

Study Abroad in Salzburg, Austria

FH Salzburg - Multimedia Art



Fall semester
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General information

Where and when did you study abroad?

Fall/winter semester at FH Salzburg University in Salzburg, Austria.

What KEA program did you attend at the time?

Multimedia Design



What classes did you take during your semester abroad?

I had many different subjects at FH Salzburg. My main subject was Multimedia Art, where I chose the Communication Design track. This track included the following subjects:

Graphic Design

In this course, we did various exercises to kickstart the creative process. We experimented with shapes, patterns, and compositions, and worked on exercises in Adobe Illustrator to explore the program's features. One of our projects also involved creating a poster.

Typography

Here, we gained a lot of theoretical knowledge about typography. And we also had to design our own font and create a final product using our font.

Interface Design

In this course, we gained an understanding of how to create good design, and we spent the semester redesigning the Too Good To Go app.

English Study Group

This was a very small course where we worked on improving our presentation skills in English. We had to create a presentation on a topic of our choice within the Multimedia Art field, and we would then receive feedback on our presentation skills.

In addition, I had a lot of elective courses:

Motion Design

In this course, we practiced creating stop-motion videos and also worked on motion graphics videos in After Effects.

Visual Activism

This course was about how we could collaborate in a group to create a self-chosen movement. My group created a movement about social media addiction. We designed posters, merchandise, and social media content for our movement.

Photography in Context

In this course, we learned about the history of photography, the different historical photographers, and also the functions of the camera itself. We also practiced taking photos, and for the final project, we had to create our own photo series.

Web Development & Projects

Here, we learned how to code websites in Visual Studio Code, which is very similar to what you learned in the first and second semesters at KEA. It's a great course to help keep the coding skills fresh. For the final project, we had to code and design a website of our choice.

Pop Culture

Pop culture is about the ideas, trends, music, movies, fashion, and activities that are popular in society at a given time.

Project management

This class is about planning and organizing tasks to make sure a project is finished on time, within budget, and meets its goals. We had to plan and prepare a future project. The Austrian students had to plan their internships, but I could choose my own project.

Inside Austria

I also took an elective culture course where we learned a lot about Austrian culture. It was a really fun course, and we even went on a day trip to the mountains.



Academic Experience

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

It was great. We got a tour, and we always had our international advisor to ask for help if there were any problems. Additionally, we also got a Buddy, who was a current student, to help us get a good start.

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

For me, it was probably Typography and Graphic design i rewarded the most. That's where I felt I really learned a lot and also got a lot of inspiration from the classes. I also enjoyed Motion Design, although it was a bit challenging since programs like After Effects are very time-consuming to learn. But I'm really glad I now have knowledge of the program, even though I still have a lot to learn. I also enjoyed the Photography in Context course a lot, but it's quite basic.

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

Project management wasn't very relevant for me, as many of the tasks we had to do, I had already completed. I had already applied for an internship, so I couldn't participate in the classes as much since, as mentioned, it focused a lot on applying for internships, which I had already done.

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

If you're a creative soul like me, I would almost recommend all the courses I've taken. However, not Project Management, at least not for the academic content, but it's an easy course with almost no homework. The same goes for Pop Culture—it's not a very relevant course for my future, but it's an easy one with little to no homework. Otherwise, all the other courses are really good options. As for the culture courses, I think you should just sign up for all of them. You can always drop out if you don't like them or need more free time.



Practical Experience

How was the application process?

It was good. There were many papers to fill out, but luckily, Anne, my supervisor, helped me when I had questions.

What help did you receive from your school abroad?

In Austria I also had a supervisor I always could ask if I had any questions.

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

No not really.

Where did you live?

I lived at the dorm Campus Urstein. It was located right next to the University. The application process for the accommodation was pretty straightforward. The university had recommended a website where we could apply for different dorms. However, the rent was a little expensive compared to the small studio room you got, but I had my own kitchen and bathroom, which I was very happy about. But I paid €550, which is a little over 4,000 DKK.

What kind of expenses did you have in general?

Most of my money went to rent, of course, but I also spent a lot on experiences. However, I still stayed within my budget and definitely think that your SU and Erasmus grant go a long way. There's no need to save up in advance if you want to have this experience.

What kind of income did you have during your exchange?

Only SU and Erasmus grant. And I didn't reply for other grants.



Cultural/Personal Experience

What challenges did you experience culturally while being abroad?

I had to get used to supermarkets and most stores being closed on Sundays, which was quite annoying. It was also frustrating that supermarkets closed around 6-7 PM. But I just had to learn to plan better. Besides that, I had to adjust to speaking only English every day, as all my classes were in English. Presenting in English was especially challenging for me, but I improved over time, which I'm really happy about.

The school also had some unusual class schedules, and there were a few times when I even had classes on weekends. The lesson times varied a lot—some days, classes wouldn't start until 1 or 2 PM and end around 6 PM, while other days, they could start at 9 AM and finish by noon. Also, the schedule changed a lot from week to week, so it was really unpredictable.

You also really have to learn to prioritize and plan your time if you want to get the most out of your stay. There's so much happening and so many things to experience while also keeping up with school. But if any problems or challenges come up, you can always talk to the international office—they are super helpful!

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

The best part was spending every day with so many other international students. I was also in class with a lot of Austrians, but they mostly kept to themselves. Meeting people from so many different nationalities was really exciting. There were also so many opportunities to join different events and activities. And of course, it was amazing to experience living in another country and see how things work there. If you love beautiful nature and enjoy skiing—or want to try it—Austria is definitely the place for you!

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

No matter where you go on exchange, be open and brave. And if you choose to study at FH Salzburg, be prepared for a lot of freedom with responsibility, as there is also a lot of self-study. Most importantly, go out and create amazing experiences!

