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I decided to study in Denmark after taking a class on Scandinavian immigration to the United States that was taught by Julie Allen. The class inspired me to research my own ancestry, and I discovered my Danish roots. I selected KU because I entered the country with no knowledge of the Danish language, and I figured the metropolitan environment would be more English-friendly. Moreover, I am an avid fan of football (soccer) and history. FC Copenhagen and the wealth of museums satisfied both interests, respectively. Copenhagen also provided an excellent base of operations from which I economically traveled and experienced much of Europe and Northern Africa. Overall, Copenhagen lived up to my expectations. I did expect, though, to interact with more Danes. Even though I had two Danish roommates, they predominantly kept to themselves. Moreover, my classes were comprised entirely of international students.

As I had already possessed a passport, the only documentation I needed to study abroad was my Danish visa. I applied for it as soon as my KU documentation arrived, and the visa arrived before I departed the US. Aside from general packing (which I should have begun more than 2 days before departing), I planned a backpacking journey around Western Europe. I was quite glad I bought my train reservations and tickets to the Vatican Museum ahead of time. I also purchased an ISIC from STA Travel. The ISIC ended up saving me loads of money at museums, shops, cathedrals, and the like. It was well worth the ~\$22 investment. A brief note about backpacking: if I were able to redo my trip, I would spend a minimum of three nights in each city and avoid the countries of Luxembourg and Switzerland (Geneva, at least. Perhaps the eastern portion of the country is more exciting.). I am more than happy to field any questions about backpacking/train travel.

I took three classes at KU: the intensive three-week Danish language course (DLC), a class on the philosophy of Søren Kierkegaard (SK), and the Danish Culture course (DCC). I pre-registered for the Danish language course and registered for the other two shortly after I arrived. The registration process itself was quite painless. All we had to do was fill out a form and turn it into the International Office (in person). My DLC had a class size of about 15. Each section was taught by the equivalent of a TA in the US. The class was roughly 4 hours a day for three weeks before the semester started. The Kierkegaard class had about 40 students in it. Only a handful of said students were knowledgeable in philosophy, and those students tended to dominate the classroom discussions. The class was poorly structured in general, though. We often strayed off-topic, and to be honest, I barely learned anything about the philosophy of Kierkegaard. The DCC was my largest class by number, with about 120 students in the class. The class had a different topic every week (music, history, literature, etc.) and even included some field trips on weekends. Both SK and DCC were 2 hours per week (one meeting).

The classroom facilities were excellent for all three classes. The DLC was seemingly graded fairly, and the DCC was Pass/Fail by default. The entire grade in SK was based on a 15-page 1.5-spaced paper about anything related to Kierkegaard. It was a gargantuan effort for someone theretofore unversed in philosophy. I do not recommend the course for non-philosophy majors. I highly recommend DCC and DLC, though. The knowledge gained in both classes absolutely helped me during the rest of my stay in Denmark. My favorite academic aspect was taking the DLC and learning how to order food, etc. while bonding with my classmates. I ended up making my best friends in the DLC, in no small part because the DLC provides ample time to interact with your peers, unlike the other classes. My least favorite academic experience was writing the 36,000-character tome for the Kierkegaard class. I ended up writing about a movie we had watched in class because I did not feel confident to write about the core tenets of Kierkegaard's work.

I arranged my housing through the International Office, and I ended up living in Signalhuset, on Amager, a few kilometers south of KUA (the southernmost campus of KU). I had two Danish roommates and one Austrian roommate. As I mentioned before, the Danes kept to themselves. I became good friends with my Austrian roommate, though. The apartment itself was great. It had a good kitchen, two bathrooms, friendly maintenance personnel, and lots of large windows. (That said, if you end up living in Signalhuset, be prepared to buy/take with you large curtains for your bedroom as one entire wall is glass, facing the balcony). Signalhuset also has a relatively good location—if you have many classes in KUA. A huge shopping complex is right across the street, included within is Bilka, a near-equivalent of Wal-Mart. It's a great place to buy bedding and other initial needs. There is also a very nearby Metro stop—a location you will frequent unless you enjoy cycling more than 30 min to reach anything. Another side note: as of my stay, there were no clubs/bars/restaurants not in the shopping center within walking distance of Signalhuset.

As all of my classes were at KUA, I did not get to see much of the other campus facilities. Nevertheless, what I saw was clean, efficient, and open. The area surrounding KUA was mostly residential and a bit commercial. The entire atmosphere was safe, and I felt comfortable at all times of the day. I felt safe traveling at night because the Metro ran all night long so I never had to walk home. The medical facilities in Denmark are also spot on. I had to use the Danish healthcare system when I had a sinus infection. I easily made an appointment with my state-appointed doctor and summarily received a prescription—all for free. Overall, I cannot think of any real concerns.

Without the Scan|Design Foundation fellowship, I would not have been able to afford studying abroad. Once abroad, I found the easiest way to access money was by simply using an ATM. My bank only charged a 1% fee on withdrawn currency. I made sure to note when the dollar was strong against the Danish kroner and plan my withdrawals accordingly. My debit card did not work to make purchases in stores, even though my bank had told me it would work. Make sure you talk to your bank about using your card before studying abroad. I recommend about \$600/mo for rent, \$200/mo for food, and \$75/mo for transportation. I ate quite cheaply, though. I cooked at home most of the time because restaurants are much more expensive than in the US. Overall, everything is about 30% more expensive in Denmark so plan accordingly. The only unexpected expenses I incurred were travel-related. I needed to

expedite my Russian visa (\$150), replace a train ticket in Norway (\$120), and buy a new carry-on bag in Scotland (\$30). Otherwise, I took care of my electronics so I had no other major expenses.

I greatly enjoyed and valued the activities arranged by Scan|Design, including our museum visits, bike trips, and football games. The activities allowed me to bond with my fellow fellowship earners and expand my network across Denmark. Plus, I was able to see more sites around Copenhagen and Denmark at large that I would not have seen otherwise. If I could change anything, I would plan activities further in advance to plan other travels around them. I would keep all existing trips add an excursion to Legoland (and possibly some sort of fishing adventure).

The Copenhagen exchange is ideal for any type of student. Really. I greatly enjoyed my experience, and I am a biochem student. These exchanges are not just for polisci and law students. I recommend that Danish-speaking students (or students desiring to learn and actually practice using Danish) head to Århus or Ålborg as English was by far the predominant language used in class and at home. Overall, my exchange was simply awesome. I met scores of new friends and experienced a different culture. I cannot highly enough recommend studying abroad. The greatest benefit was becoming more confident in all of my actions, specifically meeting new people and exploring new places. The greatest challenge, surprisingly, was not being homesick; it was balancing integrating into Danish society with having time for more tourist activities. First, you have to meet travel companions in class, etc. You then have to plan excursions, and there is only so much time (daylight, especially in winter) to explore the land before you need to head home.

If I had to offer just a few core tidbits of advice:

- **Travel early and frequently, both domestically and abroad.** Your relationships with your travel companions will be strengthened during your adventures. (www.skyscanner.com is great for airfare)
- **Take the best raincoat you can find.** You will need it. Also, I was fine for the entire winter layering my Columbia rain shell over a North Face fleece.
- **Get a quality camera** if you don't have one. This may be your only *shot* at capturing time abroad. Make the most of it. Take **two** large memory cards for your camera (16 GB are reasonably priced).
- After packing everything you think you'll need, **remove at least 1/3 of the clothes you have packed.** You won't need them. You'll have more room for souvenirs.
- **Get an ISIC** (International Student ID Card). It costs ~\$22 but can save you much more, especially if you use www.hostelworld.com to book your hostels (saves \$2/booking).
- **Before you plug anything in, make sure it can handle 220 volts.** Otherwise, you will ruin the device.

I would like to sincerely thank the Scan|Design Foundation for helping me fulfill my goal of studying abroad and becoming a global citizen. Since returning from Denmark, I have made it my personal mission to get more scientists to broaden their horizons by studying abroad. The Scan|Design Foundation enables such enlightenment.