

Questionnaire Study Abroad/Exchange

1. Where and when did you study abroad?

I was on an exchange program at OTIS College of Art and Design in Los Angeles, California.

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

Top-up in Brand Design

3. What classes did you take during your semester abroad?

Typography II
Comm Studio II: Graphic Design
Experimental Typography
Copywriting
Ideation Bootcamp
On Screen Production and Concepts
Practicum III

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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

They chose for us classes which you can take into consideration according to our program in Copenhagen. On introduction day at Otis you will make your own schedule and sign up for the classes.

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

Otis is an amazing school. You will learn so much and all the classes were very important and on a high level. I enjoyed the most typography studio class.

Description of Typography II class:

This class explores key typographic styles, encourages you to develop an understanding of typographic conventions and instills a sensitivity to the subtleties typography demands. You will work on assignments with rigorous parameters, featuring larger bodies of text as well as assignments that encourage you to think conceptually and experimentally. We will look at typography as a compositional and communication tool, focusing first on single-page layout and progressing through multiple-page projects. You will address grid construction, hierarchy, organization based on visual, syntactical and semantic explorations; you will learn how to create meaningful sequences, narratives, and book structures.

Also graphic design studio class. We were working on a poster 8 weeks and I never thought how deep you can go with this. You will learn how to use different mediums, how to work with type and image, color theory. You will have every class presentation of your work what have you done and crits from your teacher and classmates which was very helpful to work further on your project. They were both 6 hour class once a week. You will go very deeply into assignments be ready to work hard.

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

Ideation Bootcamp. Many times our class was canceled and I just did not feel that I learned much. It was nice to explore ideas but I was busy with the other classes which were more important.

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

Typography class is a must. Teachers are great and after this class you will recognize typography everywhere. Also graphic design, copywriting, on screen production class.

Cultural/Personal Experience

1. What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?

In the beginning everything looked new for me and strange because I never been in US before. But after some time I felt that was my the best decision I have ever made. Otis is a great school. You will spend there a lot of time and you will become like a small family there with all your classmates. People are very nice and they will help if you have some issues.

a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

The biggest issues I had in Copenhagen. It took me a lot of time to get my Visa ready. Be ready for this, it will takes a lot of nerves but it is worth it. Also I got answer from school that I got accepted in December. But once you here in Los Angeles Otis always will help you with any questions.

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

OTIS College. I have never experienced something similar what I have experienced there. So much inspiration there, so many talented people. Literally I was considering to be transferred.

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

Be ready to work hard. Barely you will have time to explore the city while you study. Start you process books as soon as possible. Go to all events are suggested by the teachers. For example, LA Art Book Fair it was an amazing experience.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

1. How was the application process?

a. What did KEA help you with?

Hanne is really nice lady who is responsible for exchange students and she will help you as much as she can. But if you need any recommendation or help you are welcome to write an email to me:

egle_ka@yahoo.com

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

You do not really need help from them while you in your application process. It is mostly KEA responsibility and you filling out everything online. Unless you have some specific questions about the subject you can always write Otis.

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

Application and Visa process took me around 2 months as I remember. To finish your application all together with your Visa you will use 10 different websites or even more. It will be stressful and confusing. But it is my personal opinion, because I never did something similar before. As I mentioned before after the hard work you will feel that it was worth it.

a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

If you have any question write them. They reply fast.

3. Where did you live?

I lived close to Culver City in an apartments complex. 10 min by car from school. I was ubering.

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

Not really. I found on Facebook group.

b. Was it expensive?

To live in Los Angeles is expensive. So you need to have some savings.

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

Accommodation, travels to school, personal expenses.

a. Did you spend more or less money than you budgeted with?

More.