

I went on exchange to Nottingham Trent University (NTU). I studied on their program called Decorative Arts. Here at KEA I'm studying Jewellery, technology and Business (JBT).

Decorative Arts is about finding your own creative way to be a maker. Your classmates will either work in the glass, ceramic, wood, print or metal workshop. Because of the program I studied back home I couldn't choose workshop myself but were in the metal one. The lectures were about how to start your own small business. It was often very basic business lectures or a guest teacher telling about their business and way to success. We had drawing lessons and other more creative classes every week as well. Every Monday we were in our workshop all day. In the beginning of a project the teacher would teach the new techniques relevant for the project and the rest of the Mondays you would work on your project and get guidance. Every week there were group guidance where you had to share your ideas, how you would execute it and how far you were. Otherwise you are just working on your project on your own in between lectures. The projects are very self-structured and process orientated. During my semester there we had two projects. The first project had to be inspired from a pottery firm and the last one we could totally decide ourself. In each project you have to hand in a finished product, all your prototypes, a full sketchbook, technical notes and a report.

When I arrived, everything was set up, I just had to pick up my safety equipment and find my way to the classrooms. I started in the middle of a project because semesters at NTU are a full year, which were a bit confusing. I also started a week later after Christmas than my classmates which just was bad administration from NTU. I already had to make my KEA exam over skype from there so it's still odd to me that they told me to start a week later. NTU were not very helpful when I had to do my KEA skype exam. They wouldn't help me getting a passport for the exam which KEA require so I had to skip my first try. First after I made KEA call them, they find one on the day of my second try. The teachers at Decorative Arts told me that they didn't know I was coming before they saw my name on the list. My main teacher was not very good at informing me about how they build up their assignments at NTU, so I was always a bit lost when it came to the written assignments. All my other teachers were very helpful on their areas and always wanted to lend a helping hand.

At KEA we always use Design Thinking and the same solving skills in every project and we always work in groups as well, so the most rewarding was to learn how to do it my way and by myself. Studying at NTU I improve my creative thinking and how to solve problems in other ways and be more independent. I also gain a lot of new skills in the metal workshop. I liked the group guidance, getting the one to one guidance and learning from how my classmates solve their problems. I liked the drawing classes as well because I found them playful and angsty, here I was way behind my classmates. My least favourite was the business classes, because I already knew it all and the level were very low comparing to KEA.

The application process was fine, KEA was very helpful with everything. On the list of exchange programs for JBT one option was fashion management which I apply for but NTU told me that I didn't haven't had enough teaching in that area and offered my Decorative Arts instead. I would have applied for another school if I had known that, so I think it should be taken off the list. I got my acceptance from NTU so late that it was hard to apply for other grants than Erasmus.

I spend way more money than I expected but I also travel a lot while I was there. Food and living in Nottingham are about the same as here in Denmark.

It wasn't hard to find accommodation as soon KEA told me where to look. I got the last room at a dorm. I lived at Sandby Hall on third floor with all the other exchange students. Sandby is on campus and therefore one of the more expensive ones in Nottingham. The price is the same as in Copenhagen but the room is

very small. We had our own bathroom and shared kitchen and Livingroom. I will 100% recommend Sandby and living at a dorm, it totally made my experience. I only made two British friends and only hang out with two of my classmates the rest of my friends was other exchange students from my dorm. British people are in general a bit more closed and reserved so it was way easier with the other exchange students that were also looking for friends. I had an absolutely amazing time, have friends all over the world now and would recommend exchange to everyone.