

# Questionnaire Study Abroad/Exchange

ERAM - University School of Arts

3rd semester

September 2024 - January 2025

I study Multimedia Design at KEA and went on exchange to Girona, Catalonia, Spain, during my 3rd semester in the fall of 2024. During my exchange, I studied Audiovisual Communication and Multimedia at ERAM in Salt. There, I took classes such as *Editing Theory and Technique*, *Multimedia Technologies*, *Photography*, *Camera Operation and Lighting*, *Audiovisual Direction*, and *Audiovisual and Sound Technology*.

The classes at ERAM focused on filmmaking and were quite different from the subjects I studied at KEA. If you're considering studying at ERAM, it's important to know that the curriculum and approach are very distinct from KEA.

I also studied Multimedia Technology, where we worked with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, gaining foundational knowledge in multimedia design and frontend development. Additionally, I learned a lot about content production and significantly improved my skills in content creation, particularly in video and photography production.

## Academic Experience

ERAM's exchange coordinator went above and beyond to help me secure the credits and classes I needed. However, the school's coordination regarding which classes were being offered kept changing, even after the semester had started. Although it was a very confusing process, we managed to figure it out in the end. That said, I ended up taking very different classes than I had initially expected when I chose this school for my exchange.

Despite the initial confusion, I ended up really enjoying my subjects and ERAM as a school. It is quite small, and classes are shared with the other exchange students (17 in total) as well as the Spanish students, which made the experience feel much more inclusive. The school also provides access to a lot of professional equipment, which you get to learn, use, and experiment with.

There are other, larger universities in Girona where we also had an introduction. These universities host many more exchange students, offering a broader community and social experience.

If I were to change one subject, it would be Photography. The course felt very chaotic and focused primarily on technical aspects. I had hoped for a more artistic and experimental approach to working with photography.

## Practical Experience

The application process was very straightforward, thanks to Anne, the exchange coordinator at KEA. She assisted with the application and patiently answered all my questions about the exchange.

Finding a place to stay took some effort, but the University of Girona (UdG) hosted a recommendation meeting for new exchange students. During the meeting, they provided tips on how to find accommodation, including trusted companies to contact and advice on avoiding scams.

For many things you might want to plan before going—like classes, recommendations, social communities, sports facilities, and more—it becomes much easier to figure everything out once you arrive. Help and resources are much more accessible when you're there in person.

I lived near the train station close to Salt, which was a really nice area. I was fortunate to find a large apartment with three roommates. However, I heard from others that living farther out in Salt can feel a bit unsafe at night, though I never personally experienced anything uncomfortable. The rent was very affordable at around €355 per month. I found the apartment through Piso en Piso, but the company was not very responsive—if they replied at all, it often took a long time.

My income came from SU, Erasmus, and a foundation grant, which was more than enough to cover my expenses. I applied for several grants and only received one, but it was absolutely worth the effort to send out multiple applications.

## Cultural/Personal Experience

The language barrier was a bit of a challenge since most people in Girona primarily speak Catalan (and Spanish) and not much English. However, you quickly pick up the most useful phrases, which can take you a long way. If you're interested, there are also various language classes you can take.

Some of my best personal experiences included making friends from diverse backgrounds and participating in local traditions and festivals.

My advice is to stay open-minded, be proactive in social activities, and don't hesitate to ask for help when needed. Even if things take longer to plan than expected, don't worry—it will all work out in the end.

