

Napier University

Multimedia Design

3rd semester

If you are considering going aboard, I can only start of by saying, **DO IT!** This has been the best experience ever and I enjoyed every minute of it.

I went to study at **Napier University in Edinburg**, Scotland. I went in my 3rd semester. At KEA I study Multimedia Design and was presented with this opportunity at the very beginning of my studies.

At Napier they do not have a course that matches Multimedia Design but instead I chose three different classes that more or less matched the classes I should have had at KEA.

My choices were:

1. **Being Digital**
A class that focused on graphic design. We did two projects that was very similar to some of the projects I did at KEA.
Only individual work.
2. **Digital Video Development**
A class that focused on video development. From how a camera work to filming and editing small movies. (Example of one of my projects: <https://vimeo.com/198032412>)
Individual and group work.
3. **Database Systems**
A beginners' class about database systems.
Only individual work.

All the classes consist of a two-hour lecture and a two-hour practical class a week. All of my classes were placed Thursday and Friday, meaning I had the rest of the week off to do the assignments.

My first two classes were a lot of fun and you get to work more individually on projects (in comparison to a lot of the projects at KEA). The only criticism I have about both of the classes is that many of my fellow students did not have any experience in any of the applications we were using. This meaning that there was a bit of repetitions in some of the lectures.

My last class (Database Systems) were a beginners' class. For a person that is not crazy about coding this class was actually cool. The two lecturers were very funny and new that database systems are a heavy subject.

All of my lecturers were great! All of them had a passion for their classes and were very helpful. I really enjoyed my classes. Of course it is still some hard work and sometimes a lecture can be really long but my overall opinion of my classes is great.

I would recommend these classes to anyone that is going to study at Napier. But maybe have another look at all the classes on the Napier's webpage.

Napier and more precise **Simone Dallas** (my contact person at Napier) was extremely helpful with choosing my classes. She was patient and understanding and very fast with responding all my emails. So if you have any questions do not hesitate writing Napier directly.

The application process is kind of confusing but manageable. Choosing my classes was the longest part of the process. My first exchange supervisor (I had several - this is just the one I had in the beginning) at KEA was very slow at responding any of my emails and not helpful at all when I had to choose my classes. She did put me in contact with one of the teachers at KEA that help me. But he was not an official supervisor but just a teacher at KEA. As mentioned earlier Napier was very helpful. They made the whole application process much easier. Their website is sometimes a bit confusing but then just write them an email. I would recommend students to contact Napier if they have any questions.

Finding accommodation is not the easiest thing in the world but it is possible. Napier also says that they never had an exchange student without any accommodation within three weeks after semester start. It will just take some work. I spend more or less two weeks at a hostel before finding the flat that I ended up living in. So do not panic if you do not have any place to stay at before arriving.

Napier have an accommodation office placed at one of their campuses. They cannot find you a room or a flat but they can help you with good websites to go on, a phone you can call from, which areas is good to live in as a student and help you meet other people searching for accommodation. I went here within my first days in Edinburgh. I did not find a flat here but I found some people that I could team up with and apply for some flats together with. These were some of the people I ended up living and became very close friends of mine.

We were three people searching together but we did not only search for three bedroom flats but also bigger flats. I ended up living in a great flat with 4 other international students in the great area called Newington.

We ended up paying around 500 pounds each for our rooms. This is conceded kind of pricy but not an unusual price for a room in a flat share. The prices varies from around **300 to 550 pounds** for a room – also depending on the location.

I would recommend you join all the facebook groups, such as: EdinRoom, Edinburgh Napier Students Flat Finder, Edinburgh Housing, Room & Flat Share. Just search for Edinburgh on facebook and you will find a lot of groups. I know several of people that found accommodation through some of these groups.

When you look on **google maps Edinburgh** is quite a big city but it is not. It is a great little city. You can basically get around by foot if you want to. Otherwise there are busses. I would recommend students to live from the city centre and south from there. The campus called Sighthill is the campus that is located furthest away from the city centre. Takes about an hour by bus to get there from the centre. I would definitely recommend students to find a flat closer to the city centre than the campuses (except for the Merchiston campus – the Morningside area is very nice. A lot of students live here as well).

Scotland is not that far away so there were not really any cultural shocks. The only “shock” I got was that everyone is very friendly, polite and always helpful. A simple thing as taking the bus: Everyone is waiting in one line to get into the bus. The bus driver is always nice. Everyone is generally very nice. At the international induction at Napier they tell you all about this and more.

So do not get afraid of all the kindness. No ulterior motives. They genuinely mean to be kind.

It is very easy finding friends. Every other exchange student is in the same position as you. Everyone is looking for friends. If you want some “local” friends, I would definitely recommend you to join one of Napier’s sports teams or societies.

Napier does not have any “Friday bar” like KEA does. All the social events are to be found in all the sport teams or societies.

I personally joined the dance team and made a lot of close friends there. It does not matter if you are a beginner at any of the sports or if it is your first time acting (there is a drama society) or whatever you can still join any society. So just join one!

Other than that just be open minded and enjoy every minute of your stay! Time goes by so fast.