



**if you want to contact me about questions regarding Ghent**

**you can reach me at:**

**Jakobhofjep@g@gmail.com**

**52902985**

**1. Where and when did you study abroad?**

I studied in Gent, Belgium, at Hogent school. During the fall of 2024.

**2. What KEA program did you attend at the time?**

I study IT and Economics at KEA.

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

**Belgian Culture Studies(3 points)**

A straightforward course. You learn a little about everything. We

learned about the political system, the kings, the country's origin, colonisation history, and last but not least, about Belgium's love for beer and chocolate.

50% of the grade was for a video we made in groups about a chosen subject.

50% of the grade was a 2 hour written exam.

### **Real-life Integrated Software Engineering (18 points)**

This course was about android development, website development and project leading. This was the first time they merged these 3 subjects, and even the teachers were confused about the setup of the class. We were 9 exchange students in my group, and were mostly left on our own in completing this subject. The course involves Kotlin programming, c# programming and project leading through Jira. I learned a great deal about the technical side of things. Also working with 8 other exchange students, taught me a great deal about different cultures and how we work differently.

Personally I really disliked this course, and hope next year they will do better. Even after doing all my exams for this course, the teachers did not know how grading was going to be. They were not sure if we were getting one total grade or 3 different grades for the 3 competents of the course.

### **Business analysis (3 points)**

This course was about analyzing business processes. Back at KEA I had already learned a lot about this course, e.g. BPMN. We also learned about story mapping, user stories, customer journeys and testing.

20% for a paper about customer journeys and story maps.

20% for paper about a chosen subject

60% for an oral exam. (15 min, and you get 3 questions)

### **A.I. for the bachelor student (3 points)**

I really liked this course. When I picked it, I thought it was going to be

technical, but it's mostly about defining AI, what machine learning is and the ethical dilemmas associated with AI.

The teacher was really engaged, and since we were only 6 people in the class, she really involved us and pressed us about issues. It was easily my favorite course, due to the teachers' excitement, knowledge and professionalism.

50% for a 15 minute presentation about a chosen subject.

50% for a 2 hour written exam.

### **Entrepreneurship (3points)**

This course was very similar to my third semester back at KEA, where we had to design our own product with the design thinking framework. In this course you have to come up with a business idea, and then brainstorm about it. You also have to fill out a template excel sheet. This course was very little work, and the teacher did not demand a lot.

100% of the grade is from a presentation about your product( in groups)

## **Academic Experience**

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

At the start, you have a lot of different websites you have to get used to, but after that settling in becomes easy. I choose to follow their IT courses for my exchange year. There were not a lot of different courses to choose from, so I never had to change my courses. I did hear about a girl who changed her courses 10 times, so it's definitely possible and encouraged if you have scheduling problems.

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

For me, the most rewarding aspect of my exchange was working with so many people of different cultures. Yes, sometimes it was annoying working with Spanish people who had to do Siesta, or working with people who are used to completely different ways of working. But I find the adapting and learning aspect of it very fun.

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

Least relevant was probably Entrepreneurship or Business analysis.

Mostly because I had already done courses very similar to this back at Kea.

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

If you study IT and Business I would probably pick business courses instead of IT. The business courses seemed easier and more structured. If you decide to pick RISE I would probably talk to the teachers and see if they are more prepared this time.

**Practical Experience**

**1. How was the application process?**

There are multiple deadlines you need to follow, but Mobility4you helps a great deal with keeping track of everything.

**a. What did KEA help you with?**

Helped with the application phase and picking my courses.

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

The application was very easy. My coordinator (Anne) has a good relationship with the coordinator at Hogent(Fien), so any problems were quickly solved.

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

No, getting to Gent by plane is very easy. You fly to Brussels, and then take the train. There are 3-4 trains an hour and it takes approximately 75 minutes. Make sure to buy a youth- or weekend ticket.

**3. Where did you live?**

I lived at Eddies. Eddies is a student housing mostly for belgium people.

**a. Was it difficult to find accommodation?**

No. Hogent gives you the possibility to apply for 2 different student dorms. There is Eddies and Mercador. Mercador is closer to the city center and half the price + you live with mostly other exchange students.

I would recommend applying for Mercador, if you don't get in, i would try to find some private housing through Facebook or Instagram. Eddies is a bit too far away from the city center. Most people I know paid around 600 euros for private student housing.

**b. Was it expensive?**

I paid 650 euros a month, and I think Mercador is around half price of this.

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

Most of my money was spent on trips and food.

you can rent a bike through [Rent a bike | De Fietsambassade Gent](#)

I paid 60 euros for 6 months. They also help if you have a flat tire or need new batteries for your lights. I would highly recommend this.

Public transport in gent is also very good. you can either pay a subscription, or pay by card inside the tram/bus. you pay 2.5 euros no matter how far you are going.

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

I spend less money than I budgeted for. A good tip is buying your plan tickets early. We bought them through "Sas Ungdom" which helped a lot.

**5. What kind of income did you have during your exchange?**

**a. Did you receive SU and/or Erasmus**

**b. Did you apply for any grants and did you receive any?**

I received SU and Erasmus, but I did not apply for any grants.

**Cultural/Personal Experience**

**1. What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?**

The People of Belgium are differently similar to Danish people. I was mostly talking to other exchange students, and the belgium people at my dorm did not make a lot of effort in getting to know us. A thing to notice is that most Belgium students go home to their parents during the weekend. This means that Wednesday and Thursday are the biggest going-out days for the belgium people, while the exchange students mostly go out doing the Weekend. Most student bars are all located at Overpoort, which makes for a great deal of fun.

**2. What was the best cultural/personal experience during your studies abroad?**

I really liked meeting people from other cultures. I think the great thing about going to Gent, is that not a lot of danish people go here, so you are mostly with other exchange

students and forced to speak english. I made great friends with

Once, during December, we had a big christmas dinner with the other exchange students, where everybody cooked something from their own culture.

**3. What advice would you give other KEA students going to study abroad at the receiving school?**

Belgium is located in the heart of Europe. I would try to go and visit other countries ( maybe with other exchange students). I would also try to taste alot of different beers, and enjoy my time there.