

Questionnaire Study Abroad/Exchange

Please answer the questions below to the best of your ability. This report is meant to help future exchange students find their perfect destination so keep your audience in mind when writing and use a language that “pre-exchange students” will also understand.

You are very welcome to add pictures and/or change the format of the report as long as you keep in mind the questions below. Anything that will give your fellow students a sense of what it is like to study and live at “your school”.

Formatting-wise, you may either create a written report with pictures (i.e. lining up the questions below followed by your answers or continuous text answering the questions), OR you can create a video report (i.e. with footage from different experiences/contexts from your stay and a voice-over answering the questions). Be creative and informative!

1. Where and when did you study abroad?
*Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology, New Zealand.
July 2023 – December 2023.*
2. What KEA program did you attend at the time?
Multimedia Design.
3. What classes did you take during your semester abroad? Please briefly explain what each class was about.
Classes:

Advanced Digital Art and Design:

Developing an individual research-based graphic design practice, and independent use of a wide range of digital design approaches to solve design problems in graphic design project briefs.

Introduction to Web Development:

This course gives the student the foundations of web development to enable them plan, develop, test and understand development environments and programming languages of current generation systems.

Advanced Lens-based Media Project:

Developing an individual research-based digital lens-based media practice, and independent use of a wide range of approaches to develop, document and communicate the idea behind a final self-produced video.

Digital Art and Design Lab:

Exploring and experimenting with a range of graphic design approaches, technical skills and conceptual thinking methods to solve problems in set project briefs.

Academic Experience

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

The process of choosing classes turned out to be quite complicated; NMIT did not have a fully updated list of the different classes, and the list I received was hard to interpret and make sense of. My global coordinator from KEA eventually helped me to figure out what types of classes would meet my learning outcomes. Finally, when I enrolled at NMIT, the school forgot to enroll me in a whole class because this class turned out not to be held (due to a lack of enrollment). Even though I made the school aware of the missing class, I was informed that I wasn't missing any classes – until four weeks into the semester, where the school found the mistake themselves, and I was to start late in a course. This class was a lower-level version of one of the classes I was already taking, and its class hours were at the same time as one of my other classes.

In regards to settling in:

Even though all staff and students were very kind, there weren't any social offers for me as a student to attend and make social connections. I actively pursued and researched possible activities that could be found both at school and locally in town, but there was really nothing to be found.

NMIT do not do group work, so there weren't a lot of connections being made during classes either.

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

I liked my Advanced graphic design course. The course had interesting assignments, and my teacher was very talented and good at giving advice.

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

My web development class was very challenging for me, and I discovered that as a 'mid-year intake,' I was missing some vital learning that the other students had acquired in the previous semester. Additionally, I experienced difficulties in obtaining the necessary help when seeking assistance from the teacher for this course.

4. What classes would you advice other KEA students going to the

receiving school to choose or not to choose?

My honest opinion would be not to advise any other students from Multimedia Design to attend NMIT. I found that the disorganization of enrollment and the teaching environment was less than rewarding and does not match the academic level at KEA. Additionally, there were no social activities at school, clubs, Friday bar, sports, or other engagements to enhance the experience, which means that both the social and academic experiences are lacking.

Practical Experience

1. How was the application process?
 - a. What did KEA help you with?
I found that I was guided through the process and could always ask for help if needed.
 - b. What help did you receive from your school abroad?
They provided me with a list of the courses they offer, reference to accommodation and transport from the airport to my accommodation once I arrived in Nelson.
2. Did you have any practical difficulties settling down in at your destination?
I don't understand the question.
 - a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process?
3. Where did you live?
I lived on campus in student housing.
 - a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?
I was out in good time, but the place where I stayed tended to fill up quickly.
 - b. Was it expensive?
Not compared to Copenhagen.
4. What kind of expenses did you have in general?
Rent, heat, food, phone, internet and other personal necessities I didn't bring from home.
After the semester before going home I did some travelling, so I spent on that too.
 - a. Did you spend more or less money than you budgeted with?
More than planned.
5. What kind of income did you have during your exchange?
SU and grants.
 - a. Did you receive SU and/or Erasmus
Yes, SU.
 - b. Did you apply for any grants and did you receive any?
I applied for around 12-15 grants and received two.

Cultural/Personal Experience

1. What challenges did you experience culturally while being

abroad?

I wasn't too challenged culturally.

- a. How helpful was the receiving school in this process?
2. What was the best cultural/personal experience during your studies abroad?
I learned to cope with being lonely and doing everything myself; from setting up a bank account in a foreign country to finding my way around a new city. It was very difficult being so alone and isolated, but very rewarding to get through it.
3. What advice would you give other KEA students going to study abroad at the receiving school?

We look forward to reading/seeing your report and to have you back at KEA soon!

Note: We use the exchange reports as a source of valuable information about each school/destination to share with students interested in going to the given school in the future. In some cases we upload them to our website (global.kea.dk) and in some cases we share the reports with interested students. When submitting the report, you automatically give us consent to sharing/uploading the report to our website. If you do not want your report shared or uploaded OR you want us to anonymize it before we do so you should explicitly request this in an e-mail to your international coordinator.