

FINNLAND

2022



SIGNE WESTERGAARD NORLING
JEWELLERY, TECHNOLOGY & BUSINESS



1. Where and when did you study abroad?
- I studied in Finland, in a town called Lahti (100km north from Helsinki).
Spring semester 2022 at LAB University of Applied Science.

2. What KEA program did you attend at the time?
- Jewellery, Technology & Business



3. What classes did you take during your semester abroad? Please briefly explain what each class was about.

1. Art History: Art through time and how the history impacts different eras of art, fashion and architecture. (5 credits)

2. Workshop License: A short jewellery-course where we learn the basics. But for me, I got to experiment because of my knowledge from home. (5 credits)

3. Professional Portfolio: Learned how to make a professional portfolio in InDesign. (5 credits)

4. Exhibition design & architecture: As a class we had to ideate, concepting, design and build an exhibition for the graduate students to showcase their arts and designs. Everything from structures, posters and marketing we made. (15 credits)

Academic Experience

1. How helpful was the receiving school in the process of choosing classes and settling you in?

They were helpful! But it all could have been clearer from start. We made a lot of changes due to some courses were overlapping and as an example we didn't know that on Exhibition Design you could choose between 5, 10 or 15 credits depending on how long you chose to stay in the course.

2. What classes/study experiences did you find the most rewarding? Why?

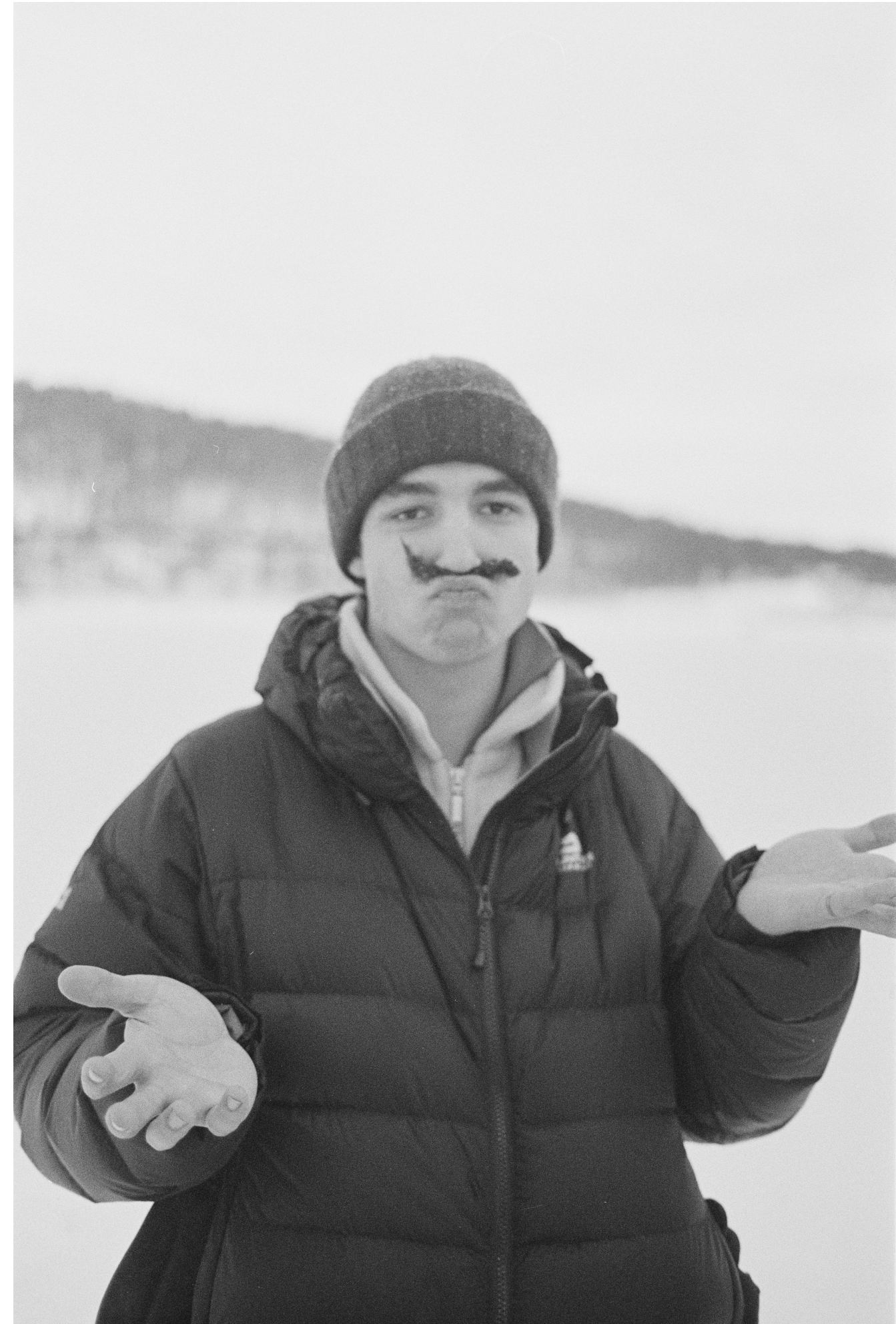
Professional Portfolio and Exhibition Design. The portfolio is now made and ready for me to use in the future. Exhibition Design because it was a huge project, and it was so cool that we made it all ourselves and had an opening with a great show-up!

3. What classes/study experiences did you find least relevant or least valuable to you? Why?

Art History. I usually find these historical classes very interesting, but it was all on Zoom and our teacher wasn't that great at English, which made it hard to focus. And, most of the information I already learned in High School at art class.

4. What classes would you advice other KEA students going to the receiving school to choose or not to choose?

All the ones I took except Art History. Maybe also Finish Culture. I heard a lot good about that one, because it is a nice way to learn something about the country you are in.





DESIGN, DIGITAL and TECH students Cultural/Personal Experience

1. What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?
The typical language challenges. Some Finns are very good, and some does not speak it at all. Both young and older. Luckily everyone is quite good at the university. And also, the cold. Remember warm clothes!
2. What was the best cultural/personal experience during your studies abroad?
There is no doubt in my mind that it was the group of people I got to spend time with. We had 3 amazing tutors who put all the design-students together and we became a family. We also went to Lapland (the part of Finland north from the polar circle) together and went snowboarding, skiing, snowshoeing, snowmobiling, sang songs, played music, had dinners and partied.
3. What advice would you give other KEA students going to study abroad at the receiving school?
I would say to be opened minded and you will have an amazing time. Finland has so much to offer and there are lots to explore. Attend student events and use you tutors; they are there to help.

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?

It was fine, but very long. And also the answer came quit late.

a. What did KEA help you with?

It was nice that you could always ask KEA about stuff you were in doubt with.

b. What help did you receive from your school abroad?

Mostly I got help when I arrived about the courses and general questions there might appear due to every country does school differently.

2. Did you have any practical difficulties settling down in at your destination?

The apartment we got was “furnished” – to our surprise that meant a bed, a desk, and a chair. So it was a lot to discover that we needed to buy everything for the kitchen, livingroom and so on. Luckily Lahti has a lot of secondhand shops who also offer delivery.

a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process?

Also, a lot of other practical stuff you must figure out and here the school and teachers are always ready to answer your questions.

3. Where did you live?

I lived in the city Lahti, in a placed called Suitsikatu. 15 min from the city-center and 30 mins from school. I lived with my friend from my home-school and the apartment were bigger than expected.

a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?

b. Was it expensive?

The rent was around 3000 DKK a months pr person. So cheaper than my apartment in Copenhagen and luckily my boyfriend agreed to pay the rent at home in the meantime. Some also rent there home-apartment out, so they don't have to pay double. The country itself is quite expensive. Grocery-shopping and beers and drinks are more expensive than in Denmark, and its obvious. But a good tip is that. A lot of places like restaurants and bars has student-discounts and you can save a lot of money by using that.

4. What kind of expenses did you have in general?

Rent, public transport, grocery-shopping, alcohol, internet, prepaid sim-card, and a lot of experiences let trips, sled riding, skiing, snowboarding etc. There is lots to do in Finland and winter sports is expensive.

a. Did you spend more or less money than you budgeted with?

Defiantly more! But I also wanted to do a lot of stuff and participate in everything I could. But I do not regret any money spend, it was all worth it.





