

Host institution: LONDON COLLEGE OF

FASHION LCF contact person: IWETA BARAN

Period of Study: 07. FEBRUARY - 20. JUNE



Sculptu

Working in
stone and
wood before
inspired by the
the human
material

Stone is an
source of inspi
rations, p
and statu
inspired by
common. De
representing
to provide

These display
made from
stone and
inspired by
gold. The
require colla
their own
replicated
for decorative

Introduction

Studying at KEA, I always knew, I would make use of the opportunity to take an exchange semester abroad. London is such a vibrant city, and the fashion scene quite experimental compared to Denmark, which I was really fascinated by.

I wanted to study at London College of Fashion(LCF), since it's acknowledge as being high educational level, and in general the fashion degrees in London has a very good reputation. My expectation was to experience an education with more focus on design and the making, and develop those skills.

Overall, this was being confirmed at my stay during 6 semester of my PBA in Sustainable Fashion Design, and I really enjoyed my time here in London.



London College of Fashion, Curtain Road Department

Experiences at the host university

At London College of Fashion I followed the 2nd year of the course Fashion Design & Development. I had two subjects. One being "Industry Specialised Project" which was 30 ects, and the other one being "Future Production Technologies" which was 15 ects.

In Industry Specialised Project we got a brief from a sustainable luxury brand called Tengri, where we had to come up with a sustainable business plan, that somehow revolved around a local craftsmanship or culture. The unit was very independent with few lectures, and weekly sessions of either personal design tutorials or sample classes, which was focusing on the actual making (pattern cutting) and sewing of the garment.

I really enjoyed the unit and having more time to go in depth since the project was running throughout the whole semester.

The second unit was the Future Production Technologies. This unit had more lectures, and was introducing us to different sustainable methods and technologies for instance computer aided design programs as Optitex and Lectra. In the end of the semester we had to hand in an assessment coming up with a concept consisting of a future design proposition working with both sustainability and technology.

To be honest I was a bit disappointed with the unit. Partly because I prefer to work more tactile and the introduction was quite short. And partly because I didn't feel like I received so much new information about working sustainable within fashion.

I had a few problems with my schedule and other practical issues regarding classes etc. which was a bit annoying. I recommend to stay aware of what's happening around you and just ask a lot of questions, because there can be a lot of information misunderstood or lacking.

I did however grow a lot during this semester. My main challenge was to produce four finished garments. The requirement was quite high, so you really have to consider every finish and detail from a professional point of view. The school offers a lot of technical support though. There's always sewing technicians available which was helpful.

In the end I managed to hand in a project, I'm very happy about and I got selected as one out of four winners from the brand Tengri.

In terms of the units both was obligatory for the semester, meaning there wasn't any optional subjects. In general LCF has a quite independent learning structure. The tutors are really skilled within each field, and in general I would say it's up to the individual student how much you'll get out of the course.

Social & cultural experiences

Since the course doesn't offer that many lectures and the attendance is not obligatory, it took a while to get to know people. I was lucky to have one other Erasmus student at my course, so I immediately had someone to share my experience with, and we got together with a few other Erasmus students.

Personally, I already had a few friends in London, so the social aspect came quite easy anyway, and in the end of my stay I got more close to my classmates, and met a lot of cool people.

There's a lot of things to see in London. I was there on my first internship as well, so this time I focused less on the city and more on my course and everyday life.

One thing I really enjoy though, is all the amazing museums, whereas a lot is actually free to access, as well as all the food and vintage markets. Going out in London is great as well, and I would definitely recommend to go out less touristy places as Dalston for instance.

The study culture is very inspiring. Students come from all over the world, and it gives a very dynamic environment. If you as a student are open and reach for the opportunities there's a lot of opportunities to meet people. But once again as an individual you have to look for it.

Practical experiences

I lived in Hackney with two other Danish girls, and I got the room through a friend. I paid 520 pounds per month which is very cheap for the area. I have/had small room, but it was perfect for the stay.

Since my course was located in Shoreditch and it was only 35 min from my flat, I mainly walked or took the bus, unless going somewhere else. Transportation is expensive, even with a student oyster card for the tube. I would recommend you consider how much you are gonna use it, because it's not always cheaper to buy a monthly travel pass.

Going out is more or less the same prices depending where you are going, but in general food is a bit cheaper than Denmark.

I was lucky to receive two scholarships, which was definitely needed. I spend a lot of money on materials, which can be done cheaper though. Living expenses are expensive though, so I would recommend to have some savings.

The application process was a bit extensive, though both LCF and KEA was very helpful. It's a good idea to prepare a good portfolio beforehand, since this is a requirement, that you are being selected on.

Conclusion

Looking back on the last five months, I really had a unique time at LCF. The university is really good at technical skills as well as design development, and the level of many students are high, which was inspiring. In terms of sustainability, it's my experience that KEA is very strong in this field, and the 2nd year at LCF might not have worked as much from this perspective yet.

I got along very well with my tutors/ course leader, and they increased my confidence regarding my work. In general met a lot of sweet and talented people, and it seemed easier to work across courses, since people are looking for collaborations. I did a short film that we filmed at V&A museum, as a part of my final project, which you are very welcome to take a look at.

<https://vimeo.com/340373608>

London can be a bit rough but it's also extremely diverse and creative, why I think it's a very inspiring place to study and live. Overall the stay exceeded my expectations as well as my fears of being insufficient.

