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Spring 2011  
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## Exchange Student Evaluation Report

1. One of my main reasons for choosing to study abroad in Copenhagen was because my sister and brother-in-law live there. Another very important reason was that it was one of the least expensive programs available in my major of anthropology. Of course, the cost of living in Copenhagen may have made the expense just about the same as those of other programs at the end, but despite this it was still a great city! Before I left the states I applied for a visa, residency permit, as well as student housing through the University of Copenhagen, the institute that my program was through. I also requested a mentor through the anthropology department at the university and joined the Erasmus facebook groups to stay in the loop at my new school. One hiccup in my arrival was the dilemma of housing. While the university had secured an apartment for me at a student kollegium the lease didn't start until February. This was a problem as I came to Denmark in January for a three week pre-semester language course. The worst part was I didn't even realize the discrepancy until a few days before my departure. I was lucky to have family in Copenhagen as I ended up living with my sister for the first three weeks until I could officially move in to my new apartment. I would recommend double checking your lease agreements and sorting all of that well before you leave if you want to avoid squatting on people's couches.
2. I found the orientation program at Wisconsin to be much more helpful than the one I attended in Copenhagen. This may be in part because a lot of the things that the Copenhagen orientation program went over were topics that had already been covered by the orientation in Madison. Many of the topics of the Copenhagen orientation were things that I really just needed to do myself in order to figure out, such as figuring out the online website etc. I do wish that one of the orientations had provided a check list of things I needed to attend to upon arriving to Copenhagen. I had no idea going in that I had to apply for a Danish CPR card or number, I was also clueless as to how to get a bus pass or how to get a cellphone. While all of us international students did muddle through I don't know what I would have done without my sister helping me get set up. I think some basic information for students on these topics would be really appreciated.
3. I found the academics in Copenhagen to be much less demanding than those here at Madison. It may be because I was only taking the minimum requirement of courses but I think it has more to do with the class structure. Here in Madison I am use to taking heavy course loads with not only readings but assignments and short papers due every week. I'm also used to having generally have classes twice a week. At Copenhagen I only had each class once a week for a two hour interval. This provided a lot of down time for me to get what readings or short papers I had done with little fuss. A lot of the classes at the University of Copenhagen have either an oral or a written final. My finals were just a collection of short reading responses that I had to collectively turn in at the end of the semester In general I would say be prepared to have long papers though, unless you luck out like me. One class that absolutely all transfer students should take is the Danish Cultural Course offered through the International Office. The information it provided was interesting and gave me more of a feel for the city, plus a lot of my friends were in it. The best part was probably all of the excursions we took. All of the excursions were free and were to places that I probably wouldn't have been able to get to on the

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transit system alone. Another class I highly recommend is the pre-semester language course. Not only did this class give me a basic grasp of the language surrounding me, but it also provided some cultural insights and was a great place to meet other international students from all over the world.

4. I loved my housing arrangements. I would highly suggest that anyone studying abroad take the University of Copenhagen's housing offer as it is very hard to find other housing without some sort of contact in Copenhagen beforehand. Though the offer is expensive, the living arrangements are well worth it. I was placed in Signalhuset, a kollegium, and I loved it. Most of the international students are placed either there or in two other kollegiums, Keops or Teitgen, so it's an excellent place to meet people. Though there isn't the sort of open door feeling you would find in a dorm here in Madison (it's styled as an apartment as opposed to a dorm) it's a great place to foster relations you've already started in class. In Signalhuset an apartment is shared by four students, though they may not necessarily be with other international students nor are they necessarily students that go to the University of Copenhagen. At Signalhuset you share a kitchen, common area, and two bathrooms between the four of you and each student gets their own room. Though Signalhuset is farther away from central Copenhagen it's located right on the metro and right across the street from the largest mall in Scandinavia, Fields. At first it was a little annoying to live so far out, but with the metro system it's not bad at all and I actually liked living somewhere a bit farther a field. There is a huge nature preserve right next to Signalhuset and it's not far at all from the coast. As for the other kollegiums, Tietgen is located midway between Signalhuset and central Copenhagen and, from what I hear, is really really nice. The down side is that it is much more expensive than Signalhuset and there are fewer international students placed there so it's a bit harder to make friends. As for Keops, it's located a little north of central Copenhagen and is single apartments only, it is also more expensive than Signalhuset. I loved living in Signalhuset and would recommend that anyone offered a position here take it.
5. The University of Copenhagen campus is spread out between four different areas. Unlike Madison it isn't all connected which is unfortunate. But, each campus has something different to offer. I was primarily on the City Campus so I ended up liking it the best. Located just off of the metro, the central building is, as all buildings in Copenhagen tend to be, quite old. Finding rooms can be a little difficult as they number their floors differently. Basically just remember that the first floor to them is what we consider the second floor. The only other campus I spent time at was the Island Brygges campus. This campus is a lot closer to Signalhuset and immediately off of the metro station Island Brygges. While this campus was nice, it was a bit too modern for me to consider beautiful.
6. I never felt unsafe while in Copenhagen. It's a very safe city and, as long as you are aware of your surroundings and use your common sense, you should be okay. There are pickpockets but they are more opportunistic, they aren't the type to aggressively pursue one person. As a temporary resident you also receive free healthcare while there which is really nice. I had a bout of pinkeye while abroad and it was a big relief to be able to receive treatment and not worry about having to pay.
7. My friends in Copenhagen were primarily other international students. While I did have some Danish acquaintances I found it hard to really break through the initial Danish reserve and become good friends. It didn't help that I didn't have too many Danes in any of my classes. But,

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the Danes are very friendly, you just really have to make an effort to get to know them as close friends. I didn't really experience any culture shock except for maybe how much more liberal minded the Danes are about politics and social living. I myself am liberal though so it didn't take anytime at all for me to start to get used to their outlooks. Another thing I struggled with was just the awkwardness at never really mastering the Danish language. Though I took the pre-semester language course Danish is a hard language to learn and all of the Danes speak English fairly well. So, even when I would try to use my Danish, they would all immediately switch to English for me. I guess I would suggest really trying to immerse yourself in the language as I came to miss being able to understand simply conversations around me.

8. Copenhagen is a very expensive city so I rarely went out to eat and only then if I was going with my sister. I spent most of my money traveling around Europe. Food in Copenhagen is very expensive unless you keep an eye on it, I would recommend shopping at Netto which is the main grocery store for poor students. Due to the Scan Design scholarship I was able to not only pay for my semesters tuition but to experience a series of excursions that I would never have been able to have afforded otherwise. I was very thankful to receive the scholarship and I don't know what I would have done without it.
9. The Scan Design mentor was wonderful! Anne Line was so helpful and kind in answering questions and organizing fun things for us to do. Through Scan Design and Anne Line's organization I was able to go to a handball game, a soccer game, and, my favorite excursion or all, the Swedish island Hven. I loved being able to go and see different aspects of Danish culture that I would never have been able to have seen otherwise and I think these excursions really contributed to the overall success of my trip to Denmark.
10. The program is one tailored for people eager to meet others from all of the world. A few of my friends who also studied abroad found that they only met other Madisonites which they were disappointed about. I loved being able to forge relationships with people from all over the world and I know that these relations will last and help me out in the future.
11. My overall experience was amazing! I'm so glad I chose to go to Denmark. The Danes are amazing people, the city is beautiful, the campus is great, and I had a splendid time traveling both in Denmark and around Europe. I loved my Scan Design mentor and the chances this scholarship gave me to really see some sides of the Danish cultural I never would have otherwise. I can never express how grateful I am to Scan Design for helping me to make the most of my study abroad experience!