

HUMBER COLLEGE

TORONTO, ON, CANADA
FALL SEMESTER (SEPT. - DEC.) 2016

MULTIMEDIA DESIGN



HUMBER COLLEGE

I did my exchange at Humber College in Toronto. I study multimedia design and was on exchange during my third semester in the fall 2016.

During my stay at Humber College I took five classes:

- Advanced Design
- Open Source Programming
- Motion Graphic
- New Media Writing
- Building Dynamic Web Pages.

ADVANCED DESIGN:

Advanced Design is a design class where you will learn how to design different medias. I had four assignments where I had to design something different in each. The four assignments was: Photoshop Tennis; this was kind of a "game". We had several weeks to finish this and the idea was to help us learn and experience Photoshop more. Advertising Campaign; in this assignment we had to create a festival and design the visuals for the advertising. We created a poster, newspaper ads and web assets. Editorial Layout: we designed and layout a magazine spread. Portfolio PDF: we designed and created a portfolio with some of our work. The day we had to hand the assignment in, we had to present our self and our portfolio to the class and instructor.

Before each assignment, we learned how to use InDesign the proper way for the assignment and the chosen media.

OPEN SOURCE PROGRAMMING:

In this class, you will learn PHP, Python and a tiny bit of MySQL. The class was divided roughly in two, before midterm, we learned PHP and MySQL, and after midterm, we learned Python.

MOTION GRAPHIC:

In Motion Graphic, we started out learning about motion graphics and how animations work to give the complete interactive experience. We had a few assignments right at the beginning to help us learn After Effects and let us try out motion graphic our self. After this point, we did not really do much more motion

graphic. The course ended up being more of a video-editing course, than a motion graphic course. However, we did use the same program, After Effects, throughout the course.

NEW MEDIA WRITING:

In this course, we learned how to write for different audience through different medias. The course was divided into three subjects, Journalism, Public Relations and Marketing. We learned the difference between the three subjects and how each of them is used in the industry.

BUILDING DYNAMIC WEB PAGES:

In Building Dynamic Web Pages I learned JavaScript, PHP and MySQL. We had assignments in each coding language, and the course ended with an assignment, where we had to use all three languages together to create a Content Management System for a magazine.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Humber College was very helpful with helping me settle in. Their International Centre has so many options for you to make new friends and experience the city. Even before I arrived, I got emails with upcoming events for the international students. I went on a few of the trips they offered. Some of them are free, but some of them are not. But I would highly recommend going on these trips, first of all because you'll get to experience things with other international students, and second of all because they are usually cheaper than going by yourself. For example the CN Tower trip with the International Centre was \$10, if you went by yourself it would be \$35. So definitely, have that in mind as well.

I did not really contact Humber College when I had to choose classes, I was able to find most of the information I needed on their website, but they were extremely helpful after I got my classes accepted, because there were some classes I wanted to switch and some I was not able to take. They helped me find new classes and make sure everything was all right.

I was overall pleased with the courses I selected. However, I was a little disappointed with the Motion Graphic course because I was expecting more motion graphic content and less video-editing content. And the teacher in Building Dynamic Web Pages was, to be honest, bad. Most of the content he was teaching us was outdated. As far as I know, we were supposed to have another teacher, but he quit right at the start of the semester so Humber had to find a new one fast. Many students weren't happy with the new teacher, including me, so Humber found an extra teacher and added two extra optional classes to go to if you felt the need to get some help for the assignments.

CULTURAL/PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

One of the first days, I met Rebecca, who is the International Mobility manager at the International Centre. She was very kind and told me a lot about the city, and for example how to go downtown. Rebecca was very helpful throughout the semester and she even invited me and all the other exchange students on a trip to visit a vineyard and see the Niagara Falls for free, which was an amazing trip.

Toronto is much bigger than Copenhagen – that is no surprise. However, I did not experience any cultural challenges while being abroad. I loved the city, every bit of it. There are so many different areas to explore and they are all so different. Toronto is a very multicultural city, so you do not feel like a tourist at any time. You kind of feel at home right away or at least I did. At first, everything seemed so American, but you will get used to that. I was surprised how small our cars are here in Copenhagen when I got back home. But Toronto is not “super American”, of course they have similar cars and maybe other similar things, but the atmosphere and the people in Toronto does not feel



DOWNTOWN (KING ST W)

American at all. The people are so friendly, helpful and kind. As far as I remember, I did not have a bad experience with anyone I asked for directions or help at all.

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

The application process went pretty smooth. KEA was very good at helping when questions occurred. There was a point right after I was accepted for Humber, at which it was not sure if I could go to Humber anyway – but it all worked out. Durita (the international coordinator at the time) was good at keeping me updated on the situation. She also sent me a document with some of the courses I was able to take at Humber, just to help me through the process of choosing courses. That made it much easier as well. Humber was also very helpful in the process. When I got accepted I received an email from Humber with my acceptance letter attached and all the information needed; like accommodation, visa and study permit (which I did not need), health insurance etc. This was very helpful because it gave me a

good picture on what I needed to have and buy before I got on the plane.



MY AIRPORT PICKUP

Humber was so kind and offered an airport pickup. All I had to do was fill out a document and email it back to them. Then, when I arrived in Toronto two students/employees from The International Centre was there to pick me up and help me get to the residence. All for free. It was so nice to arrive and feel welcome because someone was there to greet you. It also made it much easier for me, because I did not have to think about transport in a completely new city I did not know yet.

ACCOMMODATION

I lived at the Humber's student residence. This was by far the easiest choice. I did not have to find accommodation myself via the Internet, which most of us know is not always the safest way. Moreover, I knew where I was going to live before I took

off, which made it all a bit less stressful. But have in mind, when you decide where to live, that the students living in residence is probably a bit younger than you are. And you do not have your own kitchen; either you live in a single room or in a suite with a sink and a microwave. You purchase a meal plan, and with this you can buy food from the Residence Café. They serve breakfast, lunch and dinner. The food is not the best. It is typical cafeteria food. It was fine at the beginning, but when you eat the same thing every day it will end up getting boring. On the other hand, when I went to the grocery store, just to get breakfast for a week or two, it ended up getting a bit expensive.



SUNSET. VIEW FROM MY ROOM. I WAS VERY PLEASED WITH THE ROOM I GOT. MY VIEW WAS THE HUMBER ARBORETUM.

The price for living at the residence (in a suite) and the dining plan all together for the entire semester was 4,720.00 CAD (Residence: 3,635.00 CAD, Dining plan: 1,175.00 CAD. Dining plan is obligatory). This is not that bad at all, because food is included and you live on campus. I did not use all of the money on my meal plan, so I will get the rest back.

When it comes to money and expenses, I used what I thought I was going to use. I was prepared that it was going to be expensive and I did not want to say no to something just because of money. Therefore, I did spend a lot of money, but I do not regret it because it was worth every cent!