

# F I D M



EXCHANGE REPORT BY -----  
06.05.2023, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA,  
USA



# INTRODUCTION

I am pursuing my Bachelor's degree in Design & Business with a specialization in Fashion Management at KEA. However, I have taken my third semester at the Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising in Los Angeles, USA.

I have been in the Apparel Industry Management program, which aims to equip students with the necessary skills for future ownership or management of a global fashion manufacturing company.

My decision to participate in an exchange program was motivated by several factors, including the desire for cultural immersion, language acquisition, and access to academic and career opportunities. Additionally, I believed that this experience would have a positive impact on my personal growth and development.

# ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

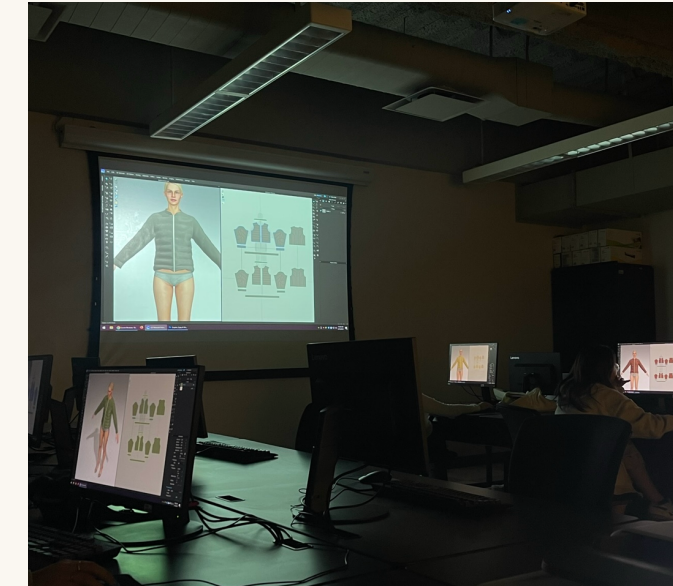
The Apparel Industry Management program covers a range of topics including fashion history, textiles, design, merchandising, marketing, and supply chain management.

In November 2022, I had a Zoom meeting with the Director of International Affairs at FIDM and the Chairperson of the Apparel Industry Management Department. We discussed which classes would be suitable for me based on my previous courses at KEA.

I found all of my classes to be beneficial. The instructors were knowledgeable and had extensive experience in the fashion industry.



Production & Sourcing Strategies



Computer Sketching I



Production Control & Planning



Apparel Process I

# WINTER QUARTER

## QUALITY CONTROL MANAGEMENT

During this class, I gained knowledge about the criteria for quality in design, fabrics, and manufacturing.

## COMPUTER SKETCHING 1

During this class, I acquired knowledge about the process of three-dimensional garment design with the utilization of CLO 3D software. As a result, I was able to successfully create three distinct outfits.

## APPAREL PROCESS I

Throughout this class, I acquired a solid understanding of the foundational concepts related to draping and flat patternmaking, sewing, and the construction of garments. As a result of this newfound knowledge, I was able to successfully create a dress on my own.

## COST CONTROL & COSTING

This class emphasized the analysis and comprehension of cost efficiencies within individual departments of a fashion company.

# SPRING QUARTER

## APPAREL MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY II

Throughout this class, I have learned to create traditional tech packs using Excel. I have also been introduced to NGC PLM, allowing me to create tech packs with this software. Finally, I learned about ERP.

## PRODUCTION CONTROL & PLANNING

In this class, I have explored the principles of pre-season and in-season production planning and logistics.

## OWNERSHIP & FINANCE

Throughout the course, I have acquired knowledge on how to start and manage my own company. As a culmination of my learning, I have drafted a startup business plan.

## PRODUCTION & SOURCING STRATEGIES

During this class, I have learned various sourcing strategies. I successfully sourced all the components for a garment and identified a suitable factory. In addition, I had the opportunity to visit a production facility located in Los Angeles.

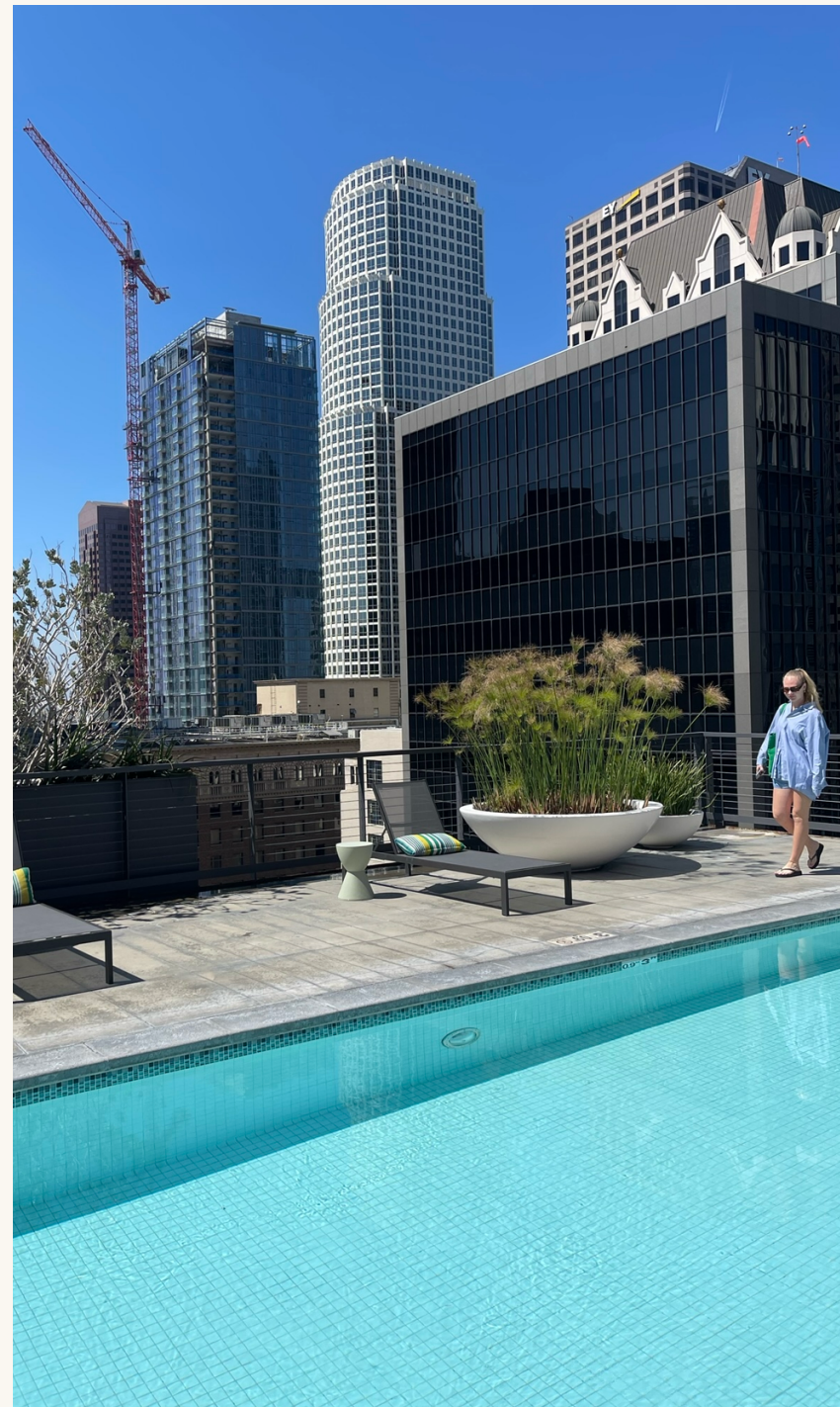
# PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

The exchange application process can be overwhelming. To guide you through it is an online portal that provides you with step-by-step instructions, an overview of the process, and information on when you need to have certain documents prepared.

It is important to be aware of the visa process when going to the US. FIDM will provide you with an I-20 document, which must be forwarded to the embassy along with your passport. While I did not require an embassy interview, some individuals may have to attend one.

Please note that apart from the visa fee, there are additional expenses associated with the visa process.





Pegasus Apartments, Downtown



AVA Little Tokyo, Downtown

# HOUSING

FIDM provides various housing options for students, which can be found on their website. However, my fellow student from Denmark and I decided to rent two different apartments through [blueground.com](https://www.blueground.com). Blueground offers fully furnished apartments equipped with everything from dishes to towels and internet. I highly recommend using Blueground for your apartment rental needs. That said, the student housing option is an excellent way to meet and live with other FIDM students.

The school recommended that we found an apartment in Downtown Los Angeles as it can be challenging to live outside the area without a car due to a lack of public transportation.

Living in Los Angeles is incredibly expensive. The cost of apartment rent is particularly high, and we ended up paying a similar amount to what we would have paid for student housing. However, my living expenses were much higher than I anticipated, and I ended up spending more than I budgeted for. If you don't have a car, using Uber can become quite expensive. Fortunately, I received financial assistance through SU while studying abroad and was additionally awarded a grant through Erasmus+. I applied for several grants and was lucky to receive two.

# CULTURAL/PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

The experience of coming to downtown Los Angeles was a significant cultural shock for me, and it took me some time to adjust to the abundance of so many homeless people on the streets. Additionally, I decided to forego a visit home to Denmark throughout my 6-month stay, which presented its own set of challenges in terms of missing my family and friends. However, I soon adapted and did not experience thoughts of homesickness during my time in Los Angeles. Personally, sharing an apartment with someone was a fantastic experience, as opposed to living solo.

I strongly recommend that future FIDM exchange students attend social events both at FIDM and in the community, as well as remain open-minded and outgoing. This has given me a lot of unforgettable memories.

Furthermore, it has been an amazing experience to travel around California, as the stunning scenery and breathtaking nature make it a must-see destination. I highly recommend going on one or more road trips if at all possible, as this has certainly been a highlight of my stay.



# CONCLUSION

I am delighted that I decided to pursue a study abroad program for a semester. It has allowed me to experience a different culture, interact with amazing individuals, enhance my proficiency in English, and expand my understanding of production processes in the fashion industry. Additionally, this experience has pushed me out of my comfort zone, leading to personal growth that I am sincerely grateful for. All in all, this experience has undoubtedly been worth it in every way, and I will carry its impact and memories with me for a lifetime.

