

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, USA
FASHION INSTITUTE OF DESIGN & MERCHANDISING (FIDM)
SARAH REPETTO, DIRECTOR, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
WINTER AND SPRING QUARTER 2022

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TOP-UP BACHELOR'S IN DESIGN & BUSINESS WITH A
SPECIALIZATION IN SUSTAINABLE FASHION TECH

EXCHANGE REPORT 2022

Los Angeles



INTRODUCTION

I believe a semester abroad should be mandatory. Not only will a semester abroad further develop your cultural metacognition, but being outside your comfort zone will push your boundaries and provide you with flexibility, knowledge and skill set necessary for your future career as a versatile designer, ready to meet the world. A semester abroad is raw and tough, but at the end of the day it's a lifetime experience that will determine the rest of your life. It's a thrilling unique adventure, meeting like-minded people but with another perspective and culture, you will get to know yourself, your abilities and get the opportunities to network in another country.





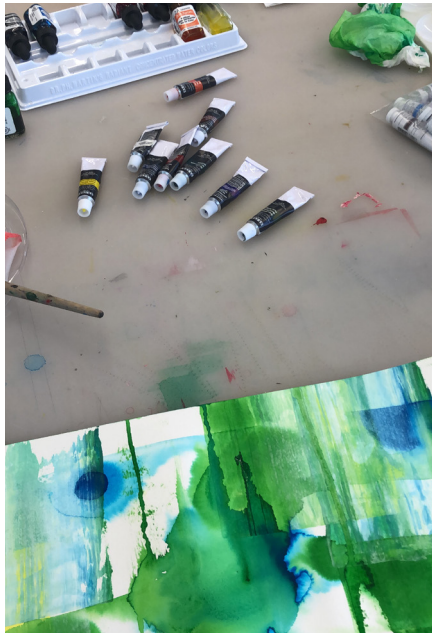
ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

My first advice to give, is to have an academic goal within your studies before arriving to the school. The more prepared you are in which classes you would like to attend, knowing your interest fields thus easier it is for the school to put you in the right classes that you would enjoy. It is a slow process so be patient and stick to your global advisor, they are very helpful and understanding.

CLASSES 2022

Winter quarter	Spring quarter	Units
Drawing Figure in context	Studio II (Fashion apparel)	6
Studio I (Fashion apparel)	Studio Techniques II	6
Fundamentals of machine knitting		6
18 units	12 units	

I devoted myself into developing my creative abilities and improve my craftsmanship within design and art, I choose to take all the creative hands-on classes that they could offer me.



DRAWING FIGURE IN CONTEXT

I will recommend taking one of Blaine Anderson's art classes. In his classes you will not only experience an artist himself and enter an inspiring artistic environment. He will develop and challenge you at your given level, by the end of the class you become the artist.



STUDIO I & II

Studio course is dedicated to the pursuit of individual expression of the designthesis, synthesize design knowledge and skills to create a collection of work with a sharp design focus. You are expected to demonstrate sophisticated design decisions and thoughtful design solutions that exemplify a high level of expertise and achievement.

After the design development, it's required to be able to construct and sew a whole outfit every week, it's a tough and independent study with a lot of deadlines. By the end of the class, you must be done with 3 ready-to-wear outfits with accessories that compliment your collection to make a photoshoot. I will compare this course with the tv-program project runway.

My professor Shaun Samson senior Designer at Moschino taught me how to push my own creativity further, to continuously create and reflect on my own designs. Having the opportunity to step into his universe and see his work at Moschino continued to inspire me. I'm honored to have had him as my professor and mentor.



FIDM BACHELOR OF ARTS AND DESIGN
STUDENT EXHIBITION

I ended up with a professional fashion design portfolio full with design development, presenting 2 collections and photoshoots. At the end of the quarter FIDM invited me to display my designs in their FIDM museum and held a vernissage for friends and family.

CULTURAL/PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

FIDM has a lot of student activities and events almost every day at campus, and there is a lot of student groups you can be a part of. They will make sure that you will meet the other study abroad students and if you're lucky you will find a friend you can explore the richness of California.

There is a lot of ways to meet people in LA everyone in the city wants to engage and talk to you, so always be ready to mingle and networking! The best cultural experience for me was to meet locals and let them show me their LA, being open-minded and go with flow. That took me to so many fantastic places and trips around California. I met people random on the streets, cafés, events, through friends and apps. Just remember that YOU must be pushy, keep on texting and stay in contact.

The weather is stunning and there are rooftop bars everywhere, use it and go out even by yourself you never know who you will meet.

Apps: Instagram, Bumble, Tinder

Be aware of the overwhelming and cultural shock you will get in the beginning of your stay, the homeless on the streets are a lot to take in and you need some time to process that. Make sure to do everything you can do in order to make you feel safe in your area, take some walks during the day around the blocks and get to know the local cafés. During my time in LA I was lucky not to experience anything harassing but a lot of people have, so make sure to take the safe choices!





PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

The application process is long, difficult and time consuming. Make sure to read everything you can beforehand. Be aware of the visa application, the faster you can get all the required documents ready to the embassy will save yourself time at the end. Be prepared to pay to a lot of things you don't necessary fully understand. The US do things in the old fashion way, so be patience and let your advisor know where you are in the process, check your email daily and be quick to response.

Due to the covid situation my process was uncertain all the way to the end. It's a stressful period and you must do it while studying, so be prepared to use all your spare time on that.

HOUSING

At FIDM they offer student housing, you will share a apartment and your roomies will be fellow students. It's a easy process and the resident advisor will guide you through the process.

I lived in a full serviced apartment called Broadway palace apartments in Downton LA 5 minutes' walk from the school. I enjoyed living there and I was a heavy user of the gym and rooftop pool!

Housing and living expenses are similar to Denmark, even a little bit more expensive. Depending on how elaborate your lifestyle is you'r goanna at least need 100.000 DKK KR to housing, plaine tickets, insurance, phone bills, food, transportation and the required payment for student supplies every quarter. I couldn't drive so UBER was an expense I forgot to count in.

My favorite working caf es around the corner: Verve coffee, P1 caff 





CONCLUSION

I am very grateful for the experiences I gained throughout the past semester. LALA land was a once in a lifetime experience that change and elevated me personally and academically. I collected a lot of memories I will carry with me for the rest of my life and use it as a key inspiration in the future. I will forever feel connected to LA because of this experience, the time, money and hard work definitely paid off. I had an amazing time and I hope you will too!

Thank you KEA and FIDM for this opportunity!