



UAL • London Collage • Of Fashion

Period Of Study: 30. JANUARY - 16 JUNE

Contact Person: FALHAY

INTRO



If you like fish & chips, then London is the city for you! And if you don't, you're probably going to have a blast of a stay anyway. I had it! London is such a cool city - although I found it a bit foreign & too fast for me to be in, at first. Fortunately, that changed very quickly! A huge plus is of course the experimental fashion scene and many subcultures that London contains. If you choose to apply to London for your exchange semester, don't cheat yourself and only focus on school. Be curious about other things as the city has a lot to offer, if you are open. If you are reading this, you are probably thinking about where you should apply for an exchange semester and how it all goes. Here you get a good old-fashioned recommendation on why you should choose London.

While studying for my PBA in Sustainable Fashion Tech at KEA, I knew from the beginning that I would take an exchange semester abroad, when the opportunity provides itself. As a year prior to that, I did a semester abroad in Berlin and that was an experience I wanted to explore again. Giving the fact that my first semester abroad in Berlin, was during Covid times, there was no chance for me to not apply for a semester abroad, when everything got back running again.

ADVICE WHEN APPLYING

PORTOFOLIO:



I got offered a spot at a partner university in Los Angeles. Which in the end did not go through. Due to unpredictable issues. In the beginning, I was disappointed as that was my first priority. As London Collage of Fashion being one of my other priorities I got offered a spot there too. When you apply to LCF. You need to be aware of the fact that the offered spots are few and the university receives applications from other international universities, you are not only competing with your class mates for a spot, but students from other countries as well. It is very competitive, which makes sense as LCF Is acknowledged on being a high educational level university, and in general, the fashion degrees in London at UAL 'University of Arts London' have a very good reputation on a global scale.

Your portfolio needs to be easy to read, as they do not have time to doublecheck every student work. Make it personal, your portfolio Must be an extension of you, showcase your creative agility, as they are not looking for one specific thing, everything you have worked on till the point of making your portfolio is relevant and can be included, even though you feel or think it is not worth including. The key word is to make it easy to read and cohesive, even though the projects have no correlation to each other. Make your design language the common denominator that ties all different projects together.

ADVICE WHEN APPLYING

VISA:



When you are offered a spot, before doing anything, contact the HOME OFFICE visa department, ask them, whether you are required a VISA for your stay or not. Unfortunately, I had visa issues, which resulted in me arriving in London later than expected. Don't wait till last minute as the visa process takes time, even though you apply & pay for a quick process. If you are asked to send extra documentation, the lovely international coordinators at KEA & LCF are always ready to help you in the best way they can. Therefore, ALWAYS check your kea-mail and the email you provided for your visa application, more often than usual. The visa process should not scare you, no matter which passport you have. Your most important task is to submit all required documents correctly and on time.

ADVICE WHEN APPLYING

HOUSING:



I know the accommodation situation is one of your many concerns, when considering to applying for an exchange semester. Don't worry, even though the housing market in London is a bit hectic. LCF do send you options on student housing all around London, which are either catered/shared or single, and they differ in prices. Depending on your lifestyle and what you like, you can choose from the options. The university is not responsible for the halls, but do have access and communicate with the management. Just to let you know, if you choose to go with one of the options, do not be afraid of fraud or turning up in London and there is no accommodation for you, even though u have paid. The process for me was very smooth, I got my apartment a week before flying to London and I paid my deposit same week. I would recommend you, to choose an international Hall, as here you will be mixed with students from all over the world, who are enrolled in different unis and courses. Your chances to build a stronger international network is enhanced. I did! and I loved everything about my accommodation at Collage Hall.

LCF EXPERIANCE

During my stay at London Collage of Fashion I worked on two different projects *The Industry Specialised Project & Fashion Production Future Technologies*. The industry specialised project for me was very independent with few lectures and weekly sessions of either personal design tutorials or sample classes. This unit was one of my favourite, as I had a lot of freedom to explore and dive into my creative universe. Coming from KEA, the teaching system is a bit different as at LCF you are more left for your own. The weekly sessions with lectures are therefore very important to attend as these are the times you have to do a one on one sitting with your lectures to get feedback and other relevant questions you may have. It is therefore important to be bear in mind, that if you are someone who is heavily in to the traditional way of teaching (class starts 8:00 and end at 15:00) this will be a challenge for you, as you must structure your own schedule. For me this unit thought me a lot about time management and which design element to approach first, as things takes more time than u think.

On Industry specialised project, we got to work with John England, a line manufacture that has supplied linen for different stuff such as fashion for Jacquemus SS21, The Game of Thrones series etc. we had to choose a topic we would like to work on and given high quality linen from the brand, for us to work with. This collaboration was for me an incredible opportunity to work with a big brand, which I could not have gotten if I did not partake on a semester exchange. The requirement at LCF are high, so when working on this project I had to consider every finish and detail for my garments to have a professional view. Even though the unit was independent, the school offers a lot of technical support and there are always sewing technicians available on sight every day.

LCF EXPERIANCE

Fashion Production Futures Technologies was my second unit. During this unit, we were introduced to various sustainable methods and technologies to produce garments. We learned to work with design program CAD which is something most manufactures use, coming from a sustainable fashion and technology course at KEA, this unit was very valuable to me, as I got introduced to various ways a designer can be sustainable and have a role on how the consumers tap into the world of sustainability, by using technologies that are being developed over time. During my semester exchange, there were no exams like I am used to at KEA on the end of every semester. We had to hand in our projects from the two units at the end of the semester, handin's were obligatory and that is how you are marked/graded. The independent learning structure can for some be quite intimidating, but that should not prevent you from applying to the university.

I arrived at LCF two months later than expected due to visa issues, the program was already in motion when I arrived, skilled tutors & lovely classmates welcomed me with open hands and gave me an introduction on what the projects were about, what I need to hand in and when, all my assessments were detailed.

Studying at London Collage of fashion has been one of my biggest investments so far, the people I met, the skilled tutors & technicians, all this combined, made me elevate from when I arrived till the end of my semester. When you study at LCF you don't only belong to one specific location. You have access to all of UAL universities and libraries, which for me was very valuable, as I spent a lot of my time working at Central saint martins. I wouldn't have gotten this opportunity without moving to London. Therefore, if you are slightly considering doing a semester abroad at LCF, I can highly recommend, as my stay was valuable and will have an impact on my future carer.