

Questionnaire Study Abroad/Exchange

1. Where and when did you study abroad?

I studied at Amsterdam Fashion Institution in spring 2023.

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

Design and business - Fashion Management

3. What classes did you take during your semester abroad?

Please briefly explain what each class was about.

I couldn't choose different individual courses, but instead had one program called "Fashion Business and Strategy." Overall, it was about analyzing a fashion company and developing a future strategy for them. We had lectures in various areas such as economics, strategy, SWOT analysis, supply chain, and marketing. In the end, we prepared a report and presented it at a kind of exhibition with other students and teachers.

We worked in groups from the beginning of the semester until the exam, so it's a good idea to consider if it's something you want to do.

Going to school included lectures and then toolshops where we worked on the topics covered in the lectures. All the knowledge gained was then used to work on the project. Therefore, there wasn't much traditional teaching, but instead self-study.

In addition to the project, we also had to create a process book, which involved reflecting on ourselves and what we have learned both academically and personally during the semester. This was something that other students had already worked on in their previous semesters, so it was a bit difficult to figure out what they were interested in.

I also chose to take a voluntary course in the 3D program CLO, where you can design clothing. It is definitely recommended if it's something you want to try and see if you like it.

Academic Experience

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

As mentioned above, I didn't have different types of classes, just one program, so I didn't really have to do much. There was only one place where I had to go online and click "enroll," but that was it.

2. What classes/study experiences did you find the most rewarding? Why?

Even though it wasn't something academic that I learned, I found the creation of the process book to be the most rewarding because it was interesting to try to reflect on myself and the choices I make.

3. What classes/study experiences did you find least relevant or least valuable to you? Why?

We had some lectures in economics, which were knowledge I was already familiar with. Therefore, it wasn't particularly useful for me. The only difference was that it was in English instead of Danish.

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

As mentioned before, I couldn't choose anything other than the program I had.

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

a. What did KEA help you with?

KEA helped more or less with everything. It was an incredibly fast, clear, and easy process. They have created a website where you have an overview of the entire application process and can see what you need to do, etc. KEA always responded quickly when I had questions and helped with everything. It was a really good experience.

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

I didn't really receive much help from the school. The only assistance I got was a few questions regarding confirmation of my enrollment. Additionally, I was practically only in contact with them when I started at the school.

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

No, everything went well and was clear!

3. Where did you live?

I lived in an absolutely fantastic place in a dorm that couldn't have been better in terms of location. The area was amazing, with nice restaurants, bars and small houses everywhere. It was located in the center of Amsterdam, by one of their canals. I had a 20-minute bike ride to AMFI, and otherwise, I could walk or bike to everything within a maximum of 10 minutes. I had my own small room with a bed, a desk, and a small tea kitchen. I shared the toilet and shower with another student, but it was not a problem at all.

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

I got the place through AMFI (HVA), and I would definitely recommend doing so. It is really difficult to find a place to live, and the prices are really high. If you are unlucky enough not to be assigned a room through AMFI (HVA), I would recommend joining the group "Danskere i Amsterdam" on Facebook and posting a message or see in case something comes up there.

b. Was it expensive?

I thought it was an okay price. It was slightly cheaper than expected because I had heard that prices in Amsterdam were generally high. Since it was through the school, I believe it was cheaper.

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

I had exactly the same expenses as I do back home - food and rent. The only different cost I had was bike rental.

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

I didn't make a budget before I left, but I just assumed that I would spend a bit more than I normally do, and that's exactly what ended up happening.

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

a. Did you receive SU and/or Erasmus

I received both SU and Erasmus, and these two incomes were the only things I received.

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

No and no.

Cultural/Personal Experience

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

I didn't experience any challenges with the culture in general. Dutch culture is quite similar to Danish culture, so it was easy to adapt to. They are also very proficient in English, so it was easy to communicate with them.

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

I didn't seek help from the school.

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

Make some friends for life and have a "second home."

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

The school is quite unstructured, and you have to figure out most things on your own, which can be very frustrating. You will spend a lot of time on self-study, which requires self-discipline. On the other hand, it's great because you can be flexible and decide when you want to explore the most amazing city.