

Relazione di fine scambio

Scuola del Design

Istruzioni

Indicare di seguito tutte le informazioni che possano essere utili ad altri studenti che parteciperanno a uno scambio. Preferibilmente in lingua inglese, lunghezza min. 2500 parole + possibili immagini, file di max. dimensione 2 MB in formato PDF. Questo documento sarà pubblicato nel sito web della Scuola.

Informazioni generiche

Anno Accademico di Scambio:	2019/2020	Nome della Sede in scambio:	Fashion Institute of Technology
Cognome e Nome:	Bonfante Giulia	Stato:	Stati Uniti D'America
Matricola:	941716	Codice Sede:	USA NEWYORK01
Corso di Studio:	Design for the Fashion System	Tipo di scambio: (Semplice o Doppia Laurea)	Accordi Bilaterali Extra UE
Anno di Corso:	1°	Semestre di Scambio:	2°
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Racconta la tua esperienza di scambio:

My experience at the Fashion Institute of Technology was intense right from the start. I would strongly advise students who are leaving next semester not to get too anxious about the preparation of all documents far in advance as nothing will actually be required before September. From September until the time of departure, however, everything will be extremely intense and fast, as it will be necessary to deal with VISA, Learning Agreement, accommodation, travel details, and workshop prior departure, all at the same time! After this phase of high pressure and tension, though, the greatest, truest and most special part will come: the moment of the long-awaited departure!

I left from Milano Malpensa on 18th January 2020.

The arrival in New York for me was like a dive into an ocean that has no origin and no end, a rough ocean full of waves that, nevertheless, gives you the best sunsets in the evenings and that can take your breath away in a unique and incomprehensible way.

My choice of accommodation was the dorm, especially for its location, extremely strategic, and for all the various facilities offered. In spite of this, however, it should be noted that, as I was staying at Kaufman Hall, on my arrival I found a room completely empty of any kind of bedding, tableware, pot, pan, etc., so I had to make arrangements to buy everything I needed as soon as possible.

Access to the dorm was only possible from 20th January and on the 22nd was immediately scheduled the start of the second workshop at FIT. Everything was extremely fast and intense, as that week I also had to participate in the orientation activities. Nothing impossible though: there was always time for a run to the Hudson River to admire the beautiful New York sunsets.

The week of the beginning of classes, hasn't been a very relaxing one either, because I tried to modify my Learning Agreement, by including the courses I was most interested in. It was not easy, due to the overlapping of some and the closed number of others, but in the end it was definitely worth it! Personal advice: in November, when you will submit the Learning Agreement, you will find many courses already full; don't worry too much if you'll be forced to choose courses that don't really suit you: once in NY you can try to change them!

So it was that my type-week soon took shape.
In particular my classes were:

1. DESIGN STUDIO IV: ADVANCED DRAPING (FD-227) - 3 credits

I attended this course with Prof. Irina Ast, who gave us a lot of space for expression, guiding us in our stylistic and tailoring choices with advice and references from many different books.

2. MODEL DRAWING I FOR FASHION (FF-114) - 1 credit

I attended this course with Prof. Karen Sheetz, who gave us limited time and specific instructions to represent a real live model. Thanks to this course I had the opportunity to experiment with new illustrative techniques and to learn smart tricks to represent a female model.

3. FUNDAMENTALS OF SCREEN PRINTING (TD-161) - 2 credits

I took this class with Professor Anthony Petrizzo. I literally loved every minute of every lesson, because the course, as part of the Textile Design Department, was held at the Screen Printing lab, a lab where I had never had the pleasure of working. I highly recommend this course because it gave me not only the opportunity to expand my portfolio with new and different projects, but also because it increased my sensibility and my knowledge about different fields of fashion design, from fabric to color matching to handmade printing techniques.

4. PERFORMANCE TEXTILES (TT-261) - 3 credit

I attended this course with Prof. Preeti Arya, who for me was not only a wonderful teacher but also a beautiful person, who gave me real and sincere support in my time of need.
The course itself was purely theoretical, but the charisma of the teacher, the hours in the lab and the workshops offered made it extremely interesting.

5. DESIGN WITH EMERGING MATERIALS (SC-204/TD-204) - 3 credits

I took this course with Prof. Susanne Goetz and Prof. Theanne Schiros. I really found this course to be one of a kind as it was an interdisciplinary course cross-listed as Textile Design and Science, which explored textile concepts and integration of the handmade with emerging materials and technologies. In particular, all the workshops proposed were extremely useful and propedeutic to the understanding of the concepts illustrated and explained in class.

Thanks to my strong willingness to explore and get to know New York in all its corners, I was able to organize weekends of leisure, dedicated to the exploration of the city.
The school also offered free access fitness classes throughout the week, which I found extremely useful, both to keep myself fit and to make new acquaintances, which, to be honest, was quite difficult in class, given the age of my classmates and the intensity and duration of the lessons.

Unfortunately, just when I had begun to get used to the exhausting New York rhythms and the fast pace of the city, the severity of the Covid-19 pandemic, which has now arrived heavily also in the States, forced me to make the painful decision to return back home and escape from what had been my short but intense American experience. All my plans and expectations were crushed in a puff, but despite everything I am still proud and happy to have undertaken such an experience.

Once back safe and sound in Milan, thanks to a series of fortunate events, I started attending online courses, obviously with American time zone. Despite the difficulties due to the unusual lesson times and the new way of learning, I can consider myself extremely lucky. The professors were extraordinarily comprehensive and helpful towards me and supported and accompanied me until the end of this journey with extreme professionalism. There would still be a million things to say, which is why I would be happy to stay available on any social media channel or via email for further questions!

To all those who are considering whether or not to take this opportunity I would like to give a very sincere advice: New York is not only what you see in films and what you read in books, it's much more than that. A trip like this is not a walk in the park, it's not all easy and fun. You'll feel immensely happy but sometimes immensely lonely. You have to leave aware that nothing will be as you expect and that every little thing will serve as a lesson, as a gift, and as an experience that has taught you something, and that will be with you forever.

Firma: 

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