

Exchange report – Malthe Aaen

Where and when did you study abroad?

I studied at IADE Creative University, from September 2024 to January 2025.

What KEA program did you attend at the time?

I attended the Creative technologies program at the 3. Semester.

What classes did you take during your semester abroad?

Web programing: This class was supposedly web programing and how to code websites with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, including frameworks like Angular, and also learn how to build our own API with C#. But we ended up learning only how to build a API with C#, and having only 2 classes in the end of the semester to learn the basics of HTML and CSS - so no JavaScript, and no Frameworks.

Web design: This class was about UX and UI design in web design.

Databases: This class was about learning SQL, in MySQL and database modeling.

Visual Web History: This class was about learning the history of the internet and the visual parts of it, by making a timeline from when it started until now, trying to predict the future.

Networks, Systems and Cloud Computing: This class was about learning Networks, Systems and Cloud Computing work, and making a presentation and report about a self-chosen topic in the field.

Rapid Web Application Builders: This class was basically web design, just solely focusing on designing a website in Figma.

Project III: This class was about building our own company/organization, make a virtual experience in Unreal Engine, and develop a website to promote the experience.

Academic Experience

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

I had already chosen my classes before arriving to Lisbon. We had 3 days as intro week, to get to know the school and people, but it was only for Erasmus students, and not the locals. Other than that I do not think the school did that much.

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

Visual Web History, was a great class because I got to learn a lot more about the internet that I did not know beforehand.

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

Web programming, because we were promised to learn about how to code websites with HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, including frameworks like Angular, both before starting the program and in class, but we were never taught this or had any classes about it.

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

At IADE the classes is in one package, so you can not really pick and choose your own classes, but I think it is important to know that this program is a lot about 3D modeling in Unreal Engine, and this was not mentioned once when I read about the school or the specific program, before choosing the school.

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

The application process was quite long, but I received great help for KEA/Anne.

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

I the start it was a bit difficult to get to know my classmates because the school did not facilitate any events in my program.

3. Where did you live?

It was quite a hassle to find an apartment, and a bit expensive (We paid 1.300 € for 2 persons for a 3-room apartment, so we were quite lucky compared to others). We lived close to the Arroios metro station, which was a nice neighborhood.

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

The rent in Lisbon can be pretty high, but the other living cost is quite low, so I spend mostly what budgeted with.

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

The incomes I received was SU, Erasmus, and I got a grant from HK Fagforening.

Cultural/Personal Experience

What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?

In Portugal it is very common to be 5-10 minutes late, and at the school the teachers were a minimum of 15 minutes late for almost every class.

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

My best experiences were to explore the city of Lisbon and to travel around Portugal. I also did some WorkAway, where I was a volunteer in a small community close to Sintra, where I lived together with local Portuguese people, which was a great experience.

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

Explore the city, travel around the country, try new food especially the seafood, and try to explore the local culture, fx. through WorkAway.