

Exchange Report: Study Abroad Experience at Yeditepe University

I had the opportunity to study at Yeditepe University in Istanbul, Turkey, where I pursued my major in Computer Science.

During my time at Yeditepe University, I had the privilege of enrolling in six courses that significantly enhanced my knowledge and skills in the field of Computer Science.

Here's a look at the six courses I took and what I learned from each of them, and together they are 30 ECTS points.

1. Software engineering (6 ECTS): In this course, I learned about software engineering principles, including requirement gathering, software design, development methodologies, project management, and quality assurance. These topics provided a comprehensive understanding of creating and maintaining software systems effectively.

2. Computer security (5 ECTS): In the computer security course, I learned a lot about how to keep systems secure. We covered topics like threat analysis, cryptography, network security, and best practices for protecting data and preventing cyber-attacks. This course provided a solid foundation for understanding and implementing effective security measures.

3. Creative thinking Techniques (4 ECTS): In the creative thinking techniques course, I learned how to boost my creativity when designing software systems or starting a business. The course taught me brainstorming techniques, innovative problem-solving strategies, and ways to think outside the box. We explored how to approach software development with a creative mindset, generate unique ideas, and implement those ideas effectively.

4. English (5 ECTS): In the English course, I learned how to improve my language skills in various areas such as writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The course focused on enhancing my grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation.

5. Communication (5 ECTS): In the communication course, I learned how to effectively connect with future customers and team members. This is crucial in software engineering, where effective communication is essential. It's not just about having technical skills but also about understanding customer needs, collaborating with teams, and ensuring the final product meets the client's requirements and ensure successful implementation.

6. Database Management systems (5 ECTS): In the database management course, I gained valuable insights into designing, implementing, and managing databases. The courses taught us about data modeling, normalization, and query optimization, which are essential for efficient data handling. Understanding database management is crucial for ensuring data integrity, security, and performance in any software system.

Courses overall

Overall, I really liked my courses. However, future students should be aware that the school system is very different from what we know at Copenhagen School of Design and Technology. All the exams are on paper, and there are no oral exams. Additionally, I do not recommend the Database Management Systems course because it used PHP, which I was not familiar with, and most other students had previous experience with the program, making it hard to keep up. Despite these challenges, my courses overall were really good, and the teachers were very helpful.

Practical experience

What did KEA help you with?

KEA helped with the initial application process, providing guidance on required documents and deadlines. They also assisted in securing the Erasmus grant and offered support in understanding the exchange program requirements.

What help did you receive from your school abroad?

The receiving school provided detailed information about their courses, academic calendar, and accommodation options.

Was it difficult to find accommodation?

Finding accommodation was somewhat challenging due to high demand, but the receiving school offered helpful resources and recommendations. Fortunately, I was lucky to secure a room on campus. I recommend living on campus or in Kadikoy because both are great locations. If you have classes with breaks in between, campus accommodation is more convenient.

Did you apply for any grants, and did you receive any?

I received both SU and the Erasmus grant, which helped cover my living and study expenses. Besides the Erasmus grant, I did not apply for additional grants. With careful management, it is possible to cover expenses with SU and the Erasmus grant. However, I recommend having a little extra for unexpected expenses that might not be accounted for in your budget and to be more comfortable.

Cultural/ Personal experience

How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

The receiving school was very supportive, offering orientation sessions and providing resources to help international students adjust.

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

The best experience was meeting so many people from different cultures and backgrounds. Another highlight was the variety of delicious food available, and almost everything was halal, making it easy to find meals that suited my preferences. As a Muslim, I loved hearing the adhan everywhere, which I am not used to back in Copenhagen. I was lucky to experience Ramadan in Istanbul, which made it a unique and memorable experience for me.

Another important aspect was the support from ESN (Erasmus Student Network) at Yeditepe University. They were fantastic in organizing events and activities, which made it much easier to connect with other international students and locals. This support network was crucial, as it helped me settle in quickly and build a community in a new country. Overall, Istanbul was a wonderful place to live, with its rich culture and stunning architecture. Every day felt like a new adventure, with so much to explore and discover. I would highly recommend this destination to everyone.

Photos of Campus and Ataşehir (The Location of the University):

