

Exchange Report – Humber College

By Oliver Christiansen

1. Where and when did you study abroad?

I studied abroad at Humber College in Toronto, Canada. I started late august and graduated December 16th.

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

I attended IT-technology at KEA

3. What classes did you take during your semester abroad? Please briefly explain what each class was about.

I changed a couple of courses, but I ended up having five courses:

Computer Hardware, which is about how computers work and the software within it.

Software Engineering, which is about how you can engineer and plan out different projects.

Micro Assembly Language, which is an early programming language, is complicated.

Network Programming, where we make servers and clients in java.

Windows Scripting, where we learn how you can script in windows to automate a lot of things.

1. How helpful was the receiving school in the process of choosing classes and settling you in?
They were quite good at helping me choose my classes. There definitely were some classes where the difficulty was way higher than anticipated, but I got help in how to change courses.

2. What classes/study experiences did you find the most rewarding? Why?
I would say that Network Programming and Windows Scripting have been my favorite classes. I love trying out Java and seeing and understanding how servers communicate. Other than that, Windows Scripting was very giving despite being online.

3. What classes/study experiences did you find least relevant or least valuable to you? Why?
Software engineering and Assembly Language I would say. The reason it wasn't valuable was since Software Engineering has a lot of theories that I already knew, and Assembly Language just seems like a very outdated programming language with a bad, humble-bragging teacher.

4. What classes would you advise other KEA students going to the receiving school to choose or not to choose?
I would recommend Windows Scripting, Network Programming and Computer Hardware.

1. How was the application process?

The application process was difficult, as an unorganized person, but since I got help from my school, that has helped a lot. You must make sure that you have all the important dates noted down and do the boring work quickly.

a. What did KEA help you with?

KEA helped me with the small details in documents and what I needed to pay attention to. They also helped me with choosing my courses and which scholarships to choose and how to write applications.

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

They had a terrible IT board/system, that was an awful help when I couldn't log in to my Humber account during very important times. They helped once I got to Canada, but didn't do a lot for us before that.

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

When we arrived, there were no bed sheets, but also no pillow or duvets. That was a surprise. Also knowing how to go around and how things worked was quite difficult and we had to figure out a lot for ourselves.

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

They tried their best.

3. Where did you live?

I lived at Humber North Campus Residence.

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

Besides the bad IT support they have, it was quite easy to find.

b. Was it expensive?

It was very expensive. You pay for a meal plan, but the meal plan is just tax-free food from the cafeteria which is very expensive. Besides that, you must pay a lot of money for a small room that looks like a prison cell.

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

The most expenses I have had was going out to eat, drink and eat food at home. Besides that, we have experiences that also cost a lot. The prices are kind of the same as in Denmark but a little bit cheaper. But you must pay everyone tips which is frustrating but also just how their capitalistic culture works, so you abide by that.

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

I spent way more money than expected, so you must get scholarships so you can live comfortably.

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

I had some paychecks from workplaces that rolled in in the beginning. Besides that, it was SU and scholarships.

a. Did you receive SU and/or Erasmus

I received both.

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

I applied for 5/6 scholarships and got 4 of them, so definitely worth it.

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

I saw and enjoyed the amazing food they have here. Besides that, I went to Montreal which is a huge recommendation. We also went to a natural park which was lovely and fun.

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

They took us to Niagra Falls which was fun. That was it, though.

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

The nightlife and concerts that they have here. Also just walking around the city and taking in the diversity and going to a little café and enjoying normal everyday life in another big city.

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

Go to Lakeshore since it is closer to the city. Save your money since it is expensive and go on all the trips you want to do. Be prepared for those assignments is every week and count towards your final grade, which you have to have above 50% to complete your course.