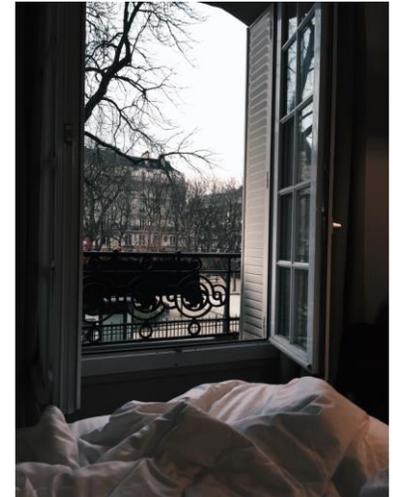


Paige (BA Fashion Design (Ind))

For my work placement, I work as a menswear design intern at Calvin Klein in Amsterdam. Before university, I took a year out travelling which made me eager to move away again and get a placement abroad. Before getting the internship, I'd never been to Amsterdam and wasn't sure what to expect working here. However, I absolutely love it and would 100% recommend any student to work here! It is such a beautiful city and there is so much going on you can never get bored. I was especially lucky to get my 6-month internship extended to 12 months.



As Amsterdam is close to so many countries in Europe, it is easy to get anywhere by train, perfect for weekend travelling! There are practically festivals every weekend in the summer. Working in Amsterdam is definitely less stressful than stories I have heard from the UK. The lifestyle here, which I love, is very different to London; eg cycling makes it so easy to get around the city. I am living in a student hotel which is a hotel for anyone staying in Amsterdam for longer than a month or so. It's a great place to live, cheaper and convenient compared to paying rent for an apartment. My internship is paid and I also get money towards my rent however Erasmus+ has definitely helped, allowing me to have a social life as well as working and enjoying my year abroad!

I love my internship. The menswear design team is either from the UK or Germany (I love socializing which means after-work drinks every week!) The team is very small so I have a huge amount of responsibility and I am regularly working one-to-one with the creative director. Calvin Klein is going through many changes which means it is exciting to be here and see the revolution of the brand under the newly-appointed chief creative officer. My role consists of assisting with seasonal concept, designing, sketching & sourcing fabrics for the collection, working on pattern and graphics and being involved with marketing and merchandising. We work on 4 collections per year, which means it can be very stressful at times but I love how involved I am with all aspects of creating a collection, especially working with the New York

team. I was very lucky and so grateful to be taken on a Paris research trip, which was amazing and so beneficial to be a part of.

I have learnt so much on placement; my design skills, confidence and time management whilst working under pressure have all improved. I couldn't recommend doing a year abroad more as it gives you so much freedom and responsibility living away from home.

