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Reciprocal Exchange  
Addis Ababa University



During my semester abroad at AAU I mostly took classes within my major, Communications. While they did not offer communication focused courses, I was able to take introduction to Public Relations and Introduction to Marketing, which overall was my favorite classes while abroad. Other than those two classes, the other courses were all journalism courses. The transition to this institution was very interesting because everything was different, from the grading system to the teaching style in Ethiopia. Overall, this experience was a great learning experience.

The classes were not as difficult as I expected them to be and the professors and the students were extremely welcoming which made the trip even better! Comparing AAU to UMass Boston, UMass is definitely more rigorous with their curriculum compared to AAU. The education system overall is completely different where students do not have a choice of choosing their own majors. Therefore, students are less motivated and less passionate to study or do work because they are not interested in what they are studying.

**I will definitely recommend this trip to anyone! This experience was a life changing experience. I became more passionate about working with students and improving access to education.** Higher education and the education inequality is prominent in Ethiopia and I am sure everywhere else around the world, and studying abroad made me realize that I want to be able to have an impact on this change so more students are able to receive and have the access to education.

