

Exchange Testimonial Deakin University



Spring '19 Design
& Business

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Questionnaire:

1. Where did you study abroad?

My exchange destination was Australia, where I studied at Deakin University in Melbourne, Burwood campus.

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

I studied the PBA Design and Business, specializing in Brand Design. I was on exchange during my 6th semester at KEA.

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

I had three “units”, which is what they call the classes at the University. Depending on your studies you have to undertake 3 or 4 units per semester during your exchange. I studied Project Management, Event Management and Social Media & mobile strategies.

Event Management:

We worked in this unit more similar to KEA in smaller classes with open discussions. We learned about different types of events and we gained knowledge within design, planning, organisation and operation of events. Both doing projects individual and in teams, gave different perspectives of the learning of event management. We went through topics like; Project management, operations and logistics, risk management, financial management, human resources and strategic marketing.

Social Media & Mobile Strategies:

We worked with the contemporary issues in eBusiness strategies. We developed a practical skill in formulating, implementing and analysing eBusiness strategies in a real life business context. We did this through developing a full social media and mobile strategy report in groups of four for a small Australian town.

Project Management:

We learn the difference between traditional and Agile project management. While working in teams on a project using different methods in Scrum management. It gives an insight into project management in organisations. It gains you knowledge in specific tools and techniques of project management; and analyse the process of integrating projects into organisations. Our project was building a resort in mindcraft using Scrum.



Academic Experience:

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

After you have been nominated by KEA to the University, you have to do a submission directly to Deakin, where you share all your information including which units you would like to undertake. You can put up to 6 choices. At Deakin's website you can read all about the different units. You can even see how you are being assessed (presentation, assignments, exams) and how many percent of your final grade they influence. Please mark, not all units have exams! In my case I had exams in all my units and between 1-3 assignments during the trimester. You can also view online how many hours a week each unit are and if it's lectures, seminars or both. The difference is that the lectures are bigger rooms or theatres, where you take notes meanwhile a lecturer is speaking. A seminar is smaller rooms and you have class discussions and it's possible to ask questions etc.

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

Studying at Deakin is a lot different than studying at KEA. The academic level is different and they expect you to read more theory. Don't let this bring you down! It is a great learning experience to get a new perspective on studying. I learned a lot from all my units that I can use in my future studies and work experience in the future.

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

Social Media & Mobile strategies was probably the one I found least relevant to my study at Deakin, but it also had a lot of theory I already knew from KEA. It is hard to get units that is both relevant for your study and won't include theory you know. Some of it is used in a different way, so don't just expect that you know it if you had it at KEA and be openminded for the new theory.

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

Well Deakin is a massive University with a lot of different faculties, so there will be good units for every program! Just take your time to read through the different units and pick something you find both interesting and relevant for your studies at KEA. This will really help you during the semester, as you do a lot of studying on your own as well. KEA also have some guidelines you have to stay inside, as the unit has to be relevant for your program.



Cultural/ Personal Experience:

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

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

I think my biggest challenge was during the first few weeks when you settle in. I was looking so much forward to go and then to suddenly be there seemed so unrealistic. Even though Australia culturally isn't that different to what we are used to, it is still really far away and the time difference makes it a bit hard to keep in touch with home. Specially during the first period, this was challenging as you come to a whole new county not knowing anyone. But not to worry. Deakin was amazing in this beginning phase. Deakin's trimester starts a bit late compared to KEA and other universities, so I came to Melbourne around a month before my units started. They picked me up at the airport and dropped me at my accommodation (free of charge). They set up a facebook group for all the exchange student to attend and recommended everyone to write a small personal note. This meant that already within the first days I started to know people and went city exploring with different exchange students. They also had a committee of Aussie students who previously had been on exchange, who organised different events for us throughout the trimester. The first was a "Beach Welcome Trip" before the classes commenced, which I would highly recommend future exchange students to attend!

"Beach Welcome Trip"



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

It has been meeting so many amazing people! Deakin has a lot of exchange students from all over the world. But also meeting all the Australian students and live their way as a student. I lived at Res when I was in Australia, which gave me a great possibility to meet a lot of people. Both Aussies and exchange students. 'Res' is shortage for Deakin Residential and houses many students! You can live in a house of 10, apartment of 6, 4, 2 or studio which is on your own. With these you share facilities like kitchen, livingroom, bath and then every building have a large common area. There is also a rooftop. Res have a lot of different activities and you will have a "floor family" with leaders (tutors) arranging meetings, dinners, different kind of fun activities. They are always available to help or if you have any questions!

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

Be openminded! Take different possibilities you meet, especially ones you wouldn't do at home. I'm not the biggest sportsperson, but i joined the "netball team" at Res playing against other floors every Wednesday and it was great fun and it gave me a lot of new friendships. Also it is nice to keep busy, as you don't go to classes as often as home and you probably wont have a job, so take all this extra free time to have fun and get great experiences. We often rented a car and took trips surfing, hiking, visiting national parks etc. It is super easy and super unique. If you are not up for driving, Deakin have a student club called DUSA that you will probably join. They also often arrange trips you can join! Exchange is so much more than just the school. You will have the experience of your life and learn so much more than just theory.

Travels

