

DEAKIN UNIVERSITY – BURWOOD CAMPUS, MELBOURNE

MULTIMEDIA DESIGN, 3RD SEMESTER

(TRIMESTER 2, JULY-OCTOBER 2016)



UNITS:

I had to choose 4 classes (or [units](#) as they call them at Deakin University) which correspond to KEA's description of a full-time study.

SIT103 – DATABASE & INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

This unit was built up on a 2-hour lecture once a week, and then a 2-hour practical class later in the week. The lecture was like any other lecture: lots of new information and terms. I found it hard to concentrate during these lectures because they were very slow, and people couldn't sit still. It was definitely a good idea to read your homework before the lectures, because of all the long terms, but also because the lecturer had a heavy chinese accent. The practical classes were also very chill. You showed up and sat down at a computer, and started to implement what you've learned the previous week into a database. You could do it in your own speed and if you needed help you could always ask the prac-teacher. The prac-teachers do it differently, so some of them start the practical classes with an introduction of the prac tasks and assignments.

AMC226 – CHARACTER DESIGN & RIGGING FOR 3D

This unit was a 3 hour practical lesson once a week, but with a lot of homework. The lecturer was very passionate about animation and 3D, and always very interested in everybody's work. We started out with a long process of creating our own characters and their story, before we had to model them in 3D. I struggled with the 3D because I was the only one who'd never used MAYA before [at all](#), so I had to start from the bottom. My lecturer was very kind to help me with problems, and finding tutorials for me. The rigging part (making the character move) was the hardest part. I was finally starting to figure out MAYA, but then I had to work all sorts of new functions from the start again. I ended up being satisfied with my final product even though it was far from perfect.

ACL105 – MEDIA CULTURE AND TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATIONS: LIVING IN THE DIGITAL AGE

This unit was also split up into a lecture and a practical – both were 2 hours once a week. Even though the lecture was just the same as the book or the slides they shared on Cloud-Deakin it was a good idea to attend them anyway because the lecturer had many interesting points and views, which could help you with your assignments. The prac is a mixture of discussing relevant media and technological transformations throughout time, and guidance and researching for assignments as well. We would do a lot of smaller tasks on some social medias which were related to our assignments.

ACG208 – BRANDING DESIGN

This unit was a 2 hour lecture once a week. Our lecturer would use up all the time teaching about branding, designing and showing us a lot of great (and horrible) examples of designs and how important the branding is to a company, organisation or a product. Some of the classes we would each present what we have been working on in our assignments. First we had to research an organisation which had done a great job with rebranding themselves, and then we spent the last two assignments researching and designing for some new organisations who needed branding.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE:

HOW HELPFUL WAS THE RECEIVING SCHOOL IN THE PROCESS OF CHOOSING CLASSES AND SETTLING YOU IN?

The receiving school did not take much part in choosing the classes. It was mostly my coordinator and my teachers at KEA who helped me choose the classes that suited my 3rd semester. Afterwards I would e-mail my suggestions to my coordinator at Deakin University who would then make sure it was possible to take these classes, and checked if I had the right qualifications.

Deakin university was good at helping us getting settled in. They had a weekend trip for all the exchange students before the orientation week. Orientation was filled with guided tours around campus and lectures for exchange students where they informed us with all the important things we needed to know to get through the semester – plus some Aussie terms! During the semester, they have an office for international students where you can show up, and get help and guidance with your school, semester or other things you are finding hard. They also arrange parties and events for all the international students during the semester to make sure you meet a lot of new people.

WHAT CLASSES/STUDY EXPERIENCES DID YOU FIND THE MOST REWARDING? WHY?

Branding design was my favourite because it was more creative and practical than the rest of my classes. It was similar to the classes at KEA because we had the opportunity to design elements and visual identities for organisations which existed, and were interested in our final product. I like when you get the possibility to put your new knowledge into real projects, where you can see what you have learned and how you are developing with your creativity.

WHAT CLASSES/STUDY EXPERIENCES DID YOU FIND LEAST RELEVANT OR LEAST VALUABLE TO YOU? WHY?

I had a hard time with the 3D class because it turned out I did not meet the qualifications for the class somehow. I'm not sure what happened because I was told it would be fine, but then when I showed up at class my lecturer told me I needed experience with the program MAYA to take his class. I wanted to change to another class but I couldn't find any other classes that would fit KEA's 3rd semester plan. I ended up taking the class anyway. It was a struggle to get through, and I needed a lot of help from the other students and my lecturer, but in the end, I passed the class.

WHAT CLASSES WOULD YOU ADVISE OTHER KEA STUDENTS GOING TO THE RECEIVING SCHOOL TO CHOOSE OR NOT TO CHOOSE?

Make sure to pick several classes to get approved from KEA so you still have a few to choose from even if Deakin turns some of them down during the application process. Of course, you must keep in mind what KEA wants from your semester, but remember to choose what you find interesting. I would not recommend choosing 3D if you never had MAYA before, because it will end up taking too much of your time. Design and communication classes seem to be fine in general, but some design classes are a lot of writing, and not much about designing - so make sure to check up on that, if you prefer being creative!

CULTURAL/PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU EXPERIENCE CULTURALLY WHILE BEING ABROAD?

Aussies are really welcoming and polite people. They always ask you how you are doing and are not afraid to walk up next to you and ask questions. In the beginning, I thought it was irritating because I felt it was none of their business, but then I realized they were just kind and interested – and when you start talking to them, they will give you all sorts of advice and ideas for stuff to do. Also, the fact that they shorten a lot of terms make them hard to understand sometimes, like: “Nice arvo for a barbie, right mate?” (“What a nice afternoon for a BBQ, right my friend?”). In Australia, they drive on the left side of the road, which is confusing and a bit dangerous in the beginning, because you constantly look the wrong way!

WHAT WAS THE BEST CULTURAL/PERSONAL EXPERIENCE DURING YOUR STUDIES ABROAD?

Just living in another country far away from home. It was great experiencing a culture where everybody is laid back and welcoming. In Melbourne, everything is about food and going out to eat – and even if you’re alone you don’t have to worry! You will most likely end up talking to somebody anyway. This made it easier for me to approach people, and be welcoming as well, which is something I brought home with me. The city is not only about food, but also a lot of culture such as theatre and streetart etc. It has room for all sorts of people. It was just amazing to have another place to call home, and experiencing all the funny aussie animals and learning how to surf - you know all the stuff you must do while in Oz!

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE OTHER KEA STUDENTS GOING TO STUDY ABROAD AT THE RECEIVING SCHOOL?

Be open minded!

Attend all sorts of events arranged by the school, but also around the city. Don't be afraid to talk to people in Australia in general – and enjoy every moment of it! Time flies!
Of course, it is important to pass your classes, but going on exchange is also an opportunity to learn more about yourself!

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

HOW WAS THE APPLICATION PROCESS? WHAT DID KEA HELP YOU WITH? WHAT HELP DID YOU RECEIVE FROM YOUR SCHOOL ABROAD?

KEA helped me all the way in the process, and told me what I had to do and apply for before going to Australia. They set me up with a coordinator at Deakin as well. Afterwards I had to do everything myself, but if I had any questions or problems I could always find help from my coordinators at both schools. Before leaving they gathered my documents and papers and made sure everything was ready.

WHERE DID YOU LIVE? WAS IT DIFFICULT TO FIND ACCOMMODATION? WAS IT EXPENSIVE?

The first month I lived with some friends I knew. They lived close to campus, but far from Melbourne CBD (Central Business District), so I decided to find a new place to live. I found a flat, on flatmates.com, which I shared with two boys – I think it took me around 3 weeks to find it, but I was a bit picky because I wanted a certain district, and my own room. Some of my friends found accommodation really quick. Accommodation in Australia is expensive - like Copenhagen. It can be done at a fair price if you don't mind sharing a room. I ended up living in Fitzroy which is close to CBD, and a funky, creative and chill area! Favourite part of Melbourne!

WHAT KIND OF EXPENSES DID YOU HAVE IN GENERAL? DID YOU SPEND MORE OR LESS MONEY THAN YOU BUDGETED WITH?

I spent more money than I expected on rent - and everything in general. It is possible to spend the same amount as back home, but I wanted to live close to CBD and go out and do stuff + eat good. Groceries are more expensive than at home. Also, I spent more money on data for my phone and on transportation. I usually ride my bike everywhere - back home in Copenhagen, but here my campus was too far away, and in Melbourne you can get around easily with trams and trains.