

Introduction

- 1) Where and when did you study abroad?
 - My exchange program started in september 2019 at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK and ended mid december.
- 2) What KEA program did you attend at the time?
 - I was undergoing a Top up degree in Software Development.
- 3) What classes did you take during your semester abroad?
 - My final learning agreement (because I had to change it a couple of times on the way) consisted of 4 courses as follows:
 - Introduction to Data Science – the course was, as the name suggests, an introduction to the field of Data Science. It consisted of briefly explaining the Data Science lifecycle and mostly working with data. Data processing techniques, tools, libraries and a pinch of statistics and plotting in python.
 - Database Systems – the course was mostly about learning and working with SQL and Oracle. It was a complete SQL course covering basic and advanced DML and DDL, sql queries, functions, etc. The teachers provided an extremely well-made handbook which contained every class material with explained examples. It was by far the most well-structured course, and the teachers were very knowledgeable.
 - Enterprise Programming – this course was my biggest disappointment. The content was very poor based on Java and it contained topics such as xml and DOM, servlets and JSP, AJAX and JQuery. It was by the end of the course where we briefly touched topics like cloud computing, cloud infrastructure and cloud deployment with Google App Engine, but just scratching the surface. Overall it did not really match the course description.
 - Web Based Business Systems – it was a fairly interesting course touching topics like PHP scripting, GDPR, cookies and sessions but from a business security point of view, content management systems and enterprise resource planning systems seen from the business point of view. The teacher had a great way of presenting the history of web-based systems and how they have been used by companies, how they have developed to match the needs and how a business, based on capital and different matrices should choose a management system. Also, a great topic was “management of change” where we had lectures on how a business should address shifting from one management system to another.

Academic experience

- 1) How helpful was the receiving school in the process of choosing classes and settling you in?
 - About settling in I cannot say I asked for help. I found my own accommodation and, being already a foreign student in Denmark for many years I knew how to manage everything. On the other hand, my assigned tutor was extremely helpful in helping me choose the right classes. We had many discussions where I explained to him my current skills and he tried to

present classes that were right for me. Before I started, I had to choose from a predefined list of courses, I believe it was given by KEA. I had an initial agreement and a timetable, but thankfully I could change my classes on the fly, which I did. I changed 3 courses because they were not as I was expected them to be and my tutor was very helpful in this process.

- 2) What classes/study experiences did you find the most rewarding? Why?
 - I could say all of them. Technically, I had some knowledge in all the courses that I had, but on some of them, the things I learned came to complete what I already knew or made me understand much better what was going on. Also, the most interesting by far was to see their way. The way the teachers teach. The way the structure the class, the way they present the topics, how they explain certain things (especially the ones that I already knew), how they handle questions. I believe this aspect was the most rewarding for me.
- 3) What classes/study experiences did you find least relevant or least valuable to you? Why?
 - None of them was unvaluable.
- 4) What classes would you advise other KEA students going to the receiving school to choose or not to choose?
 - I believe they should try whatever feels interesting for them and for their experience. It was extremely easy to change courses and that is a powerful tool to have. Pick whatever feels fun for you, try it for a week or two and see what's going on. If you don't like it, you can take something else. Out of my courses, I would suggest the Web Based Business Systems for those who care about the business part of the job.

Cultural/Personal experience

- 1) What challenges did you experience culturally while being a broad? How helpful was the receiving school in this process?
 - I did not face any noticeable challenges. I enjoyed the Brits, they are really funny people but they can seem a bit aggressive in speech and attitude. It's just their way 😊
- 2) What was the best cultural/personal experience during your studies abroad?
 - For a month I have lived with a middle-aged gay couple. They rented me a room in their house. I was a bit skeptical in the beginning, but it turned out to be an awesome experience. They were extremely nice guys, doing volunteering all over Africa. We spoke about politics, religion, English culture and they gave me a lesson about being kind with the others.
- 3) What advice would you give other KEA students going to study abroad at the receiving school?
 - Have fun. Enjoy UK as much as you can. Go see places, you are not as constrained with school as regular students, you can take a week or two and travel around UK. I've seen so many beautiful places and cities, met people from different parts of the UK and saw the difference in language and culture.

Practical experience

1) How was the application process?

- The application process was fairly easy, but I must say I had a kick start because I had all the information I needed beforehand from one of my friends who already had an exchange one year before and he knew all the process.

a) What did KEA help you with?

- The exchange coordinator was very nice and helpful, she was prompt in responding to emails and helping with answers

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

- Not much regarding the application process, but I'm not sure what they could've help with.

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

- I did not have any, everything went as planned.

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

- The school provided me a taxi ride from the airport to my accomodation for free. That was extremely cool given that I arrived late night. Only one minor inconvenient, that the taxi was not there in time so I had to call and ask for it myself.

3) Where did you live?

- It was fairly hard to find accomonation because the short length of the program. Most of the people and agencies I contacted were only open for a minimum of 6 months contract, so finding accomodation was a bit hard. I lived in 2 places thruought my exchange, both booked through airbnb. The price was also high, the erasmus purse was enough for a month and a half of accomodation.

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

- My expenses were varried. I spent on my hobbies, food, nights out, trips around UK, transportation, shopping and of course accomodation. I can't say I spent more than I was expecting because I did not have a strict budget, but I definitely spent a lot of money.