

Exchange Rapport Istanbul 2024

I studied at Yeditepe University in Istanbul, Turkey, during my 4th semester in the computer science program at KEA. To fulfill the required 30 ECTS points, I enrolled in six courses:

1. Software Engineering (6 ECTS): This course covered software engineering fundamentals, focusing on development process models, requirements engineering, specification, validation, and effective design, coding, and testing methods. The capstone project involved using CASE tools for object-oriented development.
2. Computer Security (5 ECTS): This course introduced basic network security concepts, principles, tools, platforms, and applications for providing security.
3. Introduction to Communication (5 ECTS): This course explored human communication concepts, including interpersonal, group, mass, and organizational communication, with an emphasis on related theories and terminology.
4. Academic English II (5 ECTS): Although primarily taken to improve my English skills, I found that I didn't need it as all courses were taught in English.
5. Database Management Systems (5 ECTS): This course focused on understanding the concepts and principles of database management systems.
6. Creative Thinking Techniques (4 ECTS): An elective from another department, this course taught various creative thinking techniques applicable to project work.

The system was initially confusing, but my coordinator was very helpful. We communicated via email and scheduled meetings online or in his office. The supportive culture and helpful people made the process manageable. The Introduction to Communication course was particularly rewarding due to its practical components, such as participation-based grading. This interactive approach was more engaging than traditional lectures.

While all classes were relevant, Database Management Systems felt less impactful compared to the others, as it didn't introduce as much new knowledge. I highly recommend Introduction to Communication for its comprehensive understanding of how communication is influenced by various factors. The engaging teaching style and practical participation made it a standout course.

KEA provided all necessary information and support for filling out application forms and other requirements. My coordinator in Istanbul was also easy to contact for any questions. I encountered a few practical difficulties, such as issues with the dormitory assignment on the first day. I was placed in the wrong room, which required using Google Translate to

communicate with the dormitory staff. With help from the international office and Erasmus coordinator, the issue was resolved.

I lived in the campus dormitory, which was relatively easy to secure. The accommodation was assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, and I paid 1100 euros for the entire semester. The small room was shared with a roommate, with cleaning services provided twice a week and bed sheets changed once a week. Laundry was the only additional expense at 70 lira per wash. I didn't follow a strict budget but managed my expenses by receiving SU (5800 DKK) and Erasmus (11,004 DKK) funding. I recommend bringing extra money for emergencies and fun, estimating that 10,000-15,000 DKK should be sufficient if combined with SU and Erasmus funding.

Culturally, I noticed differences such as addressing teachers more formally and adhering to office hours for consultations. My advice is to ask questions whenever in doubt, as people are generally willing to help. Overall, the experience was life-changing and highly rewarding.

There were few cultural differences, but one notable aspect was the formal address of teachers and adherence to office hours. My advice is to ask questions whenever you need answers; the staff will do their best to assist. Enjoy your time, as it will be a life-changing and an amazing experience.

