

Exchange Report

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FH Salzburg | Austria

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General information

WHERE AND WHEN DID YOU STUDY ABROAD?

I was part of the summer semester in 2024 at FH Salzburg in Austria.

WHAT KEA PROGRAM DID YOU ATTEND AT THE TIME?

I studied the top-up program Web Development at KEA and took my 2rd-semester abroad.

WHAT CLASSES DID YOU TAKE DURING YOUR SEMESTER ABROAD?

I took part in a lot of different courses; some technical and some cultural. From the international offices, I had “German as a Foreign Language” to practice my German and “Inside Austria” to learn about the culture and hear about the traditions in Austria.

From the MultiMediaArt department, I took part in “Introduction to Creative Coding.” The classes were mainly online, with exercises after each class.

From MultiMediaTechnology, I took “Basics of Human-Computer Interaction.” The class was about learning how humans interact with computers and why it is important for developers to know about it. I was also part of the class “Web Programming,” with PHP as the main language to learn, and a bit of database management.

I also took part in a big project, “MultiMediaProject 2,” which had different prerequisite courses before getting started. For example, “Full Stack Development” was required to be part of the project. I had “Cloud Operations” as well, where we worked a lot with deployment.



Academic experience

HOW HELPFUL WAS THE RECEIVING SCHOOL IN THE PROCESS OF CHOOSING CLASSES AND SETTLING YOU IN?

I would say the international office did a really good job of making sure the students had a good introduction at the beginning of the semester. There were different activities in the first two weeks, and you got to know a lot of new people from the start.

My supervisor from the MultiMediaTechnology office was a bit hard to communicate with, and because some of the courses I had selected back in Denmark were no longer available, I needed to find new courses to take. I had a feeling she gave different excuses for why it took her so long to answer, so I ended up emailing different teachers from various courses myself to find a solution as fast as possible.

WHAT CLASSES/STUDY EXPERIENCES DID YOU FIND THE MOST REWARDING? WHY?

I would say the project I created with a group and the classes leading up to the project, such as “Full Stack Development,” were really rewarding. We learned a lot in a short time because we had to design, create, and deploy the project by ourselves.

“Cloud Operations” was also interesting, and I had a good teacher. I found that class really engaging and definitely something I can use in the future.

WHAT CLASSES/STUDY EXPERIENCES DID YOU FIND LEAST RELEVANT OR LEAST VALUABLE TO YOU? WHY?

I would say “Creative Coding” was the least relevant course I have taken. It was fun to work in a more creative way, but it wasn’t that relevant for my future, and there was a bit too much to do in the class from my perspective. For example, I had to draw a collage of different animals on paper. I don’t come from a creative background, so I sometimes found the course a bit difficult and somewhat irrelevant.

WHAT CLASSES WOULD YOU ADVISE OTHER KEA STUDENTS GOING TO THE RECEIVING SCHOOL TO CHOOSE OR NOT TO CHOOSE?

I would advise other KEA students to take courses that culminate in creating a project, because it’s a good way to learn how to design, create, and work as part of a group. I would advise them not to create the project with only international students but to form a mixed group. I ended up in an unfortunate group where everyone only wanted to speak their own language, which made the group work hard to be part of.

Practical Experience

HOW WAS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

I would say the application process was great and smooth. The only problem is that the systems are a bit outdated, but Anne, my supervisor from KEA, was helpful and always replied quickly. Not all the courses I had decided to take from home were available when I arrived in Salzburg, which made the process a bit confusing at first.

WHAT DID KEA HELP YOU WITH?

Anne was helpful and did her best to assist me throughout the entire process from beginning to end. Sometimes, I had a really hard time because of all the classes, assignments, and exams, but she talked with me and took the time to give me some advice. I couldn't have done it without her.

WHAT HELP DID YOU RECEIVE FROM YOUR SCHOOL ABROAD?

The international office was as helpful as they could be when I couldn't get help from my supervisor at FH Salzburg. They gave me some courses to consider and made sure I was guided in the right direction. As explained before, my supervisor at FH Salzburg was hard to communicate with. It could take her a long time to reply to emails, and she was only in the office a few days a week. I often left her office still unsure of where to start.

DID YOU HAVE ANY PRACTICAL DIFFICULTIES SETTLING DOWN IN AT YOUR DESTINATION?

I would not say I had any difficulties settling down.

WHERE DID YOU LIVE?

I lived at the dorm Campus Urstein. It was located right next to the dorm with an amazing view over the mountains, a grocery store and a train station very close by.

WAS IT DIFFICULT TO FIND ACCOMMODATION?

I would not say it was difficult to find my room at the dorm, but I think I was lucky. I have heard some other international students found it a bit hard.

WAS IT EXPENSIVE?

I paid 460 euros which I would say it's an okay price for a room right next to the school and I had my own kitchen and bathroom.

WHAT KIND OF EXPENSES DID YOU HAVE IN GENERAL?

I would say my biggest expense was buying kitchen things, accommodation and entertainment. Entertainment was everything from going out with friends, entries etc. But I am a person who live relatively cheaply so that I can go on out, go on trips, etc.

DID YOU SPEND MORE OR LESS MONEY THAT YOU BUDGETED WITH?

I think I spent less money than I expected, mainly because I was at home more often than anticipated due to my studies. I had a lot of things I wanted to do while on exchange, but I had to cancel many plans and miss out on various activities in order to focus on my studies.

WHAT KIND OF INCOME DID YOU HAVE DURING YOUR EXCHANGE?

I had my SU and my Erasmus grant. I never found the time to apply for other grants, but those two where enough to enjoy my time in Salzburg.



Cultural/Personal experience

WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU EXPERIENCE CULTURALLY WHILE BEING ABROAD?

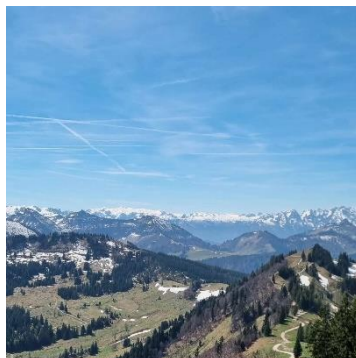
Denmark and Austria have a similar culture, so for me it was only the language. I had one class taught in English, but all the material was in German. Luckily I could use google translate to translate the instructions for the assignments, so I found a solution easily.

HOW HELPFUL WAS THE RECEIVING SCHOOL IN THIS PROCESS?

When I had problems understanding something in the google translation I talked with my lector in the class, and she explained everything.

WHAT WAS THE BEST CULTURAL/PERSONAL EXPERIENCE DURING YOUR STUDIES ABROAD?

No doubt the nature. I have never hiked before, so get the opportunity to experience amazing views while hiking, seeing waterfalls and lakes, and beautiful cities.



WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE OTHER KEA STUDENTS GOING TO STUDY ABROAD AT THE RECEIVING SCHOOL?

Engage with the International Office during the opening days! The school organizes good trips for students to get to know each other while exploring the culture and nature.

Be open-minded about meeting new people.

Make an effort to do things with your buddy. They can be very helpful and already know the school well.

Buy a regional train ticket and travel as much as possible. It's a low-cost option for the whole semester and allows you to visit many amazing places in Salzburgerland.