

# DESIGN, DIGITAL and TECH students

## Questionnaire Study Abroad/Exchange

Please answer the questions below to the best of your ability. This report is meant to help future exchange students find their perfect destination so keep your audience in mind when writing and use a language that “pre-exchange students” will also understand.

You are very welcome to add pictures and/or change the format of the report as long as you keep in mind the questions below. Anything that will give your fellow students a sense of what it is like to study and live at “your school”.

Formatting-wise, you may either create a written report with pictures (i.e. lining up the questions below followed by your answers or continuous text answering the questions), OR you can create a video report (i.e. with footage from different experiences/contexts from your stay and a voice-over answering the questions). Be creative and informative!

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

I went to ESDi school of design in Barcelona fall semester 2022

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

Multimedia Design

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

#### 1. Art theory and history II (2nd year class)

Art theory and history II was about art history from the 20th century until now. The teacher, Jeffery, was a very sweet and intelligent man. The class is a lot about listening and taking notes, but Jeffery is an interesting man listening to and he has a lot of fun anecdotes and life stories that he implements. Jeffery will have a powerpoint and talk about everything between heaven and earth. You can feel his passion for art through his teaching. I would really recommend this class if you don't mind it not being very well structured, but more for learning a bit about this and that and getting to know a lot of new art and art movements. I have never had any art history class so for me this was a very interesting and instructive class. For this class we had to write two essays.

## 2. Communication (2nd year class)

Communication with Mikki was really a nice class. It was about how we communicate through different mediums and how we as designers have to be aware of what and how we communicate. We talked about the transformation from painting to photography to cinema to social media etc. Mikki is a cool and interesting teacher with a fresh and you state of mind. He speaks fast and loves to debate. This is a more academic class and not very practical. But nonetheless we had two school trips to art museums, one of them seeing the World Press Photo exhibition. This was really cool since it was very relevant to the subject of the class and also afterwards we sat at a cafe and talked about the exhibition. In this class we had one essay on Onlyfans, and one oral presentation that was about a book called pornotopia that we had to read.

## 3. Projects I (2nd year class)

This is a very practical class and the teacher Pinel is very nice. The class is actually in Spanish but he was very kind and translated everything he said. Also I had another course that overlapped this one, but I wrote him an email and he said it would be fine since it was only half an hour. We had to make two movies and one ARG-game. The class was fun, but not having the right tools and it being difficult to borrow equipment at the school made it a bit more difficult. Also the groups were big and people had very different schedules and therefore it was hard finding time to shoot the movies. But if you are really into filming and editing this is the right class for you.

## 4. Technical Drawing (1st year class)

This class was just horrible. At first I was really looking forward to it since it was very new to me and I was looking forward to learning! But the teacher and the classes were strict, boring and not very pleasant for learning. We had a new assignment for each class and they were very difficult but the teacher wouldn't acknowledge this and there were many conflicts and debates in class because people felt treated unfairly since many didn't get good grades. But from next semester there will be a new teacher so I hope it will be a more enjoyable class. But all in all, if you aren't into drawing or

technical drawing i would not recommend this class.

#### 5. Computing I (1st year class)

Coming from Kea this is a bit too easy class. But if you want to learn how to use Illustrator, Photoshop and InDesign from scratch this is a good way to begin. For me the Photochop part was nice since I haven't worked that much in the program and I felt like I really learned something. But it was a bit boring at times since it was the first encounter of Adobe for the freshmans and therefore it could take a long time to get everyone onboard with the assignments made in class. For this class there was a weekly assignment connected to what we had done in class.

#### 6. Literature and communication (2nd year class)

This was also a really interesting class. If you are into communication and marketing this is a class for you. The teacher broke down how every commercial and campaign has to be a story that you tell through visuals and writing. The teacher Dani is also a really sweet and smart teacher. The classes were mainly him talking from a powerpoint, a bit of class discussion and then time to do the assignments which was really nice. For this class we had to make 5 assignments that were all connected to the way Dani represented how to market a product.

#### 7. Business II (3rd year class)

This class was about how to make a startup and all the different tools you have to use to get an innovation idea that could change the world. The class was both practical and theoretical. We had to make a startup in small groups and with the tools we learned built up the idea and company. If you have a nice start up idea or have your own business (or would like to have one some day) then this is a very usable class. Also the teacher is very sweet and helpful. In this class I also met very sweet new people since it was a 3rd year class.

#### 8. Representational drawing & Form theory and workshop (1st year class)

Friday mornings were really nice since we had Gabriella in both classes. In this class you will draw, make different shapes and play with different materials. It is a very experimental class and you can do nothing wrong. For this class we all had to make new projects for each class that had to be in some way connected to our major (in my case audiovisual). This could be difficult since we sometimes should make something physical etc. But other than that it was a really nice class with an opportunity to learn new things and express yourself artistically.

## 9. Sociology (1st year class)

The teacher for communication, Mikki, also has this first year sociology class. I never thought that sociology was anything for me but after having these classes I really got hooked. The structure of the classes are similar to the communication classes and also they are very connected. But in sociology it was more about sociological theories and themes like intersectionality and Eurocentrism. Also we went on school trips to see exhibitions. Mikki can give you many many recommendations for movies, books etc you have to watch and read which is also really nice. For this class we had one group assignment about Onlyfans and a short oral presentation about the assignment.

## Academic Experience

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

Very good! Paula was really nice and replied fast to all my emails. It was a bit confusing since you only had one week to try out the classes and therefore couldn't try them all. Also there were many Spanish classes in 2nd and 3rd year where the teachers did not mind speaking English, but once I was enrolled I couldn't change the courses which was a shame.

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

I really liked the ones that were more theoretical like Art history, Communication, sociology and literature and communication since these are all classes we don't have at Kea and that I still think are very relevant for aspiring designers. Also The Representational drawing & Form theory and workshop were really nice because it was very practical and relaxed.

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

Technical drawing, but it was primarily the teacher and the very difficult assignments followed by the unfair grading and feedback. Also for this class the teacher expected everyone to buy really expensive equipment. But the teacher isn't there anymore, so maybe it will be more fun with the new one.

## **Cultural/Personal Experience**

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

None really, I mean people are late, things take longer, everything is more chill and you can't count on things being as you planned. But that's also the charm of this country. I would recommend researching a bit about the catalan history before coming to Barcelona. It's very important to them and there are a lot of different catalan holidays. But people are really nice and also very sweet when you try speaking your broken Spanish.

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

Very helpful and you could ask them (Paula) for all kinds of advice.

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

Meeting new people, going on small trips and enjoying the sun.

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

The school is far away in a city called Sabadell outside of Barcelona. It was hard getting up at 6 am when classes started at 8:30. Personally I'm happy I lived in Barcelona and not Sabadell (but it is a nice place! So if you like it more quiet it's cool). You will have many different classes and a lot of homework, so be prepared to do many small assignments. Also they will take attendance so be aware of that.

You can take the renfe or the s train to school. Renfe is always late (but so is everyone) and s train is on time. While I was here they had a corona discount to a renfe ticket that lasted 6 months only cost 10 euros (but with this you can only use the renfe and not metro). For the s train ticket you need a zone 2 (to Sabadell) and it cost about 30 euros for 3 months if you are under 26.

### **4. What advice would you give other KEA students?**

Don't stress, everything will fall into place. Find friends in Bumble bff. Don't be afraid of Raval (it's a really cool place and has the best bars, just have common sense). Have phone insurance and bring an old phone you can use in case it will get stolen (4 of my friends got theirs stolen- it's just how it is...). Check out events on meet-up (dance, yoga, ceramics, photo etc.) and the erasmus app. Go to Cadaqués and hike, take a day trip to Montserrat and go to the beaches far from Barceloneta. Drink lots of vermouths and just have fun!

Nice places to live:

- Gracia (quiet and nice area with big squares and chill cafes)
- Eixample (big streets, many flats but also chill)
- Sant Antoni (really cool place with bars and nice cafes)
- Clot (cool local neighborhood very chill with great places to eat and drink)

## **Practical Experience**

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

It was long and it took a lot of time but it was fine.

**a. What did KEA help you with?**

All my questions. Anne was really helpful.

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

Paula answered all my questions and also helped me with what tickets to buy for the train and school related answers.

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

Not really.

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

Very helpfull

**3. Where did you live?**

I lived in El Born, which is in the city center. I lived near the tourist part but still it's a nice place with cool cafes and restaurants. Also the transport opportunities from here are great. But where I lived was a bit creepy at night and there were knife fights on my street sometimes. But nothing ever happened to me or my roommates.

**a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?**

I would recommend finding a place before coming here, but it's also difficult if you don't know the areas and stuff (I hadn't been in Barcelona before). You can use Idealista or Badi to find accommodation ( the locals use this as well). You will need money for deposit and often they also charge you agency fee. The deposit can be a big amount of money and also they require it before you have even signed the contract (it's wired but that's how they do it here). But most important just trust yourself in these situations because there are also a lot of scammers here.

The rent is about 400-600 euros- you can find it cheaper but this is what most of the people i know paid.

**b. Was it expensive?**

Living is cheap compared to DK, good coffee for 10kr etc. but you will use more money than usual! So have some savings or take an SU lån ;)

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

Train Ticket, rent, clubs (entrance fees), holiday trips

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

I spend more, but it was worth every penny!

**We look forward to reading/seeing your report and to have you back at KEA soon!**

*Note: We use the exchange reports as a source of valuable information about each school/destination to share with students interested in going to the given school in the future. In some cases, we anonymize the report (delete names/contact information) and upload them to our website (global.kea.dk) and in some cases we share the reports with interested students. When submitting the report, you automatically give us consent to sharing/uploading the report to our website. If you do not want your report shared or uploaded, you should explicitly request this in an e-mail to your international coordinator.*