Final report

Where and when did you study abroad?

I studied in Lisbon at the IADE Creative University from August 2024 to January 2025.

What KEA program did you attend at the time?

I attended multimediadesign and did my exchange on the 3rd semester.

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

Web programming
It was about learning how to configure API's. We programmed API's in C# language.
It was also suppose to be about learning HTML, CSS and JavaScript and frameworks, but we only had 1 class for html, 1 for css, and nothing about javascript or frameworks.

Databases
It was about learning SQL queries and database modeling.

Web design
It was about UX/UI design and which methods you use to develop great designs for websites.

Visual Web History
It was about the visual web history as the subject says. We had to do a timeline of visual web history from the 90's to now.

Networks, Systems and Cloud Computing
Very technical subject about router configuration, different types of internet connections, encryption, data privacy and other stuff. We had to choose a subject to write a report about and relate it to networks, systems and cloud - I choose personal AI.

Rapid Web Application Builders
This subject turned out to be also about UX and user testing. I was expecting something different because of the subject's name, but I think they changed it last minute because they maybe didn't have anyone to teach about the original topic?

<u>Project III</u>
This was the semester project. The stuff that we learned in the other subjects was supported this class. We had to choose a topic under the theme nature/climate, and design/code a landing page and make a immersive experience in Unreal Engine.

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

There was different packages with a premade selection of classes, so it was just a matter of choosing which package.
It was simple and I sparred with the international coordinator at my home school to decide which package was right for me.

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

We had a lot of presentations in comparison to my home institution which was nice. It was good to just be launched into doing a lot of presentations in front of class to become more comfortable with that.

The subject Databases was interesting since it was something that I was not taught in KEA. In this subject we learned a bit of SQL queries and database modeling which was interesting.

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

When I choose the package before arriving at my host school it said that I would learn certain stuff that ended up not being true.
We didn't have a single class of javascript programming and in the package it said there was a subject called "rapid web application builders' that ended up being about ux instead. (We already had a ux subject)

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

I wouldn't choose networks, systems and cloud computing. It is a very technical class that has nothing to do with the rest of the program.
It is about how to configure routers and understanding very technical stuff about how internet connections work. It seemed out of place to all of the other topics.
Also, if IADE doesn't change rapid web application builders, I think that class has little value, since you already have a web design (ux) subject.
Also, if you are coming from multimedia-design in KEA, you already know what you will learn in the web design subject.

How was the application process?
What did KEA help you with?
What help did you receive from your school abroad?

The application process was very long. There was many steps I had to go through in the mobility system, and I didn't even know if I was going on exchange until 2 weeks before I was going.
The interface of the mobility platform is also very old and not very user-friendly.

I want to highlight Anne, the international coordinator at KEA, who was very helpful.

Did you have any practical difficulties settling down in at your destination?
How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

I made an effort trying to find an apartment in Lisbon, which paid off in the end. It was not the most easy process and there is a lot of scammers out there if you use platforms like Facebook Marketplace.
The receiving school sent some recommendations for places to look for apartments which was helpful, but I ended up finding an apartment on my own through Facebook Marketplace.
I also got in contact with the danish embassy in Lisbon who sent my some useful links to apartment sites.

Where did you live?
Was it difficult to find accommodation?
Was it expensive?

I lived in an apartment with my friend from KEA who was also on exchange in the same university as me. We had a bedroom each and a shared living room. We also had 2 bathrooms and a fully equipped kitchen with a washing machine as well.
It was 1200 euros per month which was a good deal since the prices in Lisbon is very high at the moment.

What kind of expenses did you have in general?
Did you spend more or less money than you budgeted with?

It's good to account for a bit more expenses in the beginning since there are things that you are probably going to need. Like a laundry rack, towels etc.
It's cheap to live in Lisbon so on that front it was good. Groceries are cheap, it's cheap to eat out, beers are cheap.

What kind of income did you have during your exchange?
Did you receive SU and/or Erasmus
Did you apply for any grants and did you receive any?

I had my SU from home and the E-rasmus grant. I also had savings so that I knew I wouldn't be broke.

What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?
How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

It is a different culture in regards to how organized things are at university and when the teachers arrive.
The teachers were very often late and we had to sit in front of the classroom and wait.
Also the organization of the semester was bad - we got told we would learn stuff that we didn't and the order of the stuff we were learning didn't seem to make much sense at times.
It was good that we had learned about design sprints and html, css and javascript at our home university, otherwise I think we wouldn't have been able to code our semester project.
When I talked to the professors and coordinator of the program they were understanding and did their best to help.

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

It was nice to meet different people from different parts of the world. We had an intro week at the university where you met a lot of exchange students. Also the university had a buddy program where I was assigned a local buddy that showed me some cool places.
I also met my girlfriend while being abroad.

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

Be ready for that it is not going to be as organized as in Copenhagen. Also the university doesn't really have any common spaces where you can sit and work, only the cafeteria.
The university is moving to a new location next year where I think it will be better, so check that out.
I am 29 and my classmates was very young (most of them 18-21), so if you are in the older age group, be ready for that you are maybe going to be a bit older than your classmates.
Otherwise just be open to new experiences and sign-up for the intro week so you get to meet some people in the beginning. That way you can experience the city together and go to the beach for example.