

Exchange Report - Summer Term 2018

Manchester Metropolitan University

Where and when did you study abroad?

MMU (Manchester Metropolitan University) I attended one term during 10/08/2018 - 14-12/2018 in Manchester.

What KEA program did you attend at the time?

BA Software Development.

What classes did you take during your semester abroad?

Mobile Applications Development

In this unit I learned about Internet of Things (IoT). If you pick this unit you will mainly learn how to create IoT solutions, connecting sensors, actuators, servers, databases and a range of communication protocols linking to Android devices.

User Experience and interaction Design

In this unit you will learn about analysis, design, prototyping and evaluation of user interfaces and interactive systems and their contexts of use. A selection of topics from human vision, memory, thinking, learning and perception are covered in this unit.

Database Systems

In this unit I learned about databases from a beginner to advanced level. You will learn about why we have databases and why you would want one and what problems you are likely to run into if you don't have one. You will also learn about the available database software options from small personal databases installed on a desktop or laptop, all the way to the current open source big data solutions like MYSQL and MongoDB. However, the main focus in this unit is mainly on classic relational databases and the SQL query language that you will practice thoroughly during lab classes.

Web Based Business Systems

This unit takes a web and business-oriented view of Computing, focusing on the topics and skills necessary to allow you to exploit computing proficiency commercially over the web. A selection of topics is covered from basic economic theory, e-marketing, social media, search engine optimization, handling money online including mobile payments and Web Programming.

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

Very supportive, I received a lot of help from the student hubs that can be found across the University and act as your first port of call for any face-to-face information, enquiries and advice. They can provide guidance on a wide-range of course related matters, information about various university services and facilities. Opening hours are flexible and are being progressively extended into evenings and weekends so the hub staff are there when you need them.

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

What I liked about MMU is that all the tools are there to help you succeed. Excellent lectures and qualified professors that are there to support and bring out the best version of you. The overall environment at MMU is also absolutely fantastic, new high-tech buildings, spacious and colorful classrooms, various study areas, four floors of library and super friendly staff. The facilities are great and the library is open 24/7 during term time. Many assignments involve working with industry on projects, which has enabled me to experience what working in the IT industry is really like.

What classes/study experiences did you find least relevant

I liked all the units that I signed up for, but (Web based Business Systems) focuses a lot on theory rather than the practical side which was boring at sometimes. But I must say the lectures were informative indeed but I mostly enjoyed the labs.

What classes would you advice other KEA students going to the receiving school to choose?

I would advise students to talk to a counselor if they have any doubts about what classes to pick. At MMU they will provide you with plenty of support so don't worry you will find units that meets your expectations. I would advise students to drop into some of the intro classes to get a feel of the different units before committing.

If English is your second language there's a class for international students where you can seek help with writing academic papers if you have any difficulties there. The course will help you develop your English language skills in an academic environment and introduce you to the academic skills that you will need on your chosen degree course. The course is free and you will also get the chance there to meet other students abroad.

Cultural/Personal Experience

The city of Manchester has something for everyone, from history and culture to nightlife and shopping. It's easy to get around the city with the extensive public transport system. It is also very easy to explore the rest of the UK and there are some exciting cities, including London, Liverpool and Birmingham and Edinburgh, less than two-three hours away. Best of all, the university's campus is only a ten-minute walk from the city Centre. With shops and restaurants nearby, life around campus is lively and exciting. The University's student accommodation is located on campus or nearby, with the majority of accommodation is no more than a few minutes' walk from teaching and learning facilities. The student's union is conveniently located on campus and provides students with a bar, shop, café and event venue. It is also the home to over 150 clubs and societies which are available for all students to take part in. Manchester is such an international city and there are many friends to make and different cuisines to try. The student life is great and there is lots to do. In Manchester you will never get bored!

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

Plan ahead and take it one step at a time. The culture may be a bit different from your home country but people in Manchester are very open to visiting international students. Oh Yes, don't be passive, be active, talk with people make a good network.

How was the application process?

The application process went smoothly I had no problem there. However, there are a few things that you have to fill out before you can proceed on to your desired exchange destination. But you will get through it don't worry.

What did KEA help you with?

KEA helped me fill in some of the blanks in my application and also helped me apply for Erasmus Gant. A special thanks to Anne Dibbern the international coordinator at KEA she helped me a lot during the process and was very helpful at answering questions during the whole process. So, if you ever in doubt stop by her office.

What help did you receive from your school abroad?

The receiving school helped me a lot they gave me advice and support on a wide range of issues relevant to international students. MMU is there when you encounter any problems at University and with living in a foreign country. So, they provided me with a lot of support so I could settle into life in Manchester.

Where did you live?

I stayed at New Medlock House which is five minutes' walk from Manchester City Centre. Just minutes away from both Manchester Metropolitan University and University of Manchester campuses.

Was it difficult to find accommodation?

As a student at Manchester Metropolitan University, you will not have the added worry of finding somewhere suitable to live. There are a wide range of options available and the University will assist you in your search and help secure an accommodation. So, no it wasn't difficult finding a place to live.

Was it expensive?

Manchester is an affordable city as compared to other southern cities in the UK. However, if you want to save money you can take advantage of student discounts on transport, clothing, and entertainment.

What kind of expenses did you have in general?

There are a number of different costs that you will need to consider when studying in another country and costs may vary according to your lifestyle. Below is a list of things I used my money on.

Rent – £132 weekly	
Insurance - £9.49 monthly	
Laundry – £20 £ monthly	
Food – 50£ -70£ weekly	
Nightsout -Not sure didn't keep count	
Shopping - Not sure but I used a lot of money on shopping.	

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

Yes, I definitely spend more money than I was supposed to. I when a bit over budget but I had savings that I had earned by working before I when abroad so that helped a lot!

