



3 20 '22

ERASMUS EXCHANGE REPORT

LOUISE TUNNING
2022

Email: Loui93e4@stud.kea.dk

Program at KEA: Fashion Management 6th semester

Program at AMFI: Fashion & Management/Business & Development 2nd year

Mentor at AMFI: Natalie Brandt

Semester at AMFI: Spring semester - Fashion Business & Strategy

Duration: 5 months

INTRODUCTION

My name is Louise Tunning, I am 24 years old and currently studying Design & Business –Fashion Management at KEA. I saw studying abroad as the ultimate challenge to grow as a person, as it puts you outside of your comfort zone and forces you to think independently and differently from what you are used to at home. Studying abroad is also beneficial when looking for a future in fashion as it is an international industry, where communication with and understanding of other cultures and countries are crucial when forming good intercultural relationships. I am particularly interested in gaining a more international perspective as I also have the ambition to work in production/buying management abroad after my studies. The reason why I chose AMFI for my semester abroad, is because I saw it as a school particularly focused on fashion at a higher level, which would broaden my knowledge about fashion management and strengthen my skills in the areas I wish to be better at. I heard AMFI had a more modern approach to fashion, which I was particularly interested in learning more about.

EXPERIENCES AT THE HOST UNIVERSITY

A week before school started, we had an orientation day at the school with Natalie, our mentor at AMFI, who took us through all the necessary information, showed us around the school and we had a celebratory drink and some snacks, which was a really nice start to the semester. We got a good understanding of the school, she was able to help us if we did not have a place to live yet or needed help with anything else and we were able to meet the other exchange students at AMFI, which was really nice, as we were only 15 in total and knew we would have a friendly face around school. I really loved Natalie throughout the whole semester, and she was always very helpful when the mentor of the class was of no help. We were 3 exchange students in my class, which have become my very close friends. I am very happy that we had Natalie at the school. We could not choose our own classes since the semester was already planned out for Fashion & Management/Business & Development, so not much help was needed in this process. I have been here through the spring semester, which was Fashion Business & strategy and included the following subjects:

Situation Analysis

The semester started out with a situation analysis of a brand, which we would be working with throughout the entire semester. We had the option to choose between 8 different brands in 4 different categories. After this the teacher put us in groups of two for the internal analysis, where we analysed the current situation of the company internally and hereafter, we put together with another group with the same brand, where we had to add our internal analysis' together and thereafter analysis the external situation of the company. All of this was done to understand the current situation of the company, so we could work on a strategic plan for the company to ensure their success in 2030. I chose Hermès and ended up in a group with a girl that worked full-time next to the school, which was not ideal. I have done many situation analysis before though, so this was a very easy subject, almost too easy I would say, as I did not learn anything new and it the classes was very slow as I have worked with most of the models before but on a higher level for example Business Model Canvas, which I have already been introduced to twice during my time at KEA. For the external analysis, I ended up with 2 other girls, which also did not work. I ended up complaining after finishing this subject, as I knew I would otherwise have to work with them for the rest of the semester.

Strategic Plan

After finishing the situation plan, we started on the strategic plan, where we had to come up with strategic advice for Hermès to ensure the future success of the company looking into the year 2030. The school is not very organised, so the planned classes about the models for the subject, which we could not do anything with as we had to finish other models first, which was planned after these classes. We had 3 weeks with almost no classes and then we had way too much to do because it was planned so badly that the school ended up extending the deadline since we would not be able to finish the report in time. On top of that, the teachers do not communicate and would say the opposite of each other when teaching us about the different models, which made everyone confused and really difficult to write. Again, I do not think this class was very useful, but mostly because of the organisation of the school, as it left us with no time to actually write a good report, but just had to finish quick. After I complained about my group the teacher decided to put us together with another Hermès group which was also having problems. This in the end just meant that we were two people doing the work of seven, and I was insanely tired of the school and the students at the end of it. The person doing work in the group was another exchange student, who was not in my class, but someone we then ended up becoming really good friends with.

FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Financial Plan

The financial plan class was split into two. We first wrote a report on the financial situation of the company looking at the balance sheets of the company over the past few years and calculating the ratios – liquidity, solvency, investment, and profitability. This first part was quite easy to calculate, but it took some time to understand the different financial terms, as I had never really learned about this before. This report was connected to the situation analysis. For the second part, we had to do a forecast of the financial situation of the company in 2024 based on our strategic advice. Here we investigated the growth of the company and the different KPIs we had presented in the strategic plan. Afterwards, we again calculated the liquidity, profitability, solvency, and investment ratios of the company, so we could compare them to our previous work. As I have not learned a lot about the financial situation of a company, I was interested to learn more about it. Even though I think it can be boring, I was still really happy to learn this as I can definitely see myself using what I learned in my future career as well as my graduation project I must write in a couple of months.

Hermès is currently financially stable. Analysing from the benchmarks the company is doing well on all ratios, as non of them are below the benchmarks.

Profitability ratios

Hermès (in millions of euros)	2019	2020	2021	Benchmark
Earnings before interest and taxes	2339	2073	3510	
Average total assets	91000	10400	2440	
P/Off. after tax	1515	1990	2454	
Average equity	6000	6900	8400	
ROE	25%	29%	29%	High
ROA	16%	19%	19%	High

Hermès' profitability ratios shows that the company is able to earn profits from its operation/sales, balance sheet assets or its shareholders equity. The ratios prove the company is able to generate profit efficiently as the ratios are considered high, and its ratios has continued to improve throughout the pandemic. Though this is based on all sectors and not just within fashion luxury (Investopedi., 2022)

Solvency ratios

Hermès (in millions of euros)	2019	2020	2021	Benchmark
Equity	6775	7396	9412	
Total assets	38673	7049	19667	
Earnings before interest and tax	2339	2073	3500	
Interest	69	86	86	
Debt ratio	62%	69%	58%	< 50%
Interest coverage ratio	33.92	24.10	36.77	> 3

Hermès solvency ratios shows the company is able to meets its long-term financial commitments as it owns more than it owes. All solvency ratios are well above the benchmarks indicating the company has a positive networth and manageable loans. The company's interest coverage rate took a dive in 2020 but has improved above its previous rates in 2021 (Hayes, A. 2021).

Static liquidity ratios

Hermès (in millions of euros)	2019	2020	2021	Benchmark
Equity	6570	7258	9412	
Long term liabilities	1282	1828	1850	
Fixed assets	3721	4401	3002	
Current assets	6991	6991	8965	
Short term liabilities	2024	1039	2275	
Inventory	1035	1235	1449	
Net working capital	4067	438	6270	> 0
Current ratio	3.41	3.62	3.94	> 2
Acid test ratio	2.45	2.82	3.87	> 1

Hermès static liquidity ratios shows the company's current assets are sufficient to cover its current liabilities. All the ratios are well above the benchmarks indicating the brand is well equipped in terms of meeting its short-term obligations, even though the acid test ratio has dropped in 2021 from 2020 its has still improved since 2019 (Hayes, A. 2021).

Investment ratios

Hermès (in millions of euros)	2019	2020	2021	Benchmark
Number per share	207.85	167.84	175.47	
Dividend per share	2,434742	3,000000	4,048700	
Market price share	600.9	784.3	1211.1	
Profit per share	14.60	15.29	25.37	
Market value per share	600.9	784.3	1211.1	
Cash flow per share	10.29	12.34	29.03	
Net asset value per share	32.14	46.19	69.25	
Dividend yield	0.399%	0.394%	0.387%	Depend
Div. Payout Ratio	0.07	0.22	0.28	Depend
Price-earnings ratio	41.26	69.10	61.81	< 30 x
Price-cash flow ratio	61.91	64.08	41.74	
Price-net asset ratio	18.47	17.18	17.27	> 1

Hermès investment ratios shows the company's shares are performing well, as they are above the benchmarks. Some ratios need to be analysed further to get a clearer idea of its performance, since the recent financial report from 2021, shows the company's shares has gone down 7% in the last quarter. This indicates the company might be looking into a darker future, since some ratios also have decreased over the years (REUTERS. 2022).

Based on the ratios above the company is financially healthy and are continuously improving financially. To gain a deeper understanding of the company's financial situation the next step will be to compare Hermès to its competitors.

Process Book (Future Skills)

For this class, we had to look into the future skills of 2030, which we would need to succeed, and afterwards think of 4-5 SMART experiments, which we then had to do during the semester. We did not have any actual classes, as they were all pre-recorded, and were therefore not able to ask any questions. The other students had done this before, but we exchange students had more work as we had to do things they had done in the previous semester. I in the end did really like this subject, since we had to be very reflective of our own journey and what we would need to get to the goals we had for our own careers. I again did not enjoy the organisation of the school though as there was one teacher teaching the class, and another one assessing us without looking at the examples we were giving and told us things were wrong, that the other teacher had specifically told us to do. In many ways, I just do not think this school really makes any sense. But I still did enjoy writing the report for this subject, as I learned a lot about myself.

Training on the Job (TOJ)

In this subject, we had to actively participate in the assessment of the class below us. We had to prepare for the exam by looking into with the students had done this semester and what the objectives were of the exam. During the assessment, the students would do a presentation, and then we had time for questions, where we had to ask at least one question each and, in the end, we had to sit with the teachers and find out which grade they should have. Afterwards, we were then graded on how well we performed during the assessment as well as a written reflection of what we got out of the TOJ. I did the assessment with a good friend of mine, which was also an exchange student, which was really nice as we were both in the same situation, not knowing anything about the year below us and what they have done so far. Going into the assessment we both could not see why we had to do this, as neither of us was attending the school and therefore did not need to understand the grading process of the school. During the assessment, though we had a lot of fun and actually really enjoyed TOJ, and ended up learning a lot from it, because you got to understand what teachers were looking at when grading the students, and we got to see our own mistakes when presenting as we could see ourselves and our own mistakes in the people presenting. We also did the assessment with our favourite teacher Esther, who was definitely the best teacher we had. She is a great organiser, takes time to understand the students, is great at teaching and always had a good overview of the courses.

WORLD OF DISCOVERY - ON THE RIGHT PATH

HIS FEELS RIGHT - KEA - 2 YEAR AP DEGREE IN DESIGN, BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY - FASHION MANAGEMENT

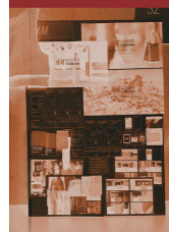
1ST SEMESTER - AUGUST 2019 - JANUARY 2020

Starting at KEA after my previous experience, was really nice. I liked that the teaching was more practically based, and that I was back to studying buying, production and product development. I was also very happy to start here because I immediately found like minded people, and it felt cool to be different. People here are way less stuck-up and more open for people's differences which I really enjoyed. I felt like I had really found the right place for me, especially when trying something before I knew was not the right direction for me. I felt driven and passionate about starting school and moving towards my future career in Production/Product Development.

During the 1st semester all of the programmes were working together, and we were put in groups of people from each department, so we could start networking from the beginning with people outside of our own field as well.

HARD SKILLS
Cross-functional work
Technical drawings
Industry-specific knowledge & expertise

SOFT SKILLS
Ecological ethics
Problem-solving
Collaboration



STAYING ON THE GRIND - MARA PYTTA - SEWING COURSE

OCTOBER 2019 - JANUARY 2020

Next to my studio I did a sewing course, to deepen my knowledge with sewing and construction. I learned more about making patterns and learned different sewing techniques. I especially spent a lot of time quilting. I enjoyed learning more about the making of garments, as I believe it's important to have knowledge about the whole working production to ensure the least amount of misunderstandings and defects when working with suppliers, samples and tech packs.

HARD SKILLS
Sewing
Quilting

SOFT SKILLS
Active pursuit of new forms of learning



THIS FEELS RIGHT - KEA - 2 YEAR AP DEGREE IN DESIGN, BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY - FASHION MANAGEMENT

2ND SEMESTER - FEBRUARY 2020 - JULY 2020

For our 2nd semester we were divided into our programme, so we only worked within Fashion Management here. This semester was focused on creating tech packs, material knowledge, cross-culture experiences, making supplier manuals, changing business models and product development. For our end of semester project we got an option to choose to have a make a more SCM focused project or creative project, and I decided on the latter. Bringing in a focus on product development in production, as I enjoy spending more time on the actual production of the product. Covid hit during the semester, which stopped us from visiting factories on our school trip to Porto, Portugal. Here I feel like I lost a big opportunity of learning about factories and seeing how the actual machines and processes work in real life. Covid also meant I spent less time with the other students, which I also think was a missed opportunity of learning, as I learn a lot from working with other people hearing their thoughts and work process. It did help me with growing closer to a few people, building real connections and finding work partners for school, which has been important for creating great projects, and it also allowed me to go in depth with my own research.

HARD SKILLS
SCM
Tech packs
Material knowledge

SOFT SKILLS
Adaptability
Resourcefulness
Resilience



HARD SKILLS
Construction
Drawing
Design
Sewing

SOFT SKILLS
Complex problem solving
Creativity & innovation
Openness to criticism



CREATIVITY TYPE

THE VISIONARY

Imagining the impossible

CREATIVE STRENGTHS

Full of big ideas
Ability to see potential and possibility everywhere

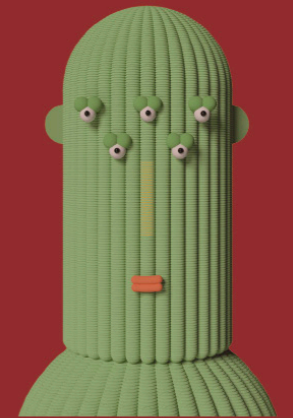
UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

Using your visions to fuel consistent daily action



The VISIONARY is charismatic and expressive, and love to share their ideas and visions with others and create community and shared values and ideals. The VISIONARY has the ability to see potential in everything and everyone, and to inspire others to see it too. It has always been important for me to see things from every angle and find understanding in things people and their actions. Many times that has been a huge strength for me as I find it so easy to forgive people and I can understand why they acted like they did, but it also often makes me seem like a pushover and someone who cannot stand up for themselves. But it has also helped me guide my friends and people around me if they're struggling with only seeing something from one perspective, as I can help them find new possibilities in situations that seem impossible for others. I love collaborating with others and sharing ideas also. I love working on my own project, but need to include other people in my thoughts to generate the best ideas. I sometimes feel like this can be a problem, because people can see it as me not being able to work independently because I am always asking questions to hear other people's beliefs and thoughts, or they think I have my head way too stuck up on my own case, as I love sharing my own ideas also, even when people did not ask for it (Accardo, J. n.d).

It is important for the VISIONARY not to get stuck in the dreaming phase, and learn to consistently put action into create my visions, as it only then will have true meaning. I definitely understand the dilemma, as it is something I am constantly dealing with in Professional and personal life. To be able to put action into my ideas I want to focus more on staying consistent with one assignment, the ability to cut down on my own ideas and creative thoughts and finding peace in my rather chaotic mind. I want to rely less on others to help me find solutions and be able to create and out something down to the bone without other people's help.



INSPIRATION AND RESEARCH

I created my purpose model on the basis of brainstorming, development map & Self-analysis. In addition I also based the purpose model on research into my interests & profession.

For what do I love? I thought about what had inspired me and what fascinated me about fashion. My first thought was my many talented friends, who inspire me everyday with what they have been able to put out in the world. I feel proud of my friends, and they make me believe myself as well. I have friends from all over the world in fashion, who is doing amazing things, such as writing for magazines, dressing internationally known people in PR, friends starting their own brands applying year after year for their dream school never giving up on their passion. Seeing other people excelling and working hard in an industry that I want to be part of is very inspiring to me. Apart from that I am also inspired by various documentaries, which I spend a lot of my free time watching. Some of my favourites are: McQueen, Advanced Style, Martin Margiela in his Own Words, Dior and I, Dressing Fashion, The September Issue, Project Runway, Next in Fashion, and Making the Cut (run, 2022, DRTV). It made me passionate about the fashion and the many aspects to it, but also what changes I wish to see in fashion. For what can I be paid for? I look at things I have learned in school, things we learn in companies that they needed to see from the interns and researched what companies are looking for in the production and product development departments. I had already been looking into these I am currently applying for internships in July. What am I good at? Based on my development map and self-analysis, but mostly my reference letters from my internship, as it is something other people have confirmed as well, and not just something I think. Finally, What does the world need? I based primarily on previous lectures and curricular in school at KEA, and the mentioned documentaries above. As well as classic "The True Cost" (2015) following the influencer and activist "Diet Prada" and working on my graduate focused on Size Inclusivity (Lu, T. n.d) (The True Cost, 2015) Based on these four pillars I could define my **PASSION, MISSION, VOCATION, PROFESSION and PURPOSE IN FASHION.**

MISSION

- To put more effort into my creative work and have more confidence in my imagination
- To gain further knowledge within inclusivity and Diversity - Understanding other people's perspective and how I can make the fashion world more inclusive for them
- Gain further knowledge in political injustice in the Fashion world to become more informed and actively stand up and make a difference in the world
- Further develop my skills in adaptability, by constantly pursuing new knowledge and skills within my field - especially understanding the digitalised world of fashion

VOCATION

- Working in the production process/ working with the production of clothing and Accessories
- Working on producing more sustainable and inclusive garments and accessories, while still honouring the craftsmanship and heritage of a brand
- Upstreaming the production process with TBL in mind, especially creating a production process that is more humanist for the workers
- Finding new innovative ideas to produce clothing while minimising waste, but without losing valuable staff

PROFESSION

- Communication
- Product Development
- Production
- Sourcing
- SCM
- Logistics
- Cross-cultural communication

MY PURPOSE IN FASHION

My purpose in fashion is to work with production and product development for a brand that wants real change and is not afraid to stand up against political injustice. My purpose is to optimize the way clothing is produced through the newest technology and knowledge within the field and thereby creating more sustainable and inclusive clothing. I am not meant to come up with the ideas for the brand, but research and think of innovative ways to make designers ideas become reality, and be creative with solutions that accommodate every departments needs and desires.

MISSION

- Working within the production process and understanding how clothing is produced
- Getting up close and personal with my project, the opportunity to go in-depth and use my knowledge as an advantage
- Working collaboratively with prospects - creating a more in-depth and wider perspective project
- Constantly gaining new knowledge and learning new skills
- Working creatively and innovative, but still with the thought of making it a reality
- Creating products that makes a difference and stand a political ground

SMART EXPERIMENT 1

SELF-DEVELOPMENT & ACTIVE PURSUIT OF NEW FORMS OF LEARNING

IMPROVE SKILL AT CLO3D

S Attend all CLO3D classes and finish all homework

M I have acquired all skills, that we will learn during the course

A I have an interest and passion for learning the skill as it will be important skill to add to my resume

R As technology and digitalisation is one of the fastest changing trends, it is important to learn

T We already have a plan made by the school, which gives me a goal an overview of my development



PROCESS

I decided to join the extracurricular class - CLO3D as I saw it as an excellent opportunity to develop a new skill and a new form of learning as well as improving my self-development as I have yet to work a lot with digitalising within production and manufacturing. We have previously talked about CLO3D at my time at KEA but only the design students got the opportunity to actually work with the programme. I therefore thought it would be a great skill for me to learn and I think it will be a competitive advantage when looking for internships and jobs in the future.

In the beginning I had a lot of motivation to work in the programme, but as time went on I found it difficult to focus on top of everything else at school. I still managed to attend classes and do all the homework. Because the course was already planned out I think it was very feasible for me to finish. Had it been something I had decided to learn myself, I think I would have been able to finish.

ACQUIRED SKILLS

- SOFTWARE LAYOUT
- USER SETTINGS
- NAVIGATION & SELECTION
- AVATAR ARRANGEMENT
- SEWING
- SIMULATION & PARTICLE DISTANCE
- SHAPES & INTERNAL SHAPES
- SYMMETRY
- PATTERN EDITING
- CLONING
- FLATTENING
- PEN TOOL
- DRAFTING A PATTERN
- FOLDS & PLEATS
- ELASTICS & PRESS
- MESH
- HARDWARE & TRIM
- MATERIALS
- TOPSTITCH & PUCK
- GRAPHICS & COLOR
- RENDERING

REFLECTION & THOUGHTS

I really enjoyed getting a deeper knowledge within the digitalised world of production and fashion, and it was fun to see the fashion world from a new perspective and what opportunities it can bring to the fashion world. I really enjoyed being able to work with the programme instead of just hearing about it. I still feel like I need to spend more time in the programme to work efficiently with CLO3D and to be able to put it on my resume. Since this was an extra-curricular course, I definitely showed and active pursuit of a new form of learning, and got new knowledge I did not have before. If I could experiment, I wish I would have spent more of my free time experimenting and getting to know the programme more, but I am happy with the smart goals I chose as it meant it was achievable for me to do.

PDP Assessment

The PDP Assessment was about creating a portfolio of your work, which was meant to help the students get a better idea of what they wanted to do in the next semester, as they then get to choose their own subjects. The exchange students had a different assignment, where we had to create a portfolio of our work during the semester and write a report about our experience at AMFI. I was allowed to create a portfolio about everything I have done so far since I could then use it to look for internships. We did not have a lot of classes, but it was really nice to be told how to create a good portfolio, which I can definitely use in the future. The only problem with this class was that they did not know who was supposed to assess the exchange student, so we had no one to ask if we had questions about the assignment. When we finally learned whom, the teacher was going to assess us, we were not allowed to ask him any questions. We could only ask another teacher, who knew nothing about the course. I think the teacher forgot he had to assess us since we still have not got the grade for the course, and he now says that he is “kind of” in charge of it and will investigate during the next few weeks.

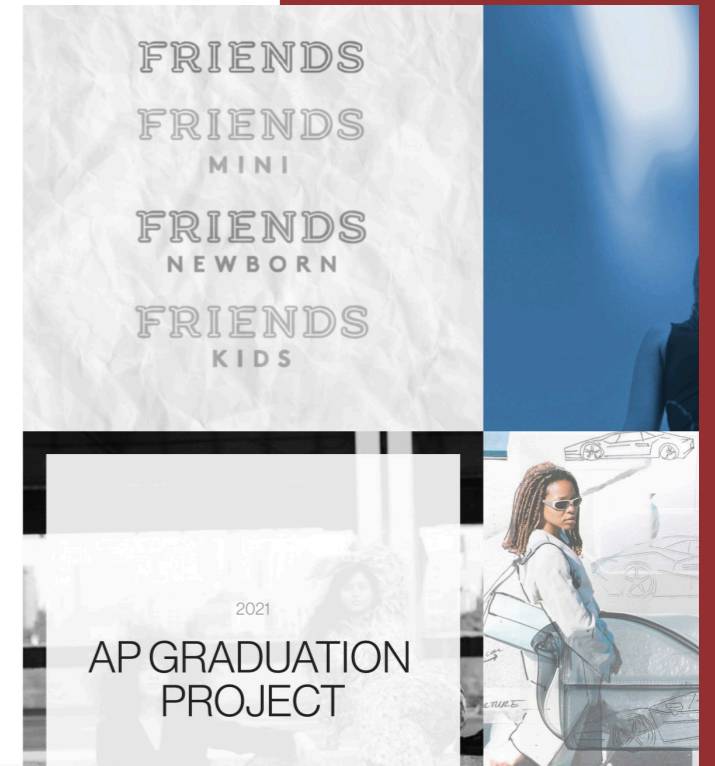
Theoretical and Critical Reflection

This class was about fashion theory and looked into different social issues in the fashion industry. I found this class quite weird because the theoretical classes were pre-recorded and no one showed up for the discussion classes, not even the teacher, and we did not have to do a report or exam in the end, as we were told that they had removed the exam for this course in at the end of the year since people kept failing. This meant that no one participated in the course, and I did not learn a lot from it. Luckily, I have previously studied at London College of Fashion where I learned a lot about Fashion Theory, which I would say is really interesting if taken seriously.

Overall, I think the school is not serious enough and have a serious problem with organisation, planning and communication, and I in the end understood why the students in my class had kind of given up on everything. I think the level of school is very low and think I would have learned a lot more staying at home at KEA. I would not choose this program if you are very focused on learning a lot and wanted to be very school focused during my time here, but I still did not regret it as I had the best time here and instead learned a lot about myself and way more out of the social and cultural experiences than I could ever imagine.

LOUISE TUNNING

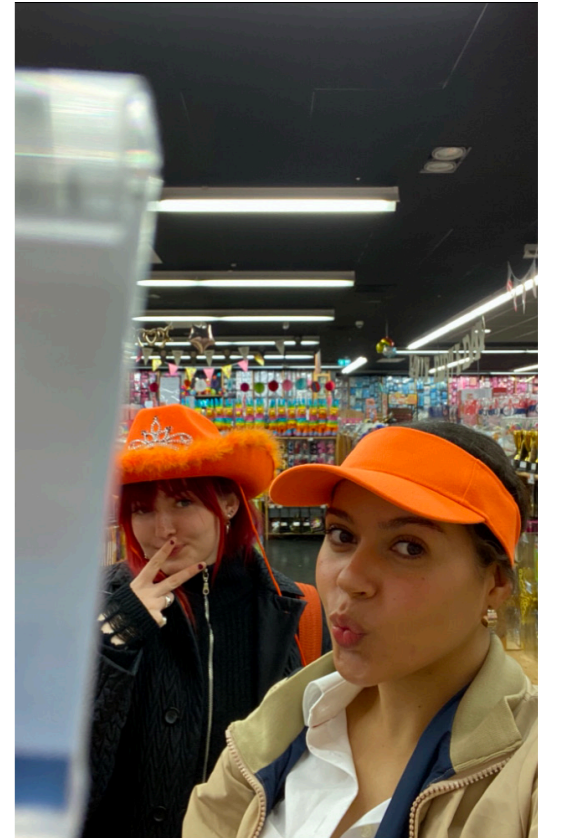
WORK
SUPPLIER MANUAL
PROJECT MANAGEMENT & SUPPLIER
COMMUNICATION
AP GRADUATION PROJECT
WORK EXPERIENCE
ABOUT ME
REFERRALS
CONTACT



SOCIAL AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCES

Before leaving KEA and going to Amsterdam, I expected that I would be spending a lot of time with myself, as I did not know anyone in Amsterdam. But I quickly learned I would have a completely different experience than I expected. There were a lot of opportunities to get to know people through different Erasmus events and there are a lot of exchange students and international people in the city who are all looking to meet new people and make new friends, so socially I had no problems. I got some really good friends at the school both the international students studying their bachelor's at the school (not from by study groups) and became very close with the other exchange students in the class. I met people where I lived, which was a student accommodation with other exchange students and we all met each other's friends, so I quite quickly got a very big network. I will say that my room at most times felt like a hotel room as I would almost only sleep there and nothing else. At home used to need a lot of time to myself and recharge, but after my semester here in Amsterdam I also feel relaxed and recharged with the people around me. I think I have become a lot more social and open, as I also get to hang out with people from all over the world and now have friends in Germany, Poland, South Korea, Japan, Sweden Morocco etc. I also found some Danish friends in the Facebook group "Danskere i Amsterdam", which was really nice because I now also have new friends, whom I will see back in KBH. Amsterdam is a very vibrant city with a lot of things to do, many cool bars and restaurants, nice stores and museums, a lot of good parks and a really good nightlife. The city never really sleeps, except for the public transport which stops at 00 to 5, so you need to bike a lot during the night or pay for an uber, but this never really bothered me as I always bike at home. I would especially recommend getting a museum card and going to all the museums. The NXT Museum is definitely my favourite. I would also recommend hanging out in the Pijp, which is a really fun area, and I would recommend Volks Hotel for studying, where we also spend a lot of our time since you can always charge your computer and it doesn't close until 1.

Overall, I really enjoyed my social and cultural experiences here, and I would say the hardest thing was saying goodbye to all the exchange students because we really had such a good time here and became very close over a very short period of time. I enjoy the city so much that I have decided to stay here for my internship.



PRACTICAL EXPERIENCES

Honestly, I do not remember much of the application process as so much has happened in between, but I remember it taking a long time, and I got very insecure in the end if I got in. But it all worked out fine in the end, and KEA will help you through the entire process. I travelled to Amsterdam by plane, which was very easy, and moved into student housing that I had gotten through the AMFI. I would definitely recommend doing this as it is very difficult and very expensive to do it on our own. When I arrived there were still some covid restrictions, but it quickly eased off and we had no problems after that. I ended up living in Diemen, which is actually a city next to Amsterdam. First, I hated it but grew to really like it and I had a really nice room and paid way less than other people, so I was happy with my housing situation in the end, but I am also looking forward to moving closer to the city, so I do not always have to bike that far every day. Amsterdam is in general cheaper than KBH, but I actually ended up spending a lot more money here than I do at home and a lot more than I budgeted for. This was due to the many social events, going out, visiting other cities like Utrecht, Rotterdam, Den Haag etc. When only spending 5 months here you want to experience everything, and I wanted to take part in everything as I really enjoyed the social life here and knew I might not get the chance again as I would at home in the city, I live in. I had Erasmus and SU, which I thought would be enough, but because of the very social and cultural life as I mentioned I spend a lot more. I was lucky to receive a grant from Nordea, which I would really recommend applying for since it really saved me. For transport I would recommend getting a Swapfiets bike as it is really easy and public transport in Amsterdam is super expensive. On top of that most supermarkets do not take MasterCard or Visa, so you would have to get a maestro card, which is the only thing that really works. Here I would recommend Revolut, as I had no problems with that, and it was very easy to use and also transfer money to other international straight away and for free when we can't use Mobilepay.

Overall, I did not have many difficulties, but I would really recommend applying for some grant before going on an exchange, just because it is really nice to have and look into what the city has to offer before going if you want to be able to see all the things you want within the semester here because time goes by very fast and you might not have time to do and see everything you wanted to.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, my time here in Amsterdam was very different from what I thought it would be. I expected to be learning a lot of new things at AMFI, and spend a lot of time by myself going to the gym, knitting etc. But in reality, it turned out completely different and I would not change it for the world, as I really did have the best time here and grew a lot as a person, and got to focus on other things in life, which I think was really good for me as I have always been very focused on school and my career. I am very happy I came here, for all the experiences I gained and all the people I met.