

New York City

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ABC's of NYC

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Exchange Report



Where I studied abroad

I studied abroad in New York from January 2022 till May 2022. I studied at SUNY at Purchase College, which is located a little north of New York City.

My KEA program

I was enrolled in Multimedia Design at KEA at the time, where I did my 3rd semester abroad.

Classes

I took classes in Purchase College's New Media and Graphic Design department. I had four different classes with a total of 13 credits. I took Digital Media for Designers II, Introduction to Sound, Introduction to Media Studies, and Introduction to the Web.

Digital Media for Designers II is a motion graphic course. We worked in Adobe After Effects and created a lot of content and projects. I also got introduced to Cinema 4D and 3D animations. A lot of focus in class is on graphic design work.

Introduction to Sound is a sound design course. Here you work with using sound as art and making artwork out of your recordings. There's a lot of work in this course, field recordings, editing, writing essays, discussions, but it's all worth it, and you'll get a better understanding of the world of sound.

Introduction to Media Studies is a course where you'll get introduced to the media's role in our society, and other societal issues connected to media. In this class you'll be reading and writing a lot of essays and discussing them in class.

Introduction to the Web is an art coding course, where you'll get a crash course in HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and JQuery, to create artworks on the web. It's all about using what we have to create immersive experiences. It's very far away from what KEA is teaching.

Academic Experience

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

They were very helpful in the build-up to me going abroad, helping me figure out housing, how I chose classes, visa application, and other practical stuff. When I arrived at campus, my exchange coordinator helped me settle in, gave me a tour of campus, and took me shopping for some utensils and beddings.

After the first day though, I was pretty much on my own from there. I didn't hear from my coordinator until one of the last days I was there.

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

The classes I found the most rewarding were Digital Media for Designers II, Introduction to Sound, and Introduction to Media Studies, because they were all subjects and skills I found extremely interesting. The teachers in all of these classes were really good and engaged in their field. In these classes the students were really engaged in the class, which created a good study environment.

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

The class I found the least rewarding was Introduction to the Web, since it was a lot of repetition for me, and the teacher wasn't the most engaging, which created a bad study environment for the students.

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

Definitely Digital Media for Designers II and Introduction to Sound, since they were the most relevant for my education. But the teacher that taught Digital Media for Designers II, stopped after the semester I was there, and he was a big part why the class was so good. The teacher that teaches Introduction to Sound is really good, and I can definitely recommend taking classes with her.

Cultural/Personal Experience

What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?

At first I found it really hard adapting to the culture in New York, which I didn't expect. It was way more different, than I'd expected, in every way. But after a while you got used to it, and then it was hard to switch back to the culture in Copenhagen, when I got back. The people, especially, have a totally different mindset and a different way of approaching everything, and that took a while to adapt to.

How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

Not very helpful, but I didn't reach out either. I got some really good friends from Paris, London, and Hong Kong, whom I could talk to about these challenges, who also had the same experience as me. But the school could have done a bit more to help exchange students.

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

Just being in New York! I loved every moment of it! And the friends I've made as well. But I loved riding the subway around New York, and just trying to feel how it is to be a local in New York City.

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

I would say find somewhere else to live, rather than living on campus. And I probably wouldn't choose to study at Purchase College again, I would probably find somewhere closer to the city, but if you're okay with it being 40 minutes away by train, then I'd recommend it. But, enjoy it while you're there, cause it goes by in a blink of an eye! Seriously, it was one of the best 4-5 months of my life.



Practical Experience

How was the application process?

It was really long ... it probably took me from late August till the day I departed in late January. Be prepared to spend a lot of time on preparing for your exchange semester. Visa application, exchange application for KEA and the school you're applying for, financial statements, where to live, which class, etc... It's a lot and it can be tough dealing with your studies at the same time. But, in the end it's all worth it!

What did KEA help you with?

KEA's exchange coordinator Anne Dibbern helped me a lot in the beginning, getting into the process of everything, and how and where to start. She also helped guide me in my visa application and helped with my course selections.

What help did you receive from your school abroad?

Purchase College gave me a checklist of things I needed to get done before I left. Otherwise they helped me with my course selections, and some guidance with the visa application.

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

When I came to campus, I had no clue where I was or what the campus was like, and I didn't know anybody. I went into my room and expected a mattress, a duvet/comforter, and a pillow. The only thing I found was a shabby mattress and a non-cleaned room.

How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

Thankfully, I called Marjorie, my exchange advisor, and we met up. She gave me a tour of campus, drove me into the nearest city so I could get a pillow and a comforter, and introduced me to some other exchange students.

Where did you live?

I lived on campus in Alumni Village.

So for me it wasn't that difficult to find a place. They already had a place secured for me if I wanted.

Was it expensive?

It was very expensive, especially for what it was. It was also really expensive to eat at campus.

What kind of expenses did you have in general?

The bulk of my expenses was accommodation, because I bought an apartment in Copenhagen while I was there. So I was paying triple rent while I was there. Other than that it was probably food, drinks, transportation that were my primary expenses.

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

I spent a whole lot more! Every penny was worth it !