

Exchange Report

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Deakin University



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Introduction

My name is Nikolaj, and I went studying abroad at Deakin University in the period 01.07.2022 to 01.10.22. After 10.22 I went travelling around in the beautiful country of Australia until mid-January. While I was down there, I bought a car which makes the Australia experience 1000 times better, more on that further down.

If you want to go to Deakin University these are some important things to know:

- The courses units down there are only academically relevant if:
 - o You are into architecture and want to go into that line of study or work later
 - o Maybe you want to become an architect later
 - o You want a study part time job at an architect's studio
 - o If its going to be in your 3. Or maybe 4. semester
- The study abroad is going to be expensive
- It is without a doubt going to be a great experience

Other facts:

- You will need to enroll in 4 points (1 point per unit, 2 points for some units)
- The cost of the study was about 10.000 AUD
- You Receive 45.000 DKK from Denmark
- Visa 630 AUD
- Extension of visa/Change to tourist after study period: 380 AUD
- Yes, I could work 40 hours in any industry (This was because of a shortage in workforce, like the rest of the world at that time. Can have changed)
- Living cost at the university provided residence: 5.400 DKK/Month
- Living cost in Australia is very close to Denmark

1. Where and when did you study abroad?

Deakin University, Geelong, Australia

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

Bygningskonstruktør in my 3. Semester

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

I had three classes:

- **SRC164 - Architecture Communication 02 Modelling (1 point)**
 - o A course where you learn to use a 3D modelling program and how to present your architectural ideas. We had to do exercises each week and had to assignments weighing 50% each through the trimester. The assignments consisted of 3d modelling and making presentation posters of the designs. Furthermore, you will have to use photoshop to render the modelled designs into pictures. **You will build physical models in the school workshop. Its great.**
https://www.deakin.edu.au/courses-search/unit-search.php?hidCurrentYear=2023&hidYear=2023&hidType=max&txtUnit=SRC164&txtTitle=&txtKeyword=&selLevel=Select&selSemester=Select&selMode=Select&selLocation=Select&chkSortby=unit_cd&btnSubmit=
- **SRD164 - Architecture Design Studio 02 Matterscapes (2 Points)**
 - o An Actual architecture course/unit. In this unit it is all about architecture, you will study designs and analyze them, and you will design your own building. If you are not into the design and architecture part of keas program, you will not like this. **You will build models**
https://www.deakin.edu.au/courses-search/unit-search.php?hidCurrentYear=2023&hidYear=2023&hidType=max&txtUnit=SRD164&txtTitle=&txtKeyword=&selLevel=Select&selSemester=Select&selMode=Select&selLocation=Select&chkSortby=unit_cd&btnSubmit=
- **SRT257 - Building Environmental Studies (1 Point)**
 - o The most relevant course for bygningskonstruktører. This course is a second year course, so much more relevant for someone from kea. It has a focus on how to improve energy use in a house and how to do the calculations.
https://www.deakin.edu.au/courses-search/unit-search.php?hidCurrentYear=2023&hidYear=2023&hidType=max&txtUnit=Srt257&txtTitle=&txtKeyword=&selLevel=Select&selSemester=Select&selMode=Select&selLocation=Select&chkSortby=unit_cd&btnSubmit=

Some of the other Danish guys had a unit that was called “construction and projects 1”, which was way way to easy and is something that you learn the first months at KEA.

Academic Experience

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

They are very helpful and have a lot of information, but they have so many internet pages that it can be confusing. Don't stress much about it.

When you have to apply for "Forhåndsgodkendelse af fag", then just apply for as many as you want. When you have to lock in the courses/units, they are not going to be locked.

You can easily change units when you already have arrived down here. No problem.

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

Building Environmental Studies is very relevant and rewarding in the sense that it is a proper university course compared to KEA's loose courses. You must make reports and they get graded from what you have produced individually and in groups. This is for me a nice way to be graded sometimes.

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

Actually, I love architecture and 3d modeling, so I enjoyed them very much, but since it is not that relevant to my studies in DK, I sometimes had a hard time seeing the meaning of having them, unfortunately.

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

As Explained above

Cultural/Personal Experience

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

I had very few challenges as it is a English speaking well-functioning country. Not a challenge but a good thing is that alcohol and tobacco is quite expensive in Australia. That means less drinking, which is good.

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

n/a

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

First of all the country is beautiful. You get a very big metropol Melbourne giving all the big city vibes and then you got the sea and back country wilderness right by your hand.

The trip from Geelong is very easy and takes 50 minutes at 11 AUD. It is only one train 200m from the residence.

For me I got to say that the surfing is the best thing I did. I'm an avid extreme sports doer and being able to surf 3 times a week was great! There is only one problem. If you don't have a car to go from Geelong to Torquay, you must take the bus which takes 55 minutes.

Otherwise, me and 5 other Danish guys to a trip in the intra trimester break to Brisbane for 4 days and then Cairns for 5. That was a nice trip, and the plane tickets weren't expensive.

Now that I have just finished my studies, I'm looking forward to 3 months of road tripping all around Australia.

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

If you're going abroad alone, I would recommend staying at the Deakin residence. There are a lot of people to meet and a lot of social events and free food. The quality and cleanliness of the place is quite high, and the rooms are well sound isolated. Just bear in mind that you will need to buy a pillow, duvet, blankets, linen, cutlery, plates, glasses and all normal stuff.

Washing is free.

Buy a car. Yes, it is expensive to buy a reliable car with high resell value, but it improves the stay in Australia.

If you buy from a private seller just make sure that:

- The car has a valid RWC (Same as syn in Denmark) The RWC is valid in 30 days only and people get it when they want to sell their car. If you buy a car without RWC, you will have to take your new car and get it yourself. That can be very expensive if the car has problems.

- Your Danish drivers license is valid 6 months in Australia (no need for an international license).
- To be able to register the car in your name you need a VicRoads customer number. You get that by making an appointment to the closest VicRoads motor office and then bringing your drivers license and proof of address. (I Didn't need a translation of my license, just smile)
- Make an Australian bank account for quick transfers
- Budget direct is a cheap insurance

Buy a surfboard and go rip some waves.

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

Actually, a little long and tiresome, but it was worth it. The things come gradually so don't stress, just do one of them at a time

a. What did KEA help you with?

A little guidance and of course having the relationship with the receiving school. I did read a lot and didn't reach out for help enough. I should have asked more instead. Andreas Berger is very willing to help and he knows about the courses and other application stuff.

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

I didn't receive anything because I didn't need it, but they will help you with everything if you want and they are quick to answer.

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

Naa not really, everything works in this country so there is not much difference compared to home.

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

They ask a lot about that and there are many places to go for help. If you have problems of any kind financial or mentally, they will take care of you.

3. Where did you live?

At the Deakin Residential Housing

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

No

b. Was it expensive?

A little bit, but you get a lot of free stuff and free toilet paper haha.

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

- Food Maybe 1500 DKK Month

- Rent = 5400 DKK month

- Fun = 3000 DKK month

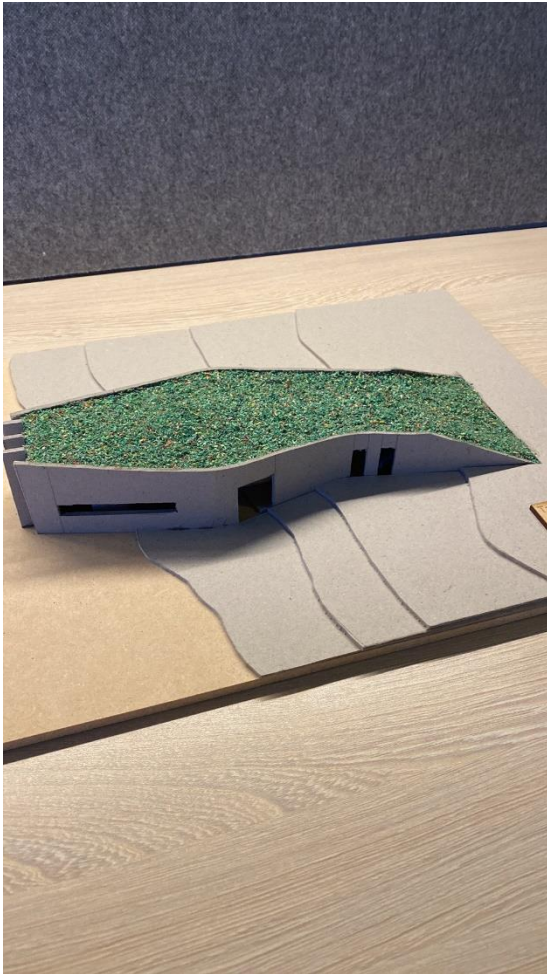
- Car = 7.300 AUD

a. Did you spend more or less money than you

budgeted with?

About what I expected, but you can definitely not live of SU. So, if you don't have some savings, then you will need to apply for scholarships.

Pictures



Models from the SRD164 Matterscapes class

My car with roof rack for the surfboards.

2013 Ford Mondeo 220.000 km

