



EXCHANGE SPRING 2023



INTRODUCTION

I studied Digital Concept Development at KEA. I went to Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences in Amsterdam, HvA, during the 3th semester.

I completed a minor called Immersive Environment. The minor focused on designing digital-physical spaces using elements like projection, sound, objects, sensors and technology, aiming to create immersive environments.

I decided to take part in the exchange program because I wanted to immerse myself in a new culture, improve my language skills and connect with new people. Moreover, I believed that this experience would have a positive impact on my personal growth and development.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

All in all, it was easy to navigate and settle in. A couple of weeks before the semester started, they arranged an online meeting that provided a good overview of the minor and fellow students.

This minor emphasizes "learning by making." We have lectures by teachers, peers, and guest speakers, but most of our time is spent building and experimenting on weekly projects. Every Friday, we present our creations and get feedback from peers and teachers.

The most rewarding aspect of my study experience is the freedom to be creative. I gained valuable knowledge in this minor, learning various software and technologies that have expanded my skillset. Additionally, I feel lucky to have had motivated and supportive peers, as we helped and taught each other, contributing to a positive and enriching learning environment. However, I find the lack of organization in this minor frustrating. There isn't enough time for in-depth learning, and the schedule can be overwhelming, resulting in a stressful workload.

I would recommend this minor if you have an interest in art, technology, enjoy being creative, and like hands-on building activities. You get a lot of freedom. However, be prepared for a self-taught approach, especially if you come from a different study background and are unfamiliar with certain technologies and software. It may be challenging to catch up.





PRACTICALEXPERIENCE

The exchange application process was manageable. There's an online portal with step-by-step instructions.

The level of preparation required depends on your destination and your nationality. I am not a Danish citizen but I do have a Danish residence permit. Therefore I had to make extensive preparations. I made sure to gather information and prepare all necessary documents beforehand to avoid any application issues.

Anne Dibbern, the International Coordinator at KEA, was really helpful. She always responded quickly to my questions and provided advice. I had inquiries about various things and got the support and guidance I needed.



HOUSING

I heard finding a place in Amsterdam is difficult, with many scams. To avoid this, I applied through HVA. It can be frustrating as there is limited availability. Although you pay a housing fee, it does not guarantee you any accommodation. So act quickly when offered a room, as there's no second chance. Check your email regularly and follow the introduction promptly.

I lived near the city center, enabling me to walk to most places conveniently. I had one roommate with whom I shared the bathroom and kitchen. We got along well, so living together was hassle-free.

Living expenses were not significant difference compared to Copenhagen. The prices are a bit lower here but not a lot. Your costs will vary depending on your purpose. If you plan to explore and experience the city, you'll need to budget accordingly. Otherwise, I would say the overall costs are approximately the same.

CULTURAL/ PERSONALEXPERIENCE

Amsterdam and Copenhagen are alike in some ways, yet each has its unique charm. Biking here can be chaotic with few rules followed, unlike in Copenhagen. However you will quickly adapt and get used to it. As a pedestrian watch out for cyclists.

There are plenty of things to do here, from charming cafes and museums to lovely parks. Second-hand, flea, and daily markets can be found all over Amsterdam. It's also convenient to travel to another city for a day, whether by bike or train. Moreover communication is easy as everyone speaks English.

My best personal experience is learning how to enjoy my own company and embracing new experiences. Additionally, I appreciate the friendships I've made.



CONCLUSION

I'm glad I chose to study abroad for a semester. This journey pushed me to grow and step out of my comfort zone, which I'm grateful for. I made new friends and cherished memories that will stay with me. It was truly worth it in every way.

I had an amazing time and I hope you will too!!

GOOD ADVICE

01 – It can be a stressful period because you have to manage it alongside your studies, so aspect to spend your free time into the application process.

02 – Make a task plan and take note of key information to keep things manageable.

03 – Check your email daily and be quick to response.

04 – Expect the first two weeks might be overwhelming and stressful as you adjust to a new place, start school, meet new people, join activities, and handle practical stuffs.

05 – Use this time to get out of your comfort zone and experiment!

06 – Be open mind and always have fun!



GOOD LUCK 🍀🍀🍀

