

Exchange stay report

To whom it may concern,

During my exchange in Switzerland, I was studying 3rd year of Business economics and IT at KEA, Copenhagen. The host school HEG is business management focused, therefore I couldn't choose any IT related classes.

The list of business classes I chose is:

1. English communication
Working on CV, cover letters, self-presentation like speaking in front of people and during job interview. Finished with reading and writing test - C1.
2. E-business
Class focused on creating and managing internet businesses like: e-shops, blogs, youtube channels. Finished with building and presenting your own e-business.
3. French class (mandatory for exchange students)
Regular french classes even for people who never had a single french class before. Finished with written and oral test.
4. Entrepreneurship
Theory about how to develop idea successfully and testing hypothesis, using tools such as Business Model Canvas, Value Proposition Canvas, qualitative and quantitative testing etc. Working closely with given start-up. Finished with written test and report of the start-up project.
5. Strategic management
Theory of how to create a sustainable strategy in order to gain competitive advantage. Finished with case presentation and written exam.
6. Risk management
Class about risk assessment and management. A lot of external speakers. Class is very practically oriented. Finished with case presentation and written exam.
7. Business analysis
Major class with many subtopics like emotional intelligence, value management, prototyping and data analysis. Finished with case presentation.

Academic Experience

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

Hosting school provided me list of courses I can take and told me I have to choose one major and five minors. Further info about each course can be found on the university website in english.

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

My favorite classes were risk and strategic management. Risk was interesting because each class was divided into theoretical and practical part, with a lot of external speakers. Strategic management for me was interesting because of the content provided in classes, which were very open for discussion.

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

Entrepreneurship, the course was unclear and always changing.

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

I would definitely go for all I took, except entrepreneurship I would choose Merge & Acquisitions course, which had high level content but required a lot of work apparently.

Cultural/Personal Experience

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

Since my knowledge of french was zero, I experienced a language barrier at the beginning in the city during paperwork for bank, municipality or even at post office. On the other side there was no barrier at school at all.

a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process

My hosting school has already done few needed documents regarding residence permit and was also willing to help me with fill legal documents in.

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

This one semester helped me in networking, new environment adaptation, different style of education and experiencing new habits and traditions.

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

Be a good friend with people from the student association :))))

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

The whole process started on the online exchange platform to choose 3 top priority schools. Then got decided where you can be accepted. After your acception a

paperwork between schools need to settle down, meanwhile you choose your courses and from time to time you are asked to fill in and sign few document.

a. What did KEA help you with?

KEA helped me in the process of choosing mine top 3 schools and in the process of being accepted.

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

HEG helped me to choose the most relevant courses and then mostly with legal paperwork.

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

Well I already have a friend from Geneva, who did his erasmus at KEA, so he made my settling down much easier. Probably the biggest difficulty was finding accommodation, which was still much easier then in Denmark, other difficulty was bureaucracy in Switzerland, during application for residence permit etc.

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

The host school is preparing basic documents for each erasmus students, which help you at municipality but not at phone provider or bank.

3. Where did you live?

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

The house hunt took me around one month and I found my own studio. In student residence - FRUI (<http://www.frui.ch/site/fr/>)

b. Was it expensive?

I paid 800CHF per month. Which was higher average and every year is the price raising.

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

I would say mostly the same regular student survival expenses. Food, alcohol and trips across the country or to near Lyon, France. You can count that everything is here like 1,5x more expensive. For beer go to The Elephant at Plainpalais.

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

I have been budgeted 360CHF per month from school, which was nice. But I wouldn't say helpful since you spend around 1300-1500CHF per month.