

## Questionnaire Study Abroad/Exchange

### 1. Where and when did you study abroad?

- 09.01.2023 - 30.05.2023 in Edinburgh Napier University

### 2. What KEA program did you attend at the time?

- MultimediaDesign

### 3. What classes did you take during your semester abroad? Please briefly explain what each class was about

#### 2D Animation

The brief was to produce a short animated movie lasting 1-2 minutes that featured two interacting characters. The characters and backgrounds used in the piece should be original and be animated using the techniques learned in the practical sessions. That included a story, script, storyboard, animatic, character design, background design, finding a suitable soundtrack and a presentation.

#### Sound for Digital Media

The brief was to create a 3-minute soundtrack for a commercially released live action movie or animated film. We had to replace all of the existing audio with a new soundtrack. That included finding music and sounds, recording sounds and dialog, adjusting sound, writing technical notes, self-evaluating and doing an interview.

#### Visual Effects

The brief was to craft a short 10-60 second photorealistic invisible VFX sequence. This was to be accompanied by a 6-8 minute VFX breakdown video with the techniques learned in the practical sessions highlighting the stages in creating the VFX sequence.

## Academic Experience

### 1. How helpful was the *receiving school* in the process of choosing classes and settling you in?

- Good for the courses I chose. Before being enrolled into the system I had to go to another campus to matriculate. I couldn't find the information I needed (where I had to

be and when) before I was fully enrolled into the system. Apart from that the receiving school was not that helpful, when it came to changing one of my courses. I wanted to see if it was possible to get a Graphic Design course, but in the process of finding out I got sent to a lot of different people at the university and when I finally found the right person to talk to it was already too late. I also missed a social kind of introduction day for international students or just something social - as the one at KEA - that is very valuable for new students in my opinion.

## **2. What classes/study experiences did you find the most rewarding? Why?**

- The 2D animation course. I wanted to take the Motion Graphic course, but that went on the previous semester. But in the 2D animation course (and the VFX) I learned how to use After Effects, which I definitely will use in the future. Also I didn't have an iPad with a drawing program as many of the other students used. Therefore I draw my animation using Illustrator which made me develop my skills in Ai.

## **3. What classes/study experiences did you find least relevant or least valuable to you? Why?**

- I think it depends on what you want to do in the future. For me, a lot of the theory explained in Visual Effects was not relevant to me because it focused on the VFX industry, Marvel movies, explosions and laser swords, which I didn't find interesting, I am more interested in how VFX is used in advertisements. It was nice to learn a sound program (Reaper), if sound is something you are interested in. The theory was a bit heavy and I missed examples on the advanced theory.

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

- Again, it depends on what their plan for the future is. But I think some courses in the other departments of the university could also be relevant for a multimedia designer.

## **Practical Experience**

### **1. How was the application process? a. What did KEA help you with**

Anne Dibbern was a great help. She helped me throughout the process regarding where to go and about the courses I could take and how to fill out the Erasmus formula.

b. What help did you receive from your home school abroad?

I received help with any questions I had recording the Erasmus documents and courses.

## **2. Did you have any practical difficulties settling down at your destination?**

a. How helpful was the receiving school in the process

- I didn't ask my reviewing school for help. However I moved twice during the process.

## **3. Where did you live?**

- I first lived in a house with a guy in Corstorphine (a suburban area) and then I moved to Morningside (closer to the university and the city) which I shared with two girls from Scotland.

### **a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?**

- Yes a bit. I found somewhere to stay just a few days before leaving. And somewhere else after two months of being here. Some sites I used were Spareroom and groups on Facebook such as The Meadows Share and Edinburgh Flat Share, but it was a bit difficult to get hold of someone there.

### **b. Was it expensive?**

- I found places around 5000 dkk/month for a single room in a shared flat/house. But student accommodation is more expensive.

## **4. What kind of expenses did you have in general?**

- Accommodation, food, drinks, experiences, societies, shopping (they have a lot of nice charity shops).

### **a. Did you spend more or less money than you budgeted**

- A bit more, but I didn't really make a budget.

## **5. What kind of income did you have during your exchange? Did you receive SU and/or Erasmus**

- Both, nothing apart from that.

## **Did you apply for any grants and did you receive any?**

- I found it very time consuming and overwhelming so I decided not to- and then just to work when I got back home instead

## **Cultural/Personal Experience**

### **1. What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad? How helpful was the receiving school in this process?**

- I didn't really use the school for much apart from my studies.

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

- Just the whole experience. Living in a different city with different people and being a part of a different culture- just trying something other than to be in your own little bubble in Copenhagen. How to navigate in a different place and create a new life was really valuable to me. The architecture, the hills and nature here is something else. However that doesn't come without challenges. It was a bit difficult in the beginning. My 2 hour lectures followed by 1,5 hours practicals 3 times a week gave me a lot of spare time which I had to find out how to spend in a meaningful way. I feel the whole experience was good and the exchange made me more independent and I feel I have grown as a person.

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

Courses:

- I chose courses without coding (as far as I was aware it wasn't an option), but I think the courses I chose (the 6 different ones I could pick from) were the best ones.

Students:

- The students here are very young and my impression is that most of them only go to university to study. However I found some from my course to talk to (both international and people from Scotland) by approaching them - be open and just start conversations with people helps. During the exam period where we were working on our projects many of us used the classroom where I ended up speaking with even more from my course.

Social life:

- It helped me a lot to go for trials at the different societies they had (which I didn't know were a thing). I joined the choir (which wasn't as social as I thought) and then I joined the friends international community, where I got friends. I furthermore went for trials at the football society, basketball society, and badminton society. Even though I only went for one trial at the football society I became friends with two German girls which I kept contact with. I also wanted to share accommodation in order to meet people here.