

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Applying for Deakin University and Australian Visa.....	4
Deakin University units and outcome.....	5
IT Security Management	5
Interactive Media Systems.....	5
Data Science Concepts	6
System Security	6
Deakin University in general	7
Practical Matters	8
Melbourne.....	9
Conclusion.....	Fejl! Bogmærke er ikke defineret. 11

Introduction

In Denmark, I study Software Development at the Copenhagen School of Design and Technology. In addition to that I also work part time at Save the Children as a Software Engineer. I went on exchange on my second semester.

For a longer period, I have wanted to study abroad. In the future, I could easily see myself working as a software developer in another country. To test things out, I thought that studying in another country could be beneficial.

I had my eye on Canada and Australia as the destination for my exchange. I wanted to spend my university exchange in a country with English as the main language. The field of computer science and software development is mostly within the realm of the English language. Programming languages, terminology, research and so on will mostly be published in English. Of course, there are a lot of exceptions, but this combined with the vision of working in another country, I thought that improving my English would be a good long-term investment. Both written and orally. Meeting new people with a similar interest in IT and technology also sounded like a good plan.

In the end, I chose Australia for a couple of reasons. I have always had an interest in the Australian music scene and by studying in Australia I could easily get first-hand insight on the scene. My girlfriend also recommended me Australia, since she had also visited the country before. In addition to that I have heard so much good about the Australian people, nature, animals, and weather.

Applying for Deakin University and Australian Visa

To help me with the application for Deakin University, I got help from Durita Høydal who worked as my primary contact at Copenhagen School of Design and Technology (KEA). Before writing an application to Deakin University, I had to write an application to KEA on why I wanted to study abroad. The application to KEA had to contain some details about my reasons to study abroad and the countries and universities that I had in mind. That made sense, since KEA will only allow people with the right incitement to study abroad. I sent the application to KEA on the 9th of March and I got a positive answer on the 4th of April. With the internal application being approved, I had to write an application directly to Deakin University. The Deakin University application had a fixed online form that I had to follow. In addition to that I also had to attach my transcript from KEA to prove that I was an active student. The transcript was sent to me by Durita. I also had to provide evidence that my skills in English were good enough. However, it was enough for me to reference my program at KEA, since it is in English. It also had to include a signature from Durita.

I was quickly accepted into Deakin University, but the process was a bit more demanding than just the acceptance e-mail. After being accepted, I had to get a specific health insurance that was required by the school. I also had to apply for visa and choose the units that I wanted to participate in. In total this took me around a month, since it was an ongoing process. The good thing was that everything was described in detail on the Deakin University website, which had only the necessary information when applying for exchange. Deakin University is very good when it comes to study abroad and exchange programs, which makes sense, since they brand themselves on being the best international university in Victoria. This was also apparent at the university, since people from all over the world were enrolled in different programs and units. The contact person at Deakin University was also very good at assisting me with the application. I almost always got a reply within 24 hours, except on the weekends.

After being accepted into Deakin University the Visa application got approved within a day. I had feared it would take months, but I was happily surprised. My guess is that the Visa gets instantly approved if you get approved by a certified institution within the country.

Deakin University units and outcome

Before applying for any units, I had a long look at the different units offered at Deakin University for IT students. The requirement for me was to apply for units similar to units I would have had at KEA. For example, I had to take an advanced unit in databases, since I would have had it at KEA. Unfortunately, none of the units offered at Deakin was a 1 to 1 match with any of the units I would have had at KEA. Therefore, I had to find units that at least had some sort of similarity.

I ended up taking the following four units:

- IT Security Management
- Interactive Media Systems
- Data Science Concepts
- System Security

IT Security Management

This unit consisted of practical classes and lectures. The practical classes gave us insight into the security aspects of operating systems and what tools to use when performing and avoiding attacks. We were taught how to handle different attacks against Windows and Linux systems. In the practical classes, we had to use computers provided by the school. This was quite new to me, since we at KEA only use our own computers. However, it worked out pretty well, since all the necessary software were already installed and ready to use. We also learned about backup strategies, access control, different types of attacks, how operating systems work and much more.

The lectures taught us more broad theory about the different kind of management strategies to use within IT security. Password policies, access policies, training policies and a lot of different strategies and policies to be used within different types of organizations and companies.

Linux skills were not a part of the prerequisites, but I think that knowing at least the basic commands of Linux should be a requirement or at least a nice-to-have. We did not write any stored and executable code. The unit was only focused on the capabilities of the Terminal and different software tools for assisting in forensics. The teacher in this unit was also very good. I bonded with him and always stayed in class to chat with him about different IT subjects. He was very interested in how we did things in Denmark and in Europe.

Interactive Media Systems

This unit was meant to be the substitute for the unit at KEA called Human-computer interaction. I chose the unit, since it matched up against the description of Human-computer interaction. However, after the first couple of weeks it was apparent that this unit was irrelevant for my studies. There was too much focus on storyboarding, filming and editing videos. It was fun, but did not enhance my skillset within IT and software

development. We did have a couple of classes with html, CSS and JavaScript, but the level was too low. This class might be fun and instructive for people studying something along the lines of media systems or multimedia design. I almost had an assignment every week in this unit, but they were quite easy. We also had a couple of lectures on copyright and different licenses.

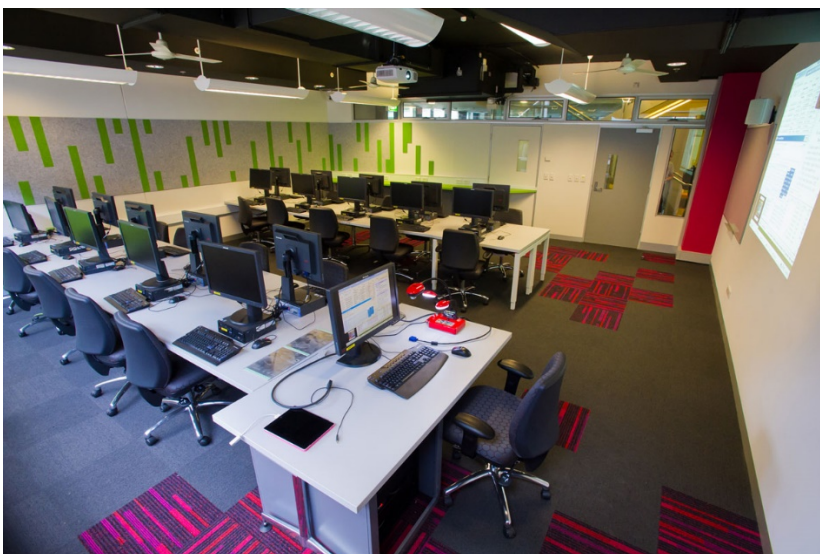
Data Science Concepts

This unit was by far the most challenging. At KEA, we had a lot of programming, but never really in the context of math. This unit did not have any prerequisites in regards to math, but I really struggled in some lectures, since we had a lot of theory in relation to machine learning, cluster algorithms and other data science concepts. The implementations itself were quite easy, since most of it is prebuilt with a lot of accessible libraries, but the theory was hard. However, I learnt a lot during the unit. The unit was also divided into practical classes and lectures. Most IT units are divided into practical classes and lectures, since it involves a lot of work that must be taught via different tasks on the computer. This unit had a lot of quizzes and assignments, but no exam. The final grade was calculated by taking the weight and grade of each assignment. I got a couple of good friends in this class who also had a great interest in IT, but also other common interests.

System Security

This unit had some similarities with IT Security Management, except it was focused on web security. Like the rest of the units it was also divided into practical classes and lectures. I could not attend the lectures, due to scheduling conflicts, but fortunately every lecture from every unit was put on the school intranet. That was very convenient, since I could watch the lecture when I got the time.

We were given an assignment every third week. The level was good and I had to spend some time investigating for the assignments.



Deakin University in general

The university was very well organized. The IT solutions that were used on the school were very comprehensive. I think that the IT solutions at KEA are very bad and not that intuitive. However, at Deakin you had one log-in that worked for all services offered. Just like using NemID in Denmark.

I found the personnel at Deakin very helpful. One of my exams were cancelled and postponed back home in Denmark and I had to work out the arrangements to retake the exam in Australia. I got help from the exchange counselor Jennifer Mendes who was very helpful. One requirement was to have a teacher supervise the exam. I was very surprised that multiple teachers offered their help for free.

The Burwood campus is much bigger than any KEA campus in Denmark and offers a lot in addition to the classrooms and lecture halls. Cafeterias, restaurants, take-away, soccer fields, gym, table-tennis and much more. I have not been to the Geelong or Waurn Ponds campus, so I cannot say much about them, but I think it is similar to Burwood campus.

Practical Matters

I got my accommodation sorted out before arriving in Melbourne. That was very convenient, since I did not have to sleep at an Airbnb or a temporary location while sorting out accommodation. When I arrived at the airport I was immediately picked up by a driver assigned to me by Deakin University. Then I was driven to the house and I got settled in right away. I would recommend sorting out accommodation beforehand. There are a lot of different ways of getting a place to stay, but I used the following a place called Burwood Student Living, which is the first result when searching on Google. I met a lot of nice people by staying at one of their houses. In addition to that it was close to the Burwood campus of Deakin University. The downside was that it is quite expensive. I paid a lot more than people living in a rented apartment or room in the center of Melbourne. I paid a total of 1100 \$ each month, which was a lot more than my apartment back home in Denmark. People I know only paid 600-700 \$. However, since I knew it was for a short period, I chose to stick with it. It all depends on how much time you want to invest and the level of professionalism of the owners. All in all, I think that finding accommodation in Melbourne is quite easy. However, if you want something really good and really cheap it might take some time. A good investment, though!

Deakin University has three campuses in Victoria. One in Burwood, one in Geelong and one in Waurin Ponds, although Waurin Ponds and Geelong are close to each other. From Burwood where I lived, it takes around 40 minutes to get to Melbourne City by tram and 30 minutes by a bus and train combination.

Public transport is cheaper than Copenhagen. Not a lot, but still noticeable. Victoria has the equivalent of Rejsekortet, which is called Myki. It takes you around all of Victoria, but not in any of the other states of Australia. You can put money on the card online or at specific train stations. Primarily the bigger ones.

Some areas of Melbourne are suited for cyclists, but it is nowhere near the level of Copenhagen. The chances of having your bicycle stolen is also a lot smaller than in Denmark.

Eating out is a bit cheaper than in Denmark. Buying groceries is almost the same, but some things are cheaper and some things are more expensive. Alcohol is expensive, unless you want to drink “goon”, which is the slang for cheap cask wine in Australia.

Domestic flights are also cheap. It is like travelling within Europe. If you got the time and money you should visit The Great Barrier Reef, Sydney, Tasmania and maybe more places along the eastern coast of Australia. I ended up spending more money than what I budgeted. I did not except all the travelling, but I ended up going to Tasmania, Sydney, Great Barrier Reef, Cairns, New Zealand, Alice Springs & Uluru, Adelaide and more. All in all, prices in Australia are somewhat like Denmark.

Melbourne

Everybody accepted and enrolled on an exchange study are eligible for the Beach Welcome, which is the ice-breaking festivities for all the exchange students. The Beach Welcome lasts for 3 days and each day will contain different activities and end with a party at night. This is a great opportunity to meet new people from all over the world.

After having spent 4½ months in Australia I have talked to more people from the US and Europe, than from Australia, since you mostly stick to people within the exchange program.

Some people from the exchange program lived together with people from Australia and they had a totally different experience than the people living on campus and/or with other exchange students. Of course, you get to know people from the lectures and practical classes, but the on campus social life is not as good as in Denmark, since people are also scattered. Australia is a big place and remote students are much more common. Most people living close to campus or on campus are usually international or exchange students.

Melbourne is a great city. Very multicultural, good food from various cultures. It is a big city compared to Copenhagen where I live and study. I preferred the eastern city of Melbourne with suburbs as Richmond, Fitzroy, Brunswick and more. However, all parts of Melbourne have something to offer.

The weather is very dynamic. In a single day, you can experience rain, sun, high temperatures, low temperatures etc. I was in Melbourne during the Australian winter and spring and while it is warmer than in Denmark, it is not like you see it on television. If you want good weather all the time you must study in a city further up the eastern coast or go to Melbourne during trimester 3.



1. Where and when did you study abroad?

Humber College Lake Shore Campus, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. 9/1-2017 to 28/4-2017

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

Multi Media design, 3rd semester. At Humber I was mostly enrolled in classes from their Digital Communication program, a new program which was going through its first year during my stay.

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

Digital Communication classes:

Video/Audio Production 2, Multi Media Design 2, Digital Storytelling.

Other classes:

Visual Communications (Film program), Web Application Development (Multimedia Design and Development program).

Please briefly explain what each class was about.

Video/Audio Production 2: video and audio production, the practical vocation of being a film maker, supported by theory about the history of film.

Multi Media Design 2: making interactive and pleasing design, focused on webpages, supported with colour and design theories.

Digital Storytelling: storytelling on digital platforms, both from the side of publishers and consumers. Supported with theories about communication and linguistics.

Visual Communications: the history and theory of visual media in all its forms and how we have interpreted it and used it to shape our worldview.

Web Application Development: making web apps in browsers for use on smartphones, focused on database managing and coding with javascript.

Academic Experience

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

Very helpful, several Humber employees worked to help me put together my weekly schedule, and when I arrived they were welcoming and informative. Due to my programme being rather unique to Denmark, it was more of a challenge from the danish side to figure out what my academic requirements were and how to match them. After I had done some translation and research, Humber offered me several programs to choose from, along with the opportunity to pick and choose the classes I wanted. The interactive design part of my program was difficult to match with the Humber program I had chosen, but a useful solution was eventually found. My final courses were placed at

decent times in my weekly schedule, Humber took care to avoid scheduling conflicts. When I arrived to Humber campus I was welcomed by the international coordinator Rebecca Fitzgerald and Larisa Duravetz as my academic contact. They gave me a good introduction of the campus and my opportunities.

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

I really enjoyed the theoretical approach that a lot of Humber's classes offered. Since my program is oriented towards shaping future media it was a priority for me to create dialogue about what we produce and why we produce it. Humber accommodated that need, along with encouraging participation and research from students. In that way, many of the classes were shaped by student initiative as well as students' experiences.

I especially enjoyed the classes Digital Storytelling and Visual Communications. In VA2 i enjoyed the longer running filming projects we were assigned.

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

VA2 had a lot of potential that due to the method of teaching was sadly squandered. The powerpoint lectures were not particularly engaging and their content was quoted directly from the course reading.

Generally, I found the academic level of many of the classes too low. I don't know whether this is because some of the classes were some of the first classes in the respective programs, or because the students in the classes were younger than me. But even so, while class discussions could be engaging and informative, the learning material itself (tests, readings, essays and so) were quite below the level of academia i expected.

I unfortunately also found students' level of participation very low. I am rarely the one answering questions on the class, but I ended up doing so in most of my classes at Humber.

Cultural/Personal Experience

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

Toronto is very cold, people are very hard to get to know, and making lasting connections with torontonians, or canadians for that matter, is nearly impossible. It is also hard to know what the social norms are because even if you misstep you will not be corrected. There isn't much solidarity or community between people living in the city. People can be nice on the surface but won't care much for you if you are not a direct and constant part of their life.

a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process

Some employees tried to help me with making connections, and due to help from Rebecca I managed to make a few lasting friends, one of whom was also kind enough to introduce me to the city and show me around the best places of Toronto. Still, there are limits to how much one person or a bureaucratic institution can help to foster personal relations.

A friend of mine went on exchange to Melbourne, Australia and told me how there were several weekly scheduled events for exchange and international students, in which they were forced to meet and interact and get to know each other. Humber did have a number of international events but not nearly enough, and they were too big and noisy to really get to know anyone and have face to face conversations.

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

Toronto is immensely diverse and it was rewarding to meet people from very different parts of the world. Toronto has so many opportunities for entertainment and culture that it was impossible to get thru them all in a single semester. There are interesting areas to visit for most everyone in the city. Many cultures have separate neighbourhoods where people live their lives and do business, which ranges from upscale downtown to urban areas with vast differences in cultures and expressions. The single best experience was seeing astronaut Christ Hadfield live in concert, singing in Russian and doing his cover of Space Oddity.

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

Don't be afraid to ask tons of questions. Canadians can be very passive, so sometimes you have to nudge them in order to get results. People there are generally friendly enough but it can take a lot of work to establish a rapport with them.

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

Challenging. There were some deadlines that were very early compared to how long after I got a reply. Which made it difficult for me to start other processes of my exchange preparations (such as applying for grants) because I didn't know what my conditions were.

a. What did KEA help you with?

KEA helped me with starting the application process and directing me towards the right places for information and so. However, I needed more supervision when it came to picking my

classes abroad, rather than being told KEA would take care of it and then suddenly being responsible for this myself.

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

Humber staff were very informative about which classes I could apply for and what their content was.

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

Yes, my plane was two hours delayed upon arrival so the Humber representative who was supposed to have picked me up at the airport had left, and I was left to find my way to Humber campus on my own. I managed to call Rebecca Fitzgerald and get help and directions, but I don't think I should have been in that situation. The representative could have come back later to pick me up, or at least gotten a replacement. Humber kindly reimbursed my taxi ride from the airport, and the taxi driver helped me get myself and my luggage inside and out of the cold weather.

When I arrived to Humber Residence I went thru the regular process of being signed in and someone from the staff showed me to my room, helping with my luggage.

3. Where did you live?

Humber Residence, Lake Shore.

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

I decided to go for the College Residence option since I didn't know Toronto at all, and wanted to avoid flat hunting and all its potential pitfalls. It was expensive, compared to the living standard it offered. More storage space was needed, especially in the bathroom. The thermostat distributed the same temperature to both rooms in a suite style room, which makes it really difficult to agree on a room temperature when one person is from a tropical environment and the other from a temperate one. And it doesn't make sense to have a kitchenette with no stove.

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

General expenses included food and necessities, along with tourist attractions such as tickets to museums and so. Public transit was affordable but not cheap, while food was a lot cheaper than I expected, especially dining out in Toronto was cheap compared to Denmark.

a. Did you spend more or less money than you budgeted with?

I spent less, but not by much. My budget included airplane tickets, residence fees and insurance among other one time payments of quite an amount. My general expenses were less than expected, due to food prices being lower, and that I did not do as many trips as I'd budgetted for.