

## Exchange at HOWEST, Belgium 2024



1. Where and when did you study abroad?

- **In Bruges, Belgium at Howest in the spring semester of 2024**

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

- **Computer Science (Datamatiker)**

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

- **Object Oriented Programming:** *Java, Classes and Objects etc.*

- **Computer Networks:** *IP addresses, subnet masks, binary and hexadecimals and decimals, the different layers and protocols of the OSI-model, Cisco Packet Tracer, Wireshark*

- **Application Prototyping:** *Designing and prototyping an application with models and tools like figma*

- **Web Pentesting Fundamentals:** *Ethical hacking, BurpSuite, XSS, SQLi, brute force attack, directory traversal...*

- **Web Development Essentials:** *Backend and frontend of a web app with use of Javascript, HTML, CSS, PHP, Laravel, SQLite*

- **Cultural and Socio-economic Introduction to Belgium:** *Facts and history of Belgium and some Dutch lessons*

- **International Project:** Collaboration with students from other universities/fields to build something together. Fun activities included during the week as well.

## Academic Experience

1. How helpful was the *receiving school* in the process of choosing classes and settling you in?
  - **Very helpful and always available to answer questions**
2. What classes/study experiences did you find the most rewarding? Why?
  - **International Project, due to the mingling with new people and learning things in a new and fun way.**
  - **Computer Networks: the teacher was really good and made everything make sense.**
3. What classes/study experiences did you find least relevant or least valuable to you? Why?
  - **The fact that we had to take so many different courses at once... It made it hard to dive deep into the courses due to having to study for all of them.**
4. What classes would you advise other KEA students going to the receiving school to choose or not to choose?
  - **Computer Networks and International Project.**
  - **Web Pentesting Fundamentals was fun but the teacher wasn't the best, considering the class being quite difficult for most students to pass. (I would have liked this class more, had I not had 6 other courses to keep in mind at the same time as well.)**



## Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?
  - a. What did KEA help you with?
    - **Applying, mobility online and any questions I might have had**

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

- **They answered my questions and for instance I got some help regarding accommodation**

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

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

- **Pretty helpful**

3. Where did you live? **I lived in a student house in Bruges**



a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

- **Yes and no.**

- **The uni's dorm was fully booked, so I asked the responsible at Howest for help, but didn't get any. My fellow Danish student asked the exact same thing, but he got sent a pdf file containing other accommodations to apply for. He then sent it to me, and I then applied and got one of the accommodations from the pdf file. It was weird that we got different answers, but I was lucky that I knew him.**

b. Was it expensive?

- **It was normal. The same as what I pay in Denmark.**

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

- **Food (!), train (due to often going to other cities in Belgium for fun), food, beer, food, clothes, waffles, food**



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

- **More. I thought Belgium/Bruges would be cheaper than Denmark, but it wasn't**

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

1. Did you receive SU and/or Erasmus

- **Yes - these two things were my income**

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

- **No**

## **Cultural/Personal Experience**

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

- **A few language barriers**

- **You have to approach the professors by Mr. and Ms. and so on**

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

- **Helpful**

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

- **Meeting people from all over the world across different continents -> from places I have never met people from before**

- **Also being more social and spontaneous. Talking to new people all the time. Meeting up with friends at any time to do something together (which is very unusual in Denmark, and I will miss it a lot)**

- **Also travelling to France, Italy and the Netherlands**

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





- Don't be scared to talk to new people. Even the ones that aren't Erasmus students, there are many international students at Howest and you could make great friends.

○ You will only regret the things you didn't do

- Be aware that you have to take the courses somewhat serious, if you don't want to fail them. So put time aside to study :o)