

EXCHANGE REPORT

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INTRO

1. Where and when did you study abroad?

Politecnico Di Milano, Spring 2024

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

PBA, Design og Buisness - Sustainable Fashion Tech

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

”Altered Bodies” workshop:

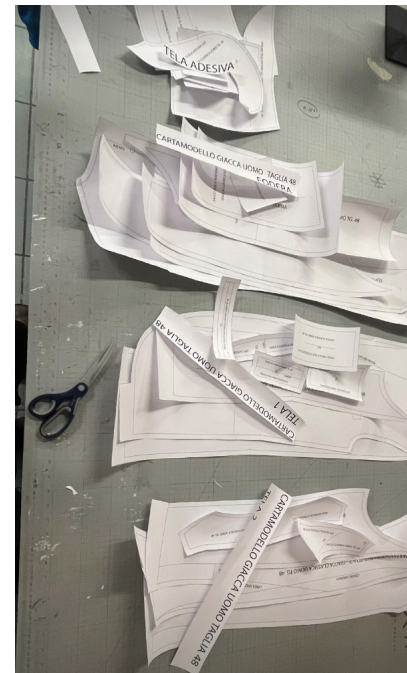
In this workshop, I explored how AI/AR beauty filters impact self-image and societal norms. I created designs to suggest more diverse and positive alternatives to these filters, encouraging reflection on their impact.

Fashion retail experience:

In the ”Fashion Retail Experience” course, I focused on designing a store with an emphasis on creating the best user experience. The course involved developing strategies and layouts to enhance customer interaction and satisfaction in a retail environment.

Laboratorio di Progetto moda:

In the ”Laboratorio di Progetto Moda” course, we worked in groups on a store design project, culminating in constructing and sewing two styles together as a team. Additionally, we made a blazer each to learn various techniques. It was a very educational experience, and I would highly recommend it.



ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

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

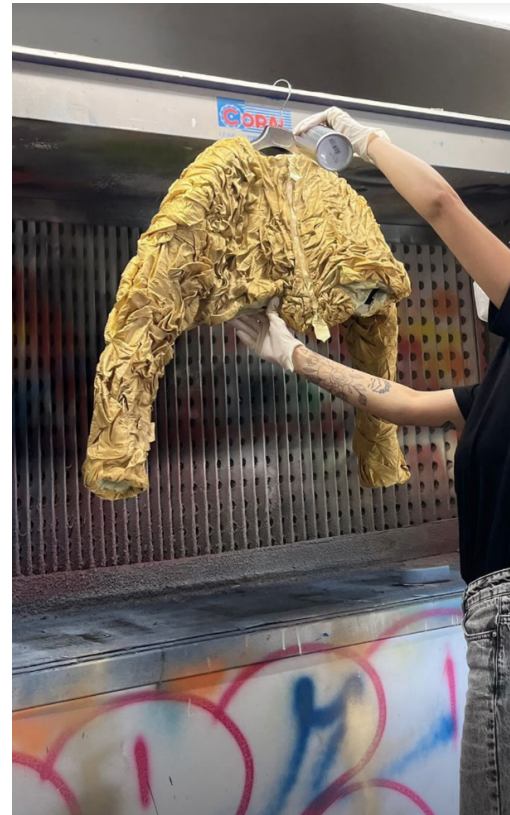
The school was very helpful in assisting with the selection of classes. They offered to have a conversation with me about which classes I wanted to take and also allowed me to try out different classes before making a final decision. This flexibility made it easier for me to find the right fit.

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

I found the course "Laboratorio di Progetto Moda," a design studio course, to be the most rewarding. This course was more analog, requiring both designing and sewing. I learned a lot about physical construction, which was a valuable experience for me as I am usually better at constructing in CLO3D. Additionally, it was nice to see how another school approach the design process.

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

I found all the classes to be relevant and valuable. Each course offered unique insights and learning opportunities that contributed to my overall understanding and skills in the field. I learned a lot from each class and appreciated the diverse approaches and techniques taught.



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

I would advise other KEA students to be open to all the courses offered, as I found all of them to be beneficial. Each class provided different perspectives and skill sets that were instrumental in my learning experience. Trying a variety of classes can help students discover new interests and strengths.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

1. How was the application process?

The application process was somewhat complicated. It's important to allocate enough time to understand both the online mobility system and the school's own system, as they are very different from KEA's and can be quite confusing. Selecting courses also requires attention, it can be confusing to figure out how to do it. The school provides a video of the process, which I really recommend watching as it makes things easier. Lastly, ensure you have enough courses to obtain 30 ECTS points, so make sure you have enough classes!

A. What did KEA help you with?

Hanne from KEA, who is the International Coordinator for KEA Design, was incredibly helpful throughout the process. She was always ready to answer questions and was a big help! She assisted with understanding everything in the online mobility system, the school's own website, course selection, and much more. This made the application process much easier!

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

The school was very helpful in assisting with the selection of classes. They offered to have a conversation with me about which classes I wanted to take and also allowed me to try out different classes before making a final decision. This flexibility made it easier for me to find the right fit.





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

I didn't have any major problems settling down in Milan. It's important to contact the Italian embassy in Denmark beforehand to obtain a tax code. You MUST have a tax code in Italy if you stay longer than three months, and you need it for the school, getting a metro card, and much more. Getting a metro card is a really good idea as it only costs 22 euros per month, and you can use it for all public transportation in Milan as much as you want. (Be careful with your belongings on public transport, as there are many pickpockets.)

One of the biggest difficulties was definitely the language. Not many people speak English, so there is often a language barrier. This applies everywhere—school, supermarkets, cafes, etc. Finally, I had quite a few problems finding a place to live.



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

To be honest, the school was not particularly helpful in this regard. I think there was maybe an Erasmus presentation about how to navigate and live in Milan.

3. Where did you live?

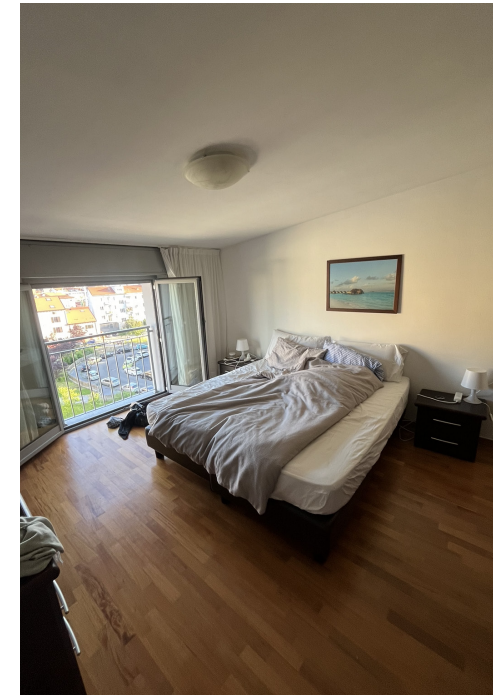
I lived in an area called Dergano. It was a very cozy and local area, a lot of cute cafés and close to the metro, which went directly into the city! Additionally, it was only a 10-minute walk to the school, which was really convenient since you end up spending a lot of time at school.

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

I found it a bit challenging. It is very hard to find an affordable apartment. You have to be very careful when using Facebook pages because almost everything you find there is a scam. In general, you need to be very cautious to avoid being cheated. I ended up using the website Spotahome.com. It worked really well, and everything there is legit (I believe). In any case, it is important to start early. Another option is to search in the Facebook group "Danskere i Milano," where you can also get answers to questions if you have any. If I were to do something differently, I would have looked for a shared apartment, as it can feel very lonely living alone in a new city. A shared apartment with other young people can be an easy way to make friends.

b. Was it expensive?

It was a bit more expensive than Copenhagen, but you can find something at a reasonable price, it's just difficult.





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

I had similar expenses to what I have in Copenhagen. This includes public transportation, rent, groceries, going out, etc. Generally, it is cheaper to live in Milan than in Copenhagen, except for housing.

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

I spent about what I had anticipated. It was very similar to what I usually spend in Copenhagen.

5. What kind of income did you have during your exchange?

During my internship, I received Erasmus funding, Danish student grants (SU), and I also had a job at Ganni's showroom during Fashion Week. Additionally, I had some savings, which I would definitely recommend to everyone.

a. Did you receive SU and/or Erasmus

I received both during my exchange.

b. Did you apply for any grants and did you receive any?

I neither applied for nor received any grants. Looking back, I definitely should have applied for some.



CULTURAL/PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

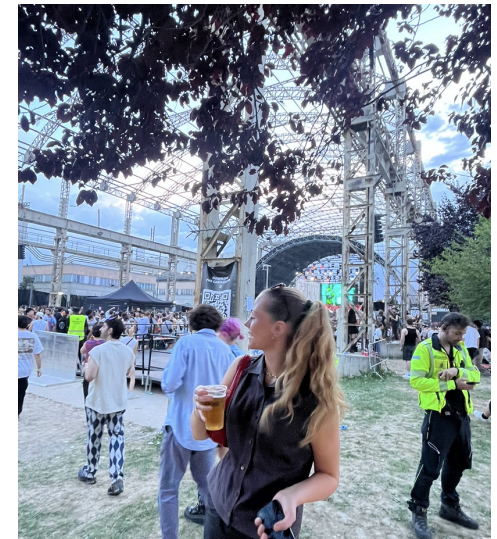
1. What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?

I didn't experience many challenges, but I found it a bit difficult to adjust to the way Italian students worked on their assignments. It was quite different from Denmark in that both teachers and students came and went as they wanted to. Classes usually started about 45 minutes late, and lunch breaks were between 1.5 and 2.5 hours long. Grades were given throughout the semester, and presentations were required in almost every class. However, this was not something to be nervous about—you're probably the best at English in the class. The exam was also a presentation in front of the whole class, in some way felt very casual as you get used to presenting.

The Italian students were not particularly welcoming and preferred not to speak English unless absolutely necessary. My study groups mostly spoke Italian, even though I was there and they knew I didn't understand a word. However, there were many international students (Erasmus students) who were generally very friendly and welcoming.

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

The school was incredibly helpful in this process. They organized a lot of Erasmus events for all the exchange students, which was really nice. There were parties, dinners, excursions, trips, and much more. The school did a lot to create a social community for the exchange students.



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

It was incredibly exciting to experience living in a new country and adopting new routines. Meeting new people and making friends from around the world was thrilling. Attending a different school with alternative teaching methods was very interesting, and I learned many things that I wouldn't have if I had stayed at KEA. I learned a lot about myself and would recommend everyone to go on an exchange.

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

Attend the Erasmus events, especially at the beginning! It can be a bit scary to arrive all alone, but these events are a really good way to make friends.

Go on trips, experience the all of italy! its very easy by train.

Finally, just take everything as it comes—it will all work out in the end.

