

Study abroad program at Deakin University – Geelong, Australia
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How it started:

It all started with my friends and I from KEA chatting about how fun it would be if we went to Australia to study abroad. The more we talked about it and researched the more we wanted to do it. In the end we of course ended up applying!

We didn't really know what to expect, apart from great adventures ahead and new social and cultural experiences richer by the end of the semester. Before applying for classes I knew that I wanted to study something that aligns with what my studies are about at KEA (Bygningskonstruktør). I applied for 4 credits, which is what you need to get merit.

The courses I chose:

ARCHITECTURE COMMUNICATION 02: MODELLING: which is very much about designing digitally. I learned a lot about "Rhino" a 3D program which focuses more about smaller details and is a fun program to use. It has some similarities to Revit which I use a lot at KEA.

ARCHITECTURE DESGN STUDIO 02: MATTERSCAPES: my second choice was made due to it being about architecture and its early processes. This subject focused a lot about designing and conceptualizing your houses / etc. We made a lot of hand drawings and physical models in 1:20, 1:50 and 1:100.

CONSTRUCTION AND STRUCTURES 1: my last subject was the most similar from what I know at KEA. It had so many similarities which I really enjoyed (hence the name) – the two other subjects I already mentioned focused on methods and assignments that I haven't tried before. Therefore, construction and structures made it easier for me because I already knew a lot from back home.

Academic Experience:

In the start everything was very new to me, and the others too – we had to learn how to navigate through the new school platforms, because Fronter is not available in Australia. At first it was a bit confusing, but the teachers and residential service was always very helpful when I had questions about anything.

Regarding my experience with my courses I wouldn't have changed a thing. I was very happy with *Matterscapes*, because it was focused on the early process of construction management: the conceptualization / sketching / designing and modelling.

To be fair I didn't find any of the courses less relevant than the other. I think each of them contributed equally good and I am very grateful to have been able to study at Deakin University. I would recommend going from your own gut feeling when you must choose your own courses. Don't be afraid to choose something new or different – from what I learnt Deakin is such a great university, I am positive that no matter which course you pick it will turn out to be exciting.

Practical Experience

The application process was straight forward, if you had your paperwork in order. Andreas and KEA were always very helpful if I had any questions. I got some great help and advice on what courses could be interesting.

Deakin's own website offers a lot of information about the university and accommodation opportunities. I didn't have any troubles settling in, I felt very prepared and the fact that I got here with three guys from my class in Copenhagen made it easier.

During the whole semester we stay at Deakin's own accommodation which is located 100 meters away from the University – which was very convenient. You get a lot of goods when staying on campus. They host a lot of events during the semester, and very often you can sign up for free breakfast / dinner and social events.

I think staying on campus was a great way of boosting my social experience with staying here. Without this, I wouldn't have met as many people as if I rented an Airbnb. The prices aren't very different from what you pay for a room in Copenhagen – I had to pay 1147 AUD which is about 5800 DKK. As mentioned, this price includes a lot of goods – apart from that, Deakin has hired cleaning service in the common areas and you are able to do laundry on campus too, which always worked efficiently.

General expenses:

Prepare to spend a lot more money than you intended to! Luckily, I was prepared that I would probably get carried away sometimes and use more money than I should have – but in the end, you are here to have a great time! So don't be restricted. The most expensive thing was of course the flight tickets and the monthly rent.

Groceries and everyday things cost about the same in Australia.

If you are staying on campus expect to buy a new pillow, blanket and linens. Might need to buy kitchen wear too – depends on if your roomies maybe already brought some.

Why should I go?

I can't push enough how much I encourage you to study abroad! It is such a giving experience, you learn a lot about yourself, while also educating! It is an investment in yourself that you should not miss out on! ... and look at the pictures below, I think they speak for themselves how great Australia is.



