

Exchange Report on Studying Abroad at Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (AMSIB)

Academic Year: August 2024 - January 2025

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Program: Economy and IT at KEA

Study Experience

Where and when did you study abroad?

I studied at Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences (AMSIB) from August 2024 until January 2025.

What KEA program were you attending at the time?

During my exchange, I was enrolled in the Economy and IT program at KEA.

What classes did you take during your semester abroad?

- **Change Management:** Focused on strategies for managing organizational change, albeit with a heavy emphasis on innovation.
- **Perspectives on Leadership:** Explored various leadership theories and practices.
- **Business Models and Services:** Covered the development and implementation of business models in service industries.
- **Contemporary Topics in Organizational Behavior:** Looked into current issues and trends in organizational behavior.
- **International Strategy and Organization:** Examined strategic management in a global context.
- **OLC Consultancy Lab:** Provided hands-on experience working directly with companies to solve real business problems.

Academic Experience

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

The package deal I chose meant that the courses fit together well, providing good academic correspondence. The guidance from the school was adequate, although there were some gaps in communication as I was an exchange student joining an existing program. Despite this, any issues were quickly resolved with the help of classmates and faculty.

Most rewarding class:

The OLC Consultancy Lab was particularly rewarding as it involved real-case scenarios where we could apply our knowledge practically, resulting in a valuable output for the involved company.

Least valuable class:

Change Management did not meet my expectations due to its focus being more on innovation rather than actual change management within an organization.

Practical Experience

Application Process:

KEA was immensely helpful throughout the application process, with guidance counselors assisting from start to finish. The school abroad provided minimal help until the classes started.

Accommodation:

Finding accommodation was challenging due to missing crucial information on dorms and student housing, leading to an independent search amidst many overpriced options and potential scams. Eventually, I found suitable housing, though the cost was comparable to that in Denmark.

Expenses:

While I did spend more than initially planned, my expenditures did not exceed my maximum budget.

Financial Support

Income during exchange:

I was supported by the Erasmus+ program, a Danish scholarship, and personal savings.

Cultural/Personal Experience

Cultural challenges:

Adjusting to the Dutch culture was straightforward as it closely resembles Danish culture, with minimal cultural shocks. The school's faculty frequently checked in on our well-being, facilitating a smoother cultural integration.

Best experience:

Participating in a local marathon that included a drinking game was the highlight of my cultural experiences, offering a fun and immersive way to connect with local traditions.

Advice for future students:

I recommend finding accommodation close to the school to avoid long commutes. Don't hesitate to engage socially and build networks; these efforts are essential for a fulfilling exchange experience.