this class was the same as I had for Intro to code.

This class was also mandatory for my education on KEA but I also found this class very fun and educating.

This class enables you to build fundamental design and development skills and was definitely the class that reminded me the most of Multimedia design back home.

Social Media

My last class was Social Media with professor Andrea Tavchar.

This class gives you an insight into the shared digital reality and builds awareness and competencies with popular social media tools that are advantageous when working in PR.

This class had a lot of readings and was the only class I had a written midterm and exam. This should not through you off though. By attending the classes and understanding the material overall you should be just fine.

Furthermore, I also found this class very fun and educational with a lot of room for open minded debates.

Academic Experience

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

Humber College was really good in this progress. Choosing classes went smoothly. I only got one class wrong but you had the whole first week to try it out and come to their administration and get a new class if you weren't happy.

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

I found copywriting and Interactive design most rewarding due to the fact that it was these classes that had the biggest opportunity for creative expression with a lot of new tips and tricks that we had picked up through the classes.

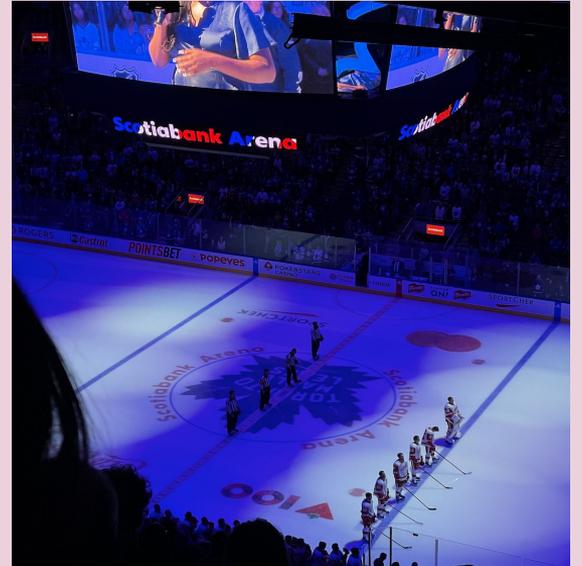
What classes/study experiences did you find least relevant or least valuable to you? Why?

I actually found all of my classes very valuable and rewarding. But if I had to pick one out it would be Intro to Code. It was good to get a lot of the code refreshed, but if I could change it I would rather have chosen a new class.

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

I would advise you to choose copywriting if you are into this. Richard Bingham is a great professor with a lot of experience.

Cultural/Personal Experience



What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?

The main cultural challenge of studying abroad was that the teaching was in English. In addition, they also write reports a bit differently than we do in Denmark. This took some time to get used to, but all in all, I think it was great and educational challenges.

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

My best cultural experience was definitely getting to know so many other exchange students from all over the world - this was very giving.

These young people are all on the same journey as you are and may be more ready to explore the city than the natives. Many here also make friends they can travel around with in the rest of Canada over Christmas and New Year!

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

The school has many international students every semester so they are good at helping you settling in. All you need to do is to be open minded and ready for new tasks you might not experience back at your home institution.



Practical Experience

How was the application process?

Anne Dibbern from my home institution was a great help in my application progress and helped me with most of this progress which made it very easy. It was a bit difficult to get help and call all the way from Denmark to Canada, but the receiving institution made a Slack group where most questions were answered. You could also here get to see all the other exchange students going to Humber college.

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

My best advice to exchange students who want to live in residence is to be out early! As soon as they send out the email that you can apply, you should apply.

I applied way too late myself and ended up being number 75 on the waiting list. There were many cancellations and ended up getting a spot two weeks before arriving.

Finding accommodation in the area was difficult and expensive and many of the other exchange students I talked to ended up having to move again after arrival due to problems with the apartment. I would therefore definitely recommend being early and apply to stay in residence.

What kind of expenses did you have in general?

Living in residence came with a meal plan and I therefore didn't have to think about this after paying my instalment.

My biggest costs were definitely on sports games such as baseball, ice hockey and basketball. These tickets were fairly expensive, but clearly worth it!

I ended up spending approximately my estimated amount. Toronto is an expensive city, but so is Copenhagen.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions I can help with!

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