

kea
COPENHAGEN SCHOOL OF DESIGN
AND TECHNOLOGY

laSalle
Universitat Ramon Llull

**Exchange at La Salle
Computer Science, Spring
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Introduction

1. Where and when did you study abroad?

I studied International Computer Engineering at La Salle Campus in Barcelona, for the 2nd semester of the 2nd year. From February 2021 until June 2021.

2. What KEA program did you attend at the time?

Computer Science

3. What classes did you take during your semester abroad?

I took 7 classes while being abroad:

1. *Web Projects II*,
where we deployed a PHP application using twig templates, slim framework and composer
2. *Networking and IT Security*,
where we learned about network architecture and different hacking techniques
3. *Programming Languages*,
where we learned how to build our own programming language and created a compiler for it
4. *Knowledge Based Systems*,
which was an introduction to Artificial Intelligence, and the final project was to create a chatbot of a chosen domain
5. *Advanced Operating Systems*,
where we learned how the operating system works, and we were also working with FAT16 and EXT2 volumes
6. *Technological Trends*,
which was divided into 2 parts, the first one I took was ICT and Sustainability, where we learned about the current issues we are facing in regards to sustainable development, and the second part was Deep Speech, where we learned how the text and voice is being processed and understood by computers
7. *Corporate Social Responsibility*,
where we learned about the businesses as a driving factor for a sustainable change in the society

Academic Experience

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

I didn't have any problems communicating with the International Coordinator of La Salle. They provided me with a list of courses that I can possibly take 2 months prior to my arrival, so I had time to read about them and decide which ones to take.

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

I think that the class I enjoyed the most was Networking and IT Security. It was a hands-on based subject, where we had to work on given laboratories and try to exploit servers depending on the ports that were open. I was happy about it also because previously at KEA, we learned about the basics of networking in the 3rd semester of the Technology class. Networking and IT Security enabled me to deepen my knowledge through practical exercises.

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

My first choice of subjects was slightly different than mentioned in the introduction. In the beginning I was enrolled in the Peripheral Equipments class. I didn't find it relevant, since my final objective is to become a Full-Stack developer. Although the subject is interesting, I didn't enjoy it at all.

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

As mentioned previously, I wouldn't recommend taking the Peripheral Equipments, as the subjects taken at KEA don't give a good base to work with microcontrollers. This subject is a typical engineering one, and doesn't meet the same objective as the Computer Science program at KEA.

Although, I would strongly recommend the Programming Languages, Knowledge Based Systems and Networking and IT Security. Those subjects are interesting and give a good perspective of how the compilers work (PL), you will get a good introduction to Artificial Intelligence and its concerns (KBS) and you will also get a good base of getting to know Linux Operating System and Networking (N&IT Sec).

Cultural/Personal Experience

1. What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad? And how helpful was the receiving school in this process?

First of all, to feel comfortable in Spain, knowing Spanish is a must. I was learning it before, and my objective of the Exchange was to start speaking fluently. I got into a football team, where all trainings were in Spanish, and all the girls were native Spanish speakers. It was hard in the beginning to understand everything, and feeling as if I am part of the team. However, I pushed myself to learn and practice more, and eventually I became good friends with everyone.

I didn't really ask for any help in this regard from La Salle.

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

I think that one of the best experiences (apart from the football team) was being part of a yoga group. I met people from all around the world, and made good friends. It was an amazing experience, doing yoga during a sunrise by Barcelona beach.

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

First of all, be open to go out, you can use Meetup to get to know new people. There are so many things happening in Barcelona. Don't close yourself to only English speakers, if you truly want to learn Spanish. My recommendation would be to find a shared flat with Spanish speakers (I did that, and didn't have any other choice but to speak Spanish with them). Also, remember to get good insurance and get the EU Blue Card for emergencies. I had to use it once, since I got injured in the beginning of the exchange. Remember about those things, since you never know what can happen!

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

I found the application process very clear from the beginning. I like that KEA has the mobility online, where you get an overview of what is happening with the application and what are the next steps.

a. What did KEA help you with?

I had to change the Learning Agreement, and KEA helped me with the process of changing it in the 'mobility online'. All of the exchange students also had a meeting before going abroad, to get a better understanding on what the exchange is like, what we should prepare beforehand, etc.

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

They helped me with choosing the subjects for the Learning Agreement. I got an overview of all the classes from the coordinator of International Computer Engineering. La Salle also helped me to find a subject that I could replace the Peripheral Equipments with.

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

I didn't have any issues, all the information I needed to have was easy to find.

3. Where did you live?

I lived 25-minutes by walk from the university, near Lesseps.

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

It was not difficult, there are many offers in Barcelona. I found my room on idealista portal.

b. Was it expensive?

I was paying 450 euros a month.

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

Generally, the room, the food, and the trips I was doing during the weekends.

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

I spent slightly more than I initially thought.