

Canada, Humber College

Questionnaire Study Abroad/Exchange

1. Where and when did you study abroad?

Humber College, Toronto, Canada. Winter 2018

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.

Video/Audio Production 2:

Producing and editing video and using Adobe After Effects for creating video compositing and motion graphics. Also the theory and history of editing was a great part of the course as well as group work when shooting footage.

(Students need to bring their own DSLR camera and an external hard drive.)

Multimedia Design 2:

The course was about HTML, CSS and JavaScript. We were introduced to the different tools, made exercises from w3schools and were introduced to different CSS frameworks, made simple animations and a small game.

E-portfolio:

Creating visual designs for SoMe campaigns, working with user experience, writing case studies and showcasing and discussing the work in class.

Visual Communications:

The course introduced us to the different types of disciplines within visual communications. We watched films and had introductions to different visual artist and discussed and analyzed their work, art pieces and had curating assignments.

Photography 2

The course was an introduction and examination of the different tools and effects in Photoshop where students use their own photos to edit.

Academic Experience

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

The school was very helpful, friendly and serviceminded all the way. I felt in good hands during the process. I found it challenging to choose classes on the basis of the short description on their webpage.

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

Video/Audio2. The classes were very well structured with theory and editing practice and I enjoyed the group work and got feedback on my work. Furthermore, the teacher was very friendly, helpful and created a good atmosphere in class.

3. What classes/study experiences did you find least relevant or least valuable to you? Why? Visual Communications was interesting but gave a more theoretical background knowledge of the different disciplines within visual communications.

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

I found the titles of the courses a bit misleading: Photography is not about taking pictures but is mainly a Photoshop course and multimedia design is about basic HTML, CSS, JavaScript and frameworks. I would say it depends on the student's own focus and interests. In general I found the level high and the teachers good.

Cultural/Personal Experience

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

The winter was very cold and long and you spent a lot of time commuting back and forth because of the distances. The school is situated in the outskirts of Toronto city and distant from the downtown area. It will take about 1 hour to go downtown with subway and a bus transfer. There is not much to see or do near campus, with 2 supermarkets, which are 10 and 20 minutes by walk. The neighborhood can seem a bit sketchy but I didn't have any bad experiences. I didn't feel any cultural challenges during my stay and in general I found the Canadians were friendly, openminded and helpful. The food in the school cafeteria was mainly fastfood and a few convenience options.

a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process

The school was in general always very helpful.

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

Medieval Dinner arranged by the international office was an entertaining and very impressive show. It was a very great experience.

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

Students should consider the academic semester they are going to miss at home. The teaching experience is different, the classes are small, and there are in-class assignments you have to return before class ends. Other mandatory assignments are presented within a long deadline so you can plan your schedule. The teachers provide you feedback on your mandatory assignments. The courses are well structured as well as the assignments during the semester and courses are less interdisciplinary and project oriented as opposed to KEA. Furthermore, the school has great facilities such as study places at the library, computers in classrooms and a fitness center. The other Canadian students are usually in their early 20's. The school is used to handling international students and have many international students studying independently on long semesters. There is a minor handful of exchange students from Europe (like Denmark, Sweden, France etc.) and the majority of international students who come to Humber to study are e.g. from India so it's very international oriented. The international center arranges different cultural events during the semester international students can join. Overall the process and information level is professional.

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

The application process was informative and I felt well-informed along the way.

a. What did KEA help you with?

KEA was very helpful in the process of switch of courses when I switched 2 courses.

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

The International contact personnel was helpful to provide guides and general info also before arrival.

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

No, things seemed well organized. The school is used to handling international students.

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

Humber College and everyone was very helpful and professional, I always received fulfilling, helpful and quick replies from everyone I was in contact with.

3. Where did you live?

I lived at campus so it took less than 10 minutes to walk to the different classrooms at campus.

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

I stayed at campus in a shared apartment offered by Humber.

b. Was it expensive?

Yes, it was not cheap to live in Canada. With the campus accommodation there is a mandatory meal plan to their cafeteria. However, the remaining balance will be refunded. A dish or sandwich in the cafeteria was approximately 6-8 Canadian dollars and convenience food was not particularly cheap either.

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

Food, books, transportation, internet and participation in cultural events.

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

I spent more or less about what I expected.