

## EXCHANGE STUDENT EVALUATION REPORT

Dear Grant Recipient:

The Scan|Design Foundation requests that fellowship / scholarship recipients submit an evaluation report concerning their experiences and the services provided by the institutions that manage grant programs funded by the Scan Design Foundation. This report has a dual purpose: to help us to evaluate our current programs and to help us inform and orient grant seekers who will be future recipients. We ask you to reflect on your experiences in the US or Denmark. Advice or comments on other topics are also welcome.

Thank you for your cooperation. We appreciate your time and effort.

### EVALUATION OUTLINE:

#### Instructions:

- It is not necessary to answer every question
- Use this form and fill-in your answers.
- Send a copy to:  
[Admin@scandesignfoundation.org](mailto:Admin@scandesignfoundation.org) and to your University

UW – Seattle    [ScanDesign@uw.edu](mailto:ScanDesign@uw.edu)  
UW – Madison   [jkallen@wisc.edu](mailto:jkallen@wisc.edu)  
PSU              [goffra@pdx.edu](mailto:goffra@pdx.edu)

Student Name: Alexander Reed  
Institution where you studied: CBS  
Term(s) of participation: Spring 2014  
E-mail address: areed4@wisc.edu

#### 1. WHY AND WHERE:

- a. Why did you decide to study in the US or Denmark as an exchange student?

**I had never been to Europe before, so I really could have gone anywhere and had a new, exciting, and unforgettable experience. When the Danes asked me this question (which they did often), I generally just explained the aforementioned circumstances and added that I, “might as well start at the top and work my way down south.”**

**Truthfully, Denmark stood out for a few reasons. The first was the language barrier (or lack thereof). I knew that Denmark was bilingual, and figured that would make assimilating a little bit easier. That being said, I also looked into London but was drawn to the academic experience at CBS.**

- b. Why did you select the program/University?

**CBS was an easy choice considering its reputation and affiliation with the Wisconsin School of Business.**

c. What were your expectations?

**I was expecting to have an unforgettable experience. I was expecting to meet people from all over the world and make friends for life. I was expecting to fall in love with Denmark and to become a more well-rounded, aware, and worldly person.**

d. What preparations did you make prior to departure?

**Not much. My main concerns were regarding my academics and how studying in Denmark would impact my plans to graduate on time. Therefore, I put a lot of effort into verifying that the courses I could take at CBS would transfer back to Madison accordingly.**

e. How could you improve your preparations?

**I 100% should have re-learned how to ride a bike while I was still in the US. Doing so in Copenhagen was a bit stressful (and embarrassing).**

## **2. ARRIVAL/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:**

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

**Katherine Kollegiet was super convenient because of its proximity to the metro and s-train. The rooms were OK but I had a great time living there and made some amazing friends.**

b. Please comment on the orientation and activities offered at both your home University and the host University, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt?

**CBS had incredible welcome week social activities. There were seriously a ton of fun and provided a great opportunity to meet other exchange students. I would highly recommend signing up for them.**

## **2. ACADEMICS:**

a. Please evaluate the instruction you received. Compare the following to your home institution's system:

- class registration

**Weird. You basically rank the classes that you would like to take and then an adviser places you in them based on demand/availability.**

- classroom structure

**Very similar. Either large lectures or more intimate classrooms for discussion based courses.**

- instruction

**Quite good. Sometimes it was hard to understand my professors because they spoke Danish or Swedish as a first language, but they were all very approachable and seemed like great people.**

- teacher/student relations

**I felt like the Danish students were far more inclined to challenge the professor than an American student would be. I also felt like professors expected less from the students in class.**

- grading/exams

**CBS uses several formal exam formats. You can have a 4 hour written exam, a 72 hour take home exam, a 15 page final paper, or an oral exam. The oral exams were very foreign to me. You basically go into a room with the professor and get evaluated on your knowledge of the course for 15 minutes. Your performance in these 15 minutes is the sole determinant of your grade in the course. It was strange to me that there are no midterms or homework.**

- administration

**Very helpful. Everyone speaks perfect English. I also made an account on their career services portal, which was much better than the Wisconsin portal.**

- library, computer, and classroom facilities

**Very nice but crowded. You need to reserve a seat at the library. However, it's nice that you CAN reserve a seat at the library.**

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

**High quality but I think the quality is better at Wisconsin.**

c. In general, what did you like best and least about the academics?

d. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?

### **3. HOUSING:**

a. How would you assess the housing arrangements?

b. How did you locate your housing?

**Organized through CBS.**

### **4. EXCHANGE SITE:**

In general, please describe your impressions of the host University campus and its location and surrounding community.

**Beautiful campus and beautiful facilities. I was extremely impressed. The campus is located in the suburbs and there are buildings at several metro stops. It is very easy to go from one building to another.**

### **5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

Please describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study.

### **6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:**

a. How did you integrate into the host country culture and meet members of the community? (e.g., mentors, clubs, sports, extracurricular activities, pubs, etc.)

b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them. (e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

There are few key cultural differences. To begin, I think Danes are more private than Americans in general. They were much less likely to smile at a stranger or make small talk. Thus, I think it is harder to make Danish friends as an American than it would be to make American friends as a Dane. My approach was simply to not be discouraged by the reserved culture. I would occasionally make small talk and it was almost always well received. Another key difference is the prevalence and significance of biking. It was a bit overwhelming at first, but once I got a bike it became obvious why biking is so popular. A third cultural difference is dress. I think Danes (students at least) dress more formally than do Americans. This, in my opinion, was a nice change of pace. I really enjoyed the Danish sense of style.

## **7. FINANCIAL:**

- a. Please describe how the Scan|Design Foundation fellowship assisted you / made a difference in your decision to study abroad.

**The Scan|Design Foundation took a lot of stress off me financially. I was able to live much more comfortably as a result of the grant I received. It also helped expose me to Danish culture, which I'm very appreciative of.**

- b. What is the best way to access/transfer money?

**I opened a bank account at Nordea. Setting it up was a little difficult because all of the paper work was in Danish, but customer service helped me sort it out. It is very useful to have a debit/credit card with a chip.**

- c. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.
- d. Please comment on the relative "cost of living" between your home University and the host University.

**Contrary to my expectations, it's actually quite possible to live affordably in Denmark. The key is cook as much as possible and to bike as much as possible. Restaurants and public transportation can add up.**

## **8. EXCHANGE/SCAN|DESIGN FELLOWSHIP ADMINISTRATION:**

- a. Please comment on the assistance and activities by the Scan|Design Fellowship coordinator before your departure, upon arrival, and during your stay. What worked and what could be improved or changed?

- b. Please evaluate services and effectiveness of the University administrative offices.

## **9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:**

Please describe the type of student for whom this exchange is best suited and what advice would you give to future students.

**You need to be outgoing (as I think is true of any exchange program). It's important that you want to experience new things and meet new people. Students at CBS also must be diligent responsible workers. As I mentioned earlier, there are no checkpoints to help you learn the material along the way. You must be able to manage your time so that you're ready for the examination with little to no guidance.**

## **10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:**

- a. How would you rate the quality of the overall experience?

- b. How realistic were your academic and personal expectations and how did the Scan|Design Fellowship Program make a difference?

**ScanDesign helped me get a feel for Denmark better than anything else. The activities showcased aspects of Copenhagen that I would have otherwise never experienced. I also got to meet students from other universities whom I would not have met otherwise.**

- c. What did you consider to be the greatest benefit and challenge of studying abroad?

**The greatest benefit is that I now have friends all over the world. From Denmark to Finland to Brazil to Portugal to Germany to Argentina, there are people that I can contact. There are a few challenges to studying abroad. The first is you need to step out of your comfort zone often to have the best experience possible. It can be difficult to do this consistently. It was also a challenge for me to organize my summer plans while in Denmark. I did my best, but anyone studying abroad should do their best to figure out their plans before they leave.**

**FEEL FREE TO ADD OTHER COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE.**

**Jacob and Sara Line are seriously awesome. Can't wait for them to visit Madison.**