

Fall, 2018

Exchange Report

Where and when did you study abroad?

I studied in Humber College located in Toronto, Canada. My studies lasted for one semester from September till December, 2018.

What KEA program did you attend at the time?

I attended Web Development program in KEA.

What classes did you take during your semester abroad? Briefly explain what each class was about.

In total I took five different classes:

- **Emerging Design Trends**
The class was about finding and reasoning every design decision in a process of developing a user interface. It focused on the theory behind a user centred design.
- **Experience Design**
The whole course is based on an idea of an agile project. We went through theory behind a good user experience, learned to analyse our target audience, create user journey maps, wire framing and usability testing.
- **Project Management**
The course is about acquiring projects. Teacher focuses on different aspects of writing proposals, whether that would be writing one, budgeting, estimating timeline or presenting a possible solution to clients.
- **Web Application Development**
Within the course we learned ASP.NET. The framework itself, but mainly the concepts behind server side programming. Touched upon the different areas like writing algorithms, creating user interfaces and doing CRUD (Create, Read, Update, Delete) within C#.
- **Web Technology**
The course is about responsive design. It teaches writing semantic, accessible code. Touches upon Bootstrap library and how to utilise it for creating quick and responsive websites.

Academic experience

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

Before arriving I had certain questions regarding my courses. When I contacted Humber international coordinator, she was extremely helpful, and if she couldn't help she was very helpful by introducing me to people who could. I had a great experience with settling in. At the beginning everything was very clearly explained and if I had any questions, they were very quickly answered.

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

I learned a lot from three of my five selected courses. These being Emerging Design Trends, Experience Design and Web Application Development. The teachers were very experienced within the field and I learned things that at first I didn't even know the course was covering.

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

The course "Web Technology" from my perspective was the least relevant course, from the ones I was taking. The course seemed a little bit outdated and didn't really teach anything new to me personally.

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

The three courses I mentioned above (Emerging Design Trends, Experience Design and Web Application Development) are definitely worth taking if a student is interested in the field of digital design and web development. All three courses cover important aspects of the field and are important for both: people focusing on design or development side of the industry.

Cultural/Personal Experience

What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?

Personally I don't think I experienced any challenges while being abroad. Everyone here has been super helpful and nice.

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

I think overall every weekend has been a great experience. Meeting new people and making friends from other parts of the world, while exploring the beautiful Toronto is really unforgettable. With some other exchange students we also went for a road trip to Montreal. This let us experience how different Canada can be within two different cities.

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

It's important to fill up your time. You don't want to stay in the residence over the weekends, but explore as much as possible around. Go to different parts of the city, tourist places, restaurants - Toronto truly is an extremely cultural city, you can see cultures from all around the world within one city and one semester is finished much faster than it would seem.

Practical Experience

How was the application process?

Overall the application process was relatively easy. There were changes within the study programme I could take, therefore I had to find alternatives to certain classes. But with help of the coordinator at KEA and Humber everything was sorted out.

* What did KEA help you with?

KEA basically helped with everything when it comes to the application process. I had to hand in all the necessary documentation and the rest of the communication between the schools were basically done by coordinators.

* What help did you receive from your school abroad.

Humber was very helpful when it came to living conditions. They were quick to reply to any questions I had and also helped with sorting out the problem regarding unavailable classes within my program, by offering to take courses from different programmes.

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

When I arrived in Canada I had to go through a lengthy customs process (from what I know - I just got unlucky) and because of that I missed the car that was going to pick me up. I contacted the coordinator from Humber and she quickly let me know what to do and everything was sorted. I didn't have any other difficulties during the process.

Where did you live?

I stayed in Humber North campus residence.

* Was it difficult to find accommodation?

Not at all, mainly because I was taken to it by a taxi.

* Was it expensive?

Staying in residence is relatively expensive, considering you live rather far from downtown and you have to eat out or within the cafeteria all the time (there is no kitchen on floors). It is possible to find cheaper rental possibilities around. Of course this is difficult to do when you are not here, but if people consider this coordinators from Humber are very helpful. I have say that even though it is slightly expensive, living a parking lot away from school is very convenient.

What kind of expenses did you have in general?

Generally expenses are everything you would expect when you are back home, besides the the plane tickets and additional insurance that is required. I personally during the whole semester spent money on:

- Accommodation (this is a one time payment for the whole semester);
- Food (you have to buy a meal plan for the residence);
- Insurance;
- Plane tickets,
- Clothes
- Personal internet within the dorm room (there is a free one but it's limited)
- Phone plan
- Going out (we did go out basically every weekend together with other exchange students)

- Leisure activities (there are events planned by school for international students)

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

I personally spent more than I budgeted with, but mainly because I did go out a lot, went to the most of the events happening around, as well as together with other exchange students went to Montreal for a weekend road-trip)