

# Exchange report



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## Introduction

Always being in my comfort zone, working on achieving the goals I have set, in the middle of my 3<sup>rd</sup> semester I suddenly decided to take a semester abroad. However, I had thought about taking a semester abroad on my 5<sup>th</sup> semester. Why I did not chose a semester abroad on the 5<sup>th</sup> semester had something to do with deciding which semester would be the most important semester at KEA.

I have been studying for my 4<sup>th</sup> semester at Coventry University in United Kingdom. As the Architectural Technology and Construction Management course is not a combined one, as in Denmark, I mainly get to study Construction Management.

Studying a semester abroad had its advantages and disadvantages.

In this report, I will talk about which subjects I had at the University and how my experience was at the host university. I will also talk about the social and cultural experience and the practical experience.

## Experience at the host university

I was given a list of subjects, which I could choose between, before arriving at the host university. I made a pro/con-list of which subjects I wanted to study and which one I could have as a backup. Having a list of subjects, as a backup is a good idea, as you are not sure that you can study the subjects you want to.

In my case, I only get to study one of the subjects that was on my priority list.

The subjects I studied at Coventry University were:

### **Construction Finance**

In this subject, I got to learn how to calculate and evaluate a construction company's current economical subject and to read the assets and the current liabilities for a construction company. Methods like *The Straight line method* was used.

This subject were mainly lecturers with group work, and the examination was 100% exam.

### **Building Services in Context and Practise**

This subject was not one of subjects on my priority list, however I liked this subject a lot.

The subject was lectures and group discussions. The topics were mainly about implementing Building Information Modelling in companies that have been working with a specific method. The pros and cons for every lecture were discussed right after the lectures.

The examination for this subject was 50% report, which was individual, and 50% examination.

## Issues in Sustainability

This subject was really interesting as we dealt with natural water draining systems and how to minimize pollution in water in U.K.

This subject was though nothing for us, as student on and Architectural Technology and Construction Management module. However, more for students who were studying something related to Geographics.

The examination for this subject was five reports based on fieldtrips, and the weight for these reports was 20% each.

## Social and Cultural Experience

Coventry is a city that built around the University. There is mainly students, which is why; there is a lot of life in the city around January and September where the intake is too.

However, there is only an introduction week and a bar crawl for the new students. But there is a lot of opportunities to learn other students to know in the introduction week. There is many University Groups to join; I myself joined a salsa class in the beginning. But as I got to know more people we started hanging out for our self.

The key to get to know lot of people is to be as open as possible and just ask anyone, anything if there is any questions.

## Practical experience

I travelled from Copenhagen Airport to London Luton, with a friend of mine, which was a two-hour travel journey. From London Luton we rented a car and drove to Coventry, which was a two-hour drive. We were staying at the Britannia Hotel, in the city centre.

You can also take the National Express bus, from right in front of the London Luton Airport to Pool Meadow Station in Coventry.

Before leaving Copenhagen, I talked to two landlords, as I decided that it would be economical beneficial to stay in private housing. I saw the two rooms in Coventry, talked to the landlords and we agreed on a monthly rent.

I was staying at Nichols Street 7, which were 20 minutes away from the University by Walk, and with a bus station near to the house. In the area where the house was, there were small local shops.

I stayed in the house, with two other students and we shared a living room, a kitchen and a bathroom.

## Conclusion

My semester abroad have been a personal developing experience for me. Unfortunately, I do not feel like that I got to learn as much as I would do, if I stayed in Denmark. However, the professors were more structured than professors at KEA.

I have learned a lot about how to adjust in another country, which is not that difficult as expected.

If I could choose, I would anytime go back again and decide to take a semester abroad. And I am planning to take a semester abroad at my masters.