

# QUESTIONNAIRE EXCHANGE

## **Where and when did you study abroad?**

I was an exchange student at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia from July to October (Autumn) 2018

## **What KEA program did you attend at the time?**

I was/am studying Multimedia Design & Communication (DK) and I went on exchange on my third semester.

## **What classes did you take during your semester abroad?**

I chose my units before I left for Australia. I was advised by my guidance counselor to apply for minimum 6 courses that made sense to the KEA program I was studying at the time, which was Multimedia Design and Communication (DK). I was then assigned 4 different units: Design Thinking, Creative Brand Communication, Introduction to Responsive Web Apps and the 12 Principles of Animation.

### Design Thinking

The unit 'Design Thinking' was based on the innovative and problem-solving methodology known as Design Thinking. I chose this unit because I had already been introduced to the methodology earlier by my KEA program, however I wanted to learn more about it. The unit consisted of one seminar a week lasting for 2 hours. The goal of the unit was to choose a wicked problem and ideate an innovative solution for the selected matter.

### Creative Brand Communication

This unit was about the creativity and strategy that is essential to successful brand communication. We were analyzing advertorials as well as creating our own based on various things such as audience grouping, single minded proposition etc. The unit consisted of one seminar a week lasting for 2 hours.

### Introduction to Responsive Web Apps

In this programming and coding unit the goal was to create an educational gaming app by using HTML, CSS and JavaScript. However, it was not allowed to put anything in the HTML body which made the assignment more complicated. Throughout the unit we had to hand in three assessments. The first assignment was a project plan covering what kind of

educational gaming application we were going to make as well as how we were going to create it. The second assignment was a portfolio that contained some of the work and exercises we had accomplished throughout the trimester. The last assignment of the course was indeed the educational gaming project itself. The unit consisted of one seminar a week lasting for 2 hours as well as a 1-hour long class together with a 1-hour long lecture.

### 12 Principles of Animation

The animation unit based on the 12 principles of Animation was a very creative unit. In this unit, we learned about the 12 principles of Animation and how to use them. We were assigned a lot of minor exercises throughout the unit. However, the final project was a short animation movie highlighting some of the principles. The unit consisted of one seminar a week lasting for 2 hours, where we had time to do the exercises, as well as a 1-hour long class, where we learned about the principles.

## **ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

### **How helpful was the receiving school in the process of choosing classes and settling you in?**

Deakin University is extremely proud to be a part of an exchange and study abroad program. They were very receiving, kind and helpful. They offered all exchange/study abroad students to get picked up at the airport and take you to your accommodation without charge.

I did not reach out for help with the choosing of my units. However, they were extremely helpful to anyone who needed any guidance on that matter.

### **What classes/study experiences did you find the most rewarding?**

The two units I found the most rewarding was without doubt Design Thinking and Introduction to Responsive Web Apps.

### Design Thinking

There was many reasons Design Thinking was one of the most rewarding units for me. First of all, the Unit Chair and the Lecturer were extremely invested in the unit and its students. They were really great at teaching which made the course very interesting. Other than that, the course itself was very interesting as we had to work on a wicked problem. Wicked problems are iterative as the process includes problem definition, information gathering, solution and outcome. Wicked problems are not about how difficult a problem is. Wicked problems

are about the origin of the problem. My study group and I worked with the wicked problem: “How might we create visual creativity for blind people?”. It was a very interesting subject and we did a lot of first-hand research where we reached out to the Australian awareness campaign ‘Dialogue in the Dark’ we got to experience how it was to be blind in Melbourne by being placed in a completely dark room with a vision impaired person as our guide. It was such a rewarding, informative and enlightening project that I am happy to have participated in.

### Introduction to Responsive Web Apps.

If you are studying Multimedia Design and Communication and you have an interest in coding and programming, Introduction to Responsive Web Apps is a very rewarding and educational course. It is a unit that requires a lot of time and concentration. If you do not use at least 20-40 hours a week on this unit, you are most likely to fail. It is an extremely intensive unit. However! It is without doubt the course I have gained most from. It is challenging, but very rewarding. It is a self-learning course: you will receive a handbook and some documents containing some exercises you must complete throughout the unit and based on those exercises, you have to program a gaming application. At the seminars you can receive help if you need it and, in the lectures, you can ask the Unit Chairs questions regarding the course.

### **What classes/study experiences did you find least relevant or least valuable to you?**

The least relevant unit for me was the 12 Principles of Animation. I chose the unit because I thought it was a requirement from my KEA program. However, I could have chosen another unit. It was fun to work with animation and I did learn how to use 3 new programs. Nevertheless, as I do not have an interest in Animation and I do not want to work with it, the unit was irrelevant to me.

### **What classes would you advice other KEA students going to the receiving school to choose or not to choose?**

I think it depends on the individual student’s interests. If you want to work with strategy and brand communication, you should choose Creative Brand Communication. If you want to study web development, you should choose Introduction to Responsive Web Apps (NOTE: This unit is so much more hardcore than it sounds. In approximately 10 weeks, you learn more programming than in first two semesters of Multimedia Design and Communication). If you want to become an animator, you should choose 12 Principles of Animation. It all really comes down to your interests and what kind of direction you want to go in study wise and work wise. Nonetheless, I can highly recommend all of the units. Especially Design Thinking and Introduction to Responsive Web Apps as they go well to the Multimedia Design & Communication program and they are extremely rewarding.

## **CULTURAL/PERSONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?**

I've been to Australia before and the people is extremely kind and helpful. I did not experience any challenges. However, Aussies are very laid back which means they are most likely to be running late.

### *How helpful was the receiving school in this process?*

As aforementioned, Deakin University is extremely proud to be a part of an exchange and study abroad program. They were very receiving, kind and helpful, and they are ready to help with any challenges or issues you might have.

### **What was the best cultural/personal experience during your studies abroad?**

I got an entire new networking consisting of Aussies and other exchange students. I mostly spend time with Aussies, as I lived with them and attended the same units.

I got to experience Melbourne in a different way since I lived there for 4 months.

Overall, I was extremely happy throughout my entire exchange program and I loved every single second of it.

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

Aussies are very outgoing, but you have to be it as well! Join different clubs if you want to and do not be afraid to interact with people whether it is at the university or off uni. Furthermore, remember to enjoy all of the moments and the people.

## **PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE**

### **How was the application process?**

I think the application process was a bit difficult as I did not receive enough information about the process. I wish it had been more informative.

### *What did KEA help you with?*

KEA helped me find the right units among other things.

*What help did you receive from your school abroad?*

I did not reach out for help from Deakin University in the application process.

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

The university is very helpful to guide you with practical things such as accommodation, travel card, SIM-cards etc. Melbourne Information Center was also extremely helpful.

**Where did you live?**

I lived both on and off Campus, as my boyfriend came to visit for 4 weeks.

*Living on campus*

Pros: The pros of living on campus was that it was 5 minutes away from your lectures and seminars. Living on res also including many activities and some parties.

Cons: Living on campus is way too expensive and too far away from everything. You might live 5 minutes away from the University and your classes. However, you have to take the tram 8 stops to get to the nearest supermarket and it is an hour away from the city. The University is in Burwood which is a very boring area. Going on exchange/study abroad I would highly recommend living in the city, so you can get the most out of your time and experience. As aforementioned it is too expensive. I paid around 6.800 DKK a month for a tiny room in a flat shared with 5 other people. Furthermore, if you live on campus and you're studying in the Arts program, you will be paying for a month of accommodation even though your trimester has already finished.

*Living off campus*

Pros: Living off campus and in the city is surprisingly way cheaper and better.

Cons: It might take an hour from the city center to get to campus. However, it is worth it!

**What kind of expenses did you have in general?**

Accommodation, food, experiences, public transportation, going out.

*Did you spend more or less money than you budgeted with?*

I spend more money than I budgeted.