

EXCHANGE REPORT

I am Fernando Ceres, currently Student of Multimedia Design and Communication at KEA. As part of my program at Multimedia Design and Communication, I had the pleasure of going of exchange in my third semester this fall 2019.

For my exchange, I went to Humber College in Toronto, Canada. During my time in Humber I was enrolled in Web design and interactive media. This program has five courses:

- **Business of interactive media.** The main idea of this course is to prepare us to the real world. We were creating our resumes, proposals for companies, creating a list of interesting contact to increase our network and getting ready for job interviews.
- **Content management systems.** The aim of the course is to learn how to work with Wordpress and be able to create your own CMS using PHP and MySQL.
- **Emerging Tech Design and Dev.** This course was the course more focused on design. However, we focused not only on UI interface but also in how the users will used the product and how this will affect to our product. We worked in two main projects. For the first project, we have to create an AR app, which work together with a Focal glasses. For the second project we created an IoT product, in my case a Smart Parking App. For the Smart Parking, I had to design not only the App but also the physical prototype using distance sensors and Arduino, and how the communication within the physical prototype and the App would work.
- **Native Mobile Os Dsn and Dev.** I really enjoyed this course. We learned one of the trendiest frameworks nowadays, React, to be more specific in this course we learned React native and we created mobile Apps using React expo and firebase.
- **Progressive prog Techniques.** In this course we learned NodeJs, React Web, Arduino and send and receive data from Arduino to socket server. The last project was to code the communication within the physical prototype (Arduino and sensors) and the App for the Smart Parking.

Humber College did a great job with the exchange student from the beginning. They had our priorities in our application. They contacted me to make sure I agreed with the courses they were going to enrolled me on. And actually I didn't agree, but they were super nice since they give me more options, one of them was exactly what I wanted and from there they took care of absolutely everything. We exchange students had nothing to care about. They did all the application process for us, which made my life much easier.

I really enjoyed my time at Humber College I had time to make really good friends and get really close to them and to my teachers too. So definitely, for me the most rewarding experience was when I had to say bye to everybody and all my classmates and teachers were hugging me and taking pictures with me. That made me see that in just 4 months I could feel Humber as my home and I will keep some of my classmates as my family from now on.

I would completely recommend taking all the courses, since I learned a lot in all of them, but if I had to discard one I would probably discard Business of interactive media. The reason why is that I think what we learned in that course we can actually learn it by ourselves, and we did not get as many feedbacks as I had liked.

However, if any student choose this program take the other four courses is a must. I think all of them are important since you will learn exactly the coding language and frameworks you need nowadays when applying for job. You will become a nice frontend candidate with knowledge on NodeJs, JavaScript, ReactJs, React Native, PHP, MySQL, Firebase and more.

Now I want to talk a little more about my personal experience during my time in Toronto. It is true that I am also international student in Copenhagen, so for me was really easy to start from 0 in a different place and learn their culture and their way to do things, but actually I was really surprised that even though everything is very American style in Toronto, it was close to Europe too. Toronto is an international city, there is people from all over the world and it is a great place to meet new people and hundreds of cultures.

People in general is really kind and helpful all the time. Probably the best thing was to have Humber College helping us in our first steps in Canada. They were 24/7 in contact with us, they provide us with useful advices and information about transportation, social events in the city, places to visit, etc. They also wanted us to feel like home, so they were doing events from time to time for use to meet new people where they give us free food and drinks.

One of the best personal experience was when Humber invited us, all exchange students, to go to Niagara Falls and buffet afterwards. That they was great because I could share that amazing day with all the friends I made at the residence and we did not have to care about anything, we just need to enjoy and have fun with our friend. It was really nice from Humber to give us that opportunity.

My advice for those who are planning to come to study at Humber is, try to meet and connect with as many people as possible and try to travel around at the beginning. After the reading week on middle October you won't have too much free time, since you will have a lot of assignments from then. So I would recommend to come one week before and give you at least 2 weeks after you exchange to travel around and see a bit of Canada, which has amazing places to show. I 100% recommend going to

Ottawa, Montreal and Quebec and if you have more time Vancouver and Alberta. These two last ones are a little far and the flight tickets are a little expensive but if you have time and can afford it, it is completely worth it.

But... How all this adventure started?

Yeah, you are right, you have to go through an application process to be able to go on exchange. It might look difficult and stressful when you think in all the paper you would need, who you would need to contact to if you have any problem and so on. But nothing further from the reality. The Process is surprisingly easy.

From the beginning, the international coordinator of your school will contact you to let you know which document you need to provide. Once you have all the documents you will either submit them on the application platform or send to the international coordinator and she will do it for you. From that moment you don't have to care about anything else. Your international coordinator will take care of everything and she will be in contact all the time with the person in charge in the school abroad.

When your international coordinator cannot help you more she will put you in contact with the person in charge in the school abroad. That person will take care about everything until the end of your exchange. The only thing you have to care about and pay attention to is the deadlines for the payments. They will tell you exactly the days and they will even remind you just in case. However, it is really important you make the payments on time, especially for the residence deposit and fees, otherwise you can lose the chance of living at the residence. If you don't get the residence is okay, there are plenty of Airbnb where to live, but I consider living in the residence as one of the best experiences during my exchange, so don't lose the opportunity just because you missed a payment.

As I already mentioned above, I was living at the residence in Humber Lakeshore Campus. The room is not so fancy but you have all you need and the price for all the semester is okay. You have to pay also 1025 dollars for the meal plan, I spent all of it even before the semester ends, so I would say it is worth it. However, if you don't want to use it and you want to save the money, there is a kitchen on the 1st floor you can use in any time. At the end of the semester, they will give you back the money you did not use from the meal plan except 50 dollars they keep as fee.

When you get to the residence there will be people to help you out with your luggage, to explain you how everything works and to show you around. So do not be scared, you will feel like home from the beginning.

In case you do not get the residence, no worries, as I said before, there are a lot of Airbnb to rent for whole semester next to the campus. I do not know the price since I was at the residence but I had some friends living in an Airbnb and they said it was okay and five mins walking from the campus.

All your expenses will be in food restaurants or bars. However, Toronto is really cheap if you compare with Denmark, so you will probably spend less than you thought at first time.

But don't let the money stop you from doing things and meeting people. Explore around, enjoy your time and have fun there.

To finish I want to give you my permission to share my email f.ceres92@gmail.com to any student who wants any hint about living in Toronto or have any question about the exchange experience at Humber College.

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