

Where and when did you study abroad?

At La Salle, Ramon Llull in Barcelona from the 3/9-19 to 19/01-20

What KEA program did you attend at the time?

E-design 2018

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

Spanish: Maria Riu Puig

I took Spanish, to learn some of the basic things. Sadly, 5 months is not enough to learn enough, to 'speak' Spanish. Not even in a very simple way. I'll recommend using Duolingo, while you're there. That app helped me a lot. Also, I learnt how to order, and ask for the bills, and stuff that you need, when you're out'n bout. These kinds of things you don't learn in class.

Cross Cultural Management: Marina Ruiz Tada

I loved this course. I had a really amazing teacher and, I heard from some of the students on the other team, that they also had an amazing teacher, so I would definitely recommend this course. It was interesting, and also fun to learn about different kinds of cultures. This class was more interactive than most of the other classes I had.

Sales Management: Steven Guest

This course was a last priority when I choose my courses, but actually, one of the best I had. Again, I really think it's because of the teacher. He was really good to make us understand, how you could use this course, not only when you need to make a sale, but also, for job-interviews, family feuds and other places, where skills of negotiation and persuasion comes in handy

International Business: Kereem Gurses

This course was a bit hard for me. I thought it would be easy, because I already studied it from home but, a mix of the teacher's heavy accent and also the courses more technical content, made me sometimes lost track in the start. But I got better, and in the end, I didn't think about it anymore. It got easier for me with the accent. You pretty much get what you expect from this course, in a good way.

Integrated Marketing Communication: Renee Jimenz.

This course was the one I was the most excited for. Sadly this course was the worst for me. Only 3 ECT points, but so stressful for me. So many big reports, and also the teacher's way of teaching, killed the creative process in this course. We worked on a yearly event called 4YFN, and how to make a marketing suggestion for them, with investors as a targeting group. Hated the course, but

actually really liked the teacher. Her way of teaching was just not for me. So sad, because normally I'm really interested in marketing.

Principal of Technological Project Management: Miguel Angel Sánchez Araujo

I was also lucky with my teacher in this course. He was really passionate in teaching, and therefore where really good to simplify difficult things, in a way so I understood it. This course is about, how you start a big project, from A to Z, and how to have cost, risk and everything else under control while you get to Z.

Academic Experience

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

They could definitely be better. The way I had to choose my courses, was very confusing. They sent me a lot of different schemes, and then a list of courses. And then you have to find the courses you want on the list, and then look for them on the scheme, and then keep an eye, not to choose two courses which overlap in time. Because it was so confused for me, I was a bit slow on choosing. And when I finally had chosen my courses and sent it to the school, the courses were already full. So, I had to keep downgrading what types of courses I wanted. Third time I finally made the puzzle. But sadly, I only got two of the courses I wished for.

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

The Cross Cultural Management course, gave me a lot of Aha-experiences. The teacher was really good, and funny, and passionate, and she was good to implement the students in her teaching.

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

It was probably the Spanish course. It was the least relevant for me to take, compared to my study, but I really wanted it. I also think its really relevant to have the Spanish course, to communicate with the culture your visiting.

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

It depends on many things. For me, I should never had chosen this school, because they didn't have any of the creative things I really wished to have. I chose this school, because I wanted to live in Barcelona, and speak Spanish. It was too business oriented for me.

DESIGN, DIGITAL and TECH students

Cultural/Personal Experience

1. What challenges did you experience culturally while being a broad?

Well the school is not as structured as we are used to in Denmark. The locals in Barcelona, is not that open towards tourists, so the idea I had, about going to Barcelona, meet a lot of locals and get a lot of new friends in the city, never happened. I did get a lot of new friends, but mostly just exchange students.

I was also very surprised, when my courses started. I'm okay at English; Social English. But I had to be extra focused to understand what the teacher was talking about. Sometimes I couldn't understand anything, because almost all my teachers had a very thick accent,

Also, in the start, you were just on your own. Only, because one guy was brave enough to stand up and yell out loud after the information meeting "Hey let's make a whatsapp group!" did some of us get together. If he didn't do anything, then when the school started, we would all be splitted into different courses, and then it would be hard to get to know each other.

a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

I don't think any of us asked for helped in this process.

But I did ask, in the start, if there were any social things happening. The teacher at the information meeting just laughed at me and said no, as if it was the strangest thing in the world. Coming from a school where we have a hole week of social activities, I was of course disappointed. Specially, because at the same meeting, they told us, that they had to push our, school start for a week. So that was 2 weeks I had to just walk around alone in Barcelona. I even told my friends some time before, not to meet me, because I of course thought I would be busy getting to know people.

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

I learned a lot about myself in different situations. I also learned that I can quickly adapt and create a home in a different culture. The best thing was, that even though I was a lot older than all the other exchange students, I really loved being around them, and they were all so kind and open, because we all were in the same situation, and therefore I got friendships quicker and deeper, than you normally will, when you start on a new education.

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

Really read what the school is providing, and go for that, before the city. Else, you will work a lot on stuff, that is not interesting for you.

Don't listen when people tell you, that the standard of education I Spain are way lower then Denmark. You will have a lot of school work to do. At Kea, we are used to project-oriented work, where at La Salle, you have 6-7 different courses, with different homework and assignments every week, and therefore feels like a lot.

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

a. What did KEA help you with?

Well my exchange counselor would probably help me with everything if I asked. In the start it seemed as a lot of work, and I was a bit scared of it, because at the same time I had classes and assignments to prioritize, but I got slowly through it.

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

Nothing, but I didn't really ask them for any help anyways. I'm sure they would help as much they could if I had asked. The woman, that I was in contact with, was very kind.

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

Well luckily nothing really. I lived with a vegan, which meant, that I couldn't have meat, or eggs or milk in the kitchen, and stuff like that. But that had nothing to do with the school, or the fact that I was going to Barcelona.

a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

Againing, I didn't ask them.

3. Where did you live?

I lived in Gracia. Not in inner centrum, but still in the area of centrum. Very, safe place to live. I was happy for the area. Beautiful. Not to many tourists, and because of that, no shady pick pockets. A safe place to go in the middle of the night, if you're walking from the metro or a bar or something like that.

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

Well I found some contacts on facebook. I just put it out there: "Do anybody know somebody living in Barcelona, who knows somebody is seeking a renter?"

b. Was it expensive?

It cost, almost the same as in Denmark. I paid 500 euro for my tiiiiny room.

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

Much of the same as home.

I had rent, gym, food, experiences, nights out, clothes, transports, only one book for school. Yeah, else just living.

And also I had to buy towels, and bedsheets, new pillows and blankets, and little stuff to settle in my room, like a clothing rack and a drying rack.

But of course some places already have that.

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

I spend LESS money than I budgeted, but I spend more money than I thought. My budget was based a little higher, just in case. But in the end, I think I was not far from my budget.