

EXCHANGE REPORT

MULTIMEDIA DESIGN AT KEA
Exchange January - May 2017

I did my exchange at Edinburgh Napier University from January 2017 to May 2017. I went in my 3rd semester and I study Multimedia Design at KEA.

At Napier, I attended three course each of them worth 10 ects. points. To choose the right courses is not an easy process, but it is possible. It is important to notice that it can be a bit more difficult to find the right courses when you are doing a spring semester. But Simone Dallas (my contact person) at Napier was very helpful with information about the different courses. Do not hesitate to ask her.

The lectures at Napier are pre-set and you need to attend every one of them. Each course has several practical sessions every week and you only need to attend one. Chose the one that fits you schedule.

Web Technologies:

It took place at the school of computing, Merchiston campus. It consisted of two hours lecture and two hours practical. Being a 3rd semester multimedia design student from KEA did not prepare me for this course. I did a tutorial in php and MySQL at Lynda.com before starting at Napier. Which turned out to be a very good investment. It was a difficult course

and the teacher was expecting a certain level and knowledge about programming. I'm not a master coder and think the course is easier if you have been doing some programming.

The picture shows what we learned week by week. We had to hand in two assessments. We used PHP, JavaScript, HTML and CSS in the first one and in the second assessment MySQL was added to the requirements. Even though it was a hard course I liked it and I got a lot out of it! Remember to attend to the programming help, it is a life saver.

- ▶ Week 1 - HTML & CSS
- ▶ Week 2 - jQuery & PHP
- ▶ Week 3 - CSS & PHP & jQuery
- ▶ Week 4 - Javascript & jQuery & CMS
- ▶ Week 5 - Javascript & jQuery & PHP & database
- ▶ Week 6 - Javascript & jQuery (Ajax) & PHP & database
- ▶ Week 7 - Servers, Apache vs single threaded
- ▶ Week 8 - More on Servers and Coursework Feedback
- ▶ Week 10 - CW2 and responsive design
- ▶ Week 11 - HTTPS, SSH, Cloud Services
- ▶ Week 12 - Web Standards and Accessibility

Human Computer Interaction:

This course took place at the school of computing, Merchiston campus. It consisted of two hours lecture and two hours practical. It is a first-year course so the fellow student just started at university. Other than that, it was very relevant knowledge about user experience, user interface design and everything else you need to know when developing and designing digital systems. I learned some of it briefly at KEA but I found it very valuable to have a more thorough understanding of UX and UI.

It is a course with a lot of information and a broad range of knowledge. The exam was a multiple-choice test.

Creativity, innovation and Enterprise:

This course took place at the business school, Craig Lockhart. It consisted of 3 hours combined lecture and tutorial. It was about the creative process in an organisation, different creativity tools and innovation in business. In groups, we were to work with an organisation. Half through the course we did a presentation on our current work and at the end we handed in a group report.

I recommend this course if you are interested in how to foster creativity and innovation in business. There is a lot of very interesting books to read and the lecture is very enthusiastic.

Academic Experience

The receiving school was very helpful and informative in the process of choosing classes and settling in. It was easy to get quick answers and when I had to change course there was a lot of help.

I found the overall academic experience rewarding both in terms of classes and study environment. Napier University has some great student and study facilities.

There is more studying on your own compared to KEA. I asked some of the other international student to join me and we had a good time studying together. There is a

lot of class material to learn and you do not spend as much time in class. Which is a difference from KEA.

I would advise other KEA students to do a lot of research on which courses to choose. Know what KEA is expecting of you when you return, read the module description and ask Napier if you have questions.

Practical Experience

The application process was very changing. Sometimes easy and other times complicated. My contact person at KEA (Anne Dibbern) was great and very helpful when other people at the sending school did not reply. The receiving school was helpful, informative and replied fast.

I lived at a hostel the first week of my exchange and found a room after four days. The school really tried to help me find a place to live. Everyone I asked tried to help me and I ended up living with a family in the Brunstfield area. I definitely recommend living in an area close to your campus and just ask around. I found my room at Airbnb, £375 pr. month, which is not expensive.

I did not have a clear budget and I had only the Erasmus Grant and SU with me. I used the money I had but I would have loved to travel more. I highly recommend having a budget and apply for as many grants as you possible can. It is worth it!

I chose to buy a bus card which is £45 for four weeks and then you can travel with bus and tram in the Edinburgh and the area around. I think it is worth the money and I used it a lot to explore the city.

Cultural/personal experience

The International induction at Napier University was very helpful in the process of getting to know people. But in general, it is needed to be outgoing and talk to people. Join the International intro party and facebook groups. Napier have a lot of societies which is a great opportunity to meet both locals and international people. Join a

society! I found the people in my classes very young and there were not as much different ages which I think there is at KEA. Due to that I found it easier to bond with other internationals and locals which I met outside of school.

I went on many small trips while I was in Scotland. It is a beautiful country with friendly people! You should have money to do both small and big trips it is worth it.

Edinburgh is a great city with a lot to do. You can volunteer, hang out in the parks, go pubbing and go for a hike in Pentland Hills.

I would advise future exchange students to make it their own experience.

Exchange is all about your approach. It is your choice.

JUST DO IT!