

# **University of Westminster**

## **Study abroad in the spring of 2018**

The semester abroad was part of my top-up in Web Development.

I had three different courses of 10 ECTS points (20 credits in the UK):

1. Mobile Application Development
2. Server-Side Web Development (mandatory)
3. Usability Testing

All my courses were level 5 courses.

### **Please briefly explain what each class was about.**

In Mobile Application Development we developed an Android app. We programmed in Java and used Android Studio.

In Server-Side Web Development we developed a webshop in PHP and with a SQL-database.

In Usability Testing we were taught how to make quantitative usability tests. We used SPSS for the statistics and we had to conduct a usability test of a computer game.

## **Academic Experience**

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

University of Westminster was very helpful with my courses. Originally I chose 1 level 5 course and 2 level 6 courses. But as a level 6 course on eg. Game Development is quite specialized on the third year of the bachelor, I realized after the first lecture that there was too much knowledge I lacked to follow the course. The administration at Westminster was very helpful with helping me find two level 5 courses I could attend instead.

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

I probably learned the most from the Mobile Application Development course. Server-Side Web Development was also interesting, but I already knew part of the curriculum from the Web Development course on first semester of the top-up.

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

I personally didn't find Usability Testing that interesting. However, the teacher was good and helpful, so I guess it is a matter of interest.

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

I would advise you to choose level 5 classes. They don't have a Web Development course on Westminster, so if you choose a class on level 6 there will be a lot of previous knowledge you don't have.

# **Cultural/Personal Experience**

## **What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?**

I actually found it quite easy. I signed up for a cultural program with the university, where I met other exchange students. I didn't live at the dorms, which probably would have been another good way of making friends. It is easy to fit in in London as there are so many different people. I arrived a few weeks before the semester started, which I found nice as I then had time to adapt to living in London.

## **How helpful was the receiving school in this process?**

There is not really an intro period at the university. In the first week there was a boat party, but it would have been nice with some "get-to-know-each-other" activities and then a party.

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

I signed up for the cultural program with the university. We had day-trips or other activities approximately every second week. That was how I got to know the majority of the people I hung out with during my time in London!

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

I would definitely advice you to join the cultural program, and then just chat with people when you go away.

## **Practical Experience**

### **How was the application process?**

It takes a lot of time. Mainly because I didn't know where I wanted to go so I looked in to many of the possible places I could go. I had to find a course to cover the mandatory course at second semester. I found it quite interesting though.

### **What did KEA help you with? b. What help did you receive from your school abroad.**

KEA helped me with where it was possible to go and which course I needed to cover the mandatory course. Westminster didn't help me much in the application process, but they were very helpful after I was accepted.

### **Did you have any practical difficulties settling down in at your destination?**

No. I had a few weeks before school started to settle down, which was very nice.

### **How helpful was the receiving school in this process?**

They were very helpful when I had to change courses and whenever I had a question before starting.

## **Where did you live?**

First I lived at the Danish YMCA for a month - mainly to meet other people. Then I lived with family.

## **Was it difficult to find accommodation? b. Was it expensive?**

I have family in London, so it was easy for me. There is a Facebook group for Danish people in London. There are always room advertised in that group, so it doesn't seem that difficult to find a place to live. The University also have two different dorms in central London, so there are many different options. It is of course quite expensive to live in London.

## **What kind of expenses did you have in general?**

If you need the tube for getting to and from university it will be quite a big expense. I also spend a lot of money on social events as people go out for dinner a lot more than I am used to in Denmark. Going out for dinner is luckily cheaper than in Copenhagen!

## **Did you spend more or less money than you budgeted with?**

I didn't make a budget... It is expensive to live in London, but also great!