

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 and to your University

UW – Seattle ScanDesign@uw.edu
UW – Madison jkallen@wisc.edu
PSU goffra@pdx.edu

Student Name: Kristen Chalich

Institution where you studied: Copenhagen Business School

Term(s) of participation: Spring 2014

E-mail address: chalich@wisc.edu

1. WHY AND WHERE:

- Why did you decide to study in the US or Denmark as an exchange student?
I chose to study abroad at the Copenhagen Business School for multiple reasons. The classes offered at CBS transferred easily back to UW-Madison and I had no trouble finding classes that fit requirements for my business degree. However, the main reason why I chose CBS is because of all the good things I heard about it from other students at the study abroad fair. Out of all the people I talked to, the students who had spent their time abroad in Denmark were the most enthusiastic.
- Why did you select the program/University?
I selected CBS because it is partners with the Wisconsin School of Business and I could take classes that I would normally take at my home university.
- What were your expectations?
I had absolutely no idea what to expect! But whatever my expectations were, my time abroad exceeded them.
- What preparations did you make prior to departure?
I focused a lot on the logistics, for example: money and transportation, how to get from the airport to my residence.
- How could you improve your preparations?

I wish I would I have looked more into Denmark and Copenhagen itself: good places to go out to eat, to grocery shop, cafes and festivals. Also maybe some Danish words.

2. ARRIVAL/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

- a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

I lived in Holger Danskes Vej and for any future CBS exchange students I would highly recommend living there. It is in a wonderful location, close to the grocery store Netto and reasonably close to both CBS and the Metro. The dorm has shared kitchens and a big courtyard, both make meeting people and hanging out easy. The rooms are also nice and come in multiple sizes.

- 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?

At my home university we were required to take a class once a week for 6 weeks in preparation for leaving. In some ways it was helpful, but for the most part not very relevant because all exchange students from all study abroad programs were in the class together. The class covered what we were to do in emergencies and also what our insurance covered. I did benefit from the program because I met some of the other UW- Madison business students going to CBS, which was nice. At CBS the orientation and welcome activities were extensive! They had two weeks of activities planned for us. They were fun and made meeting people easy. The orientation material at CBS covered everything from exams to sightseeing in Copenhagen.

2. ACADEMICS:

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

- class registration- At Madison, registering for classes is often stressful but easy because you do it all yourself, you can see which classes are open and which are not. At CBS, class registration is very different. You are not sure if you will get the classes you want and you cannot chose at what time you would like to take it. Basically you send in a list of the first choice and alternative classes you would like to take and the school decides for you which classes you get and at what time. For me it ended up working out well and I got the classes I wanted but I know for some students they had too many class time overlaps that they had to adjust their schedules.

- classroom structure- At the Wisconsin School of Business, most of the classes are generally similarly structured. Each class usually has one or two exams during the semester and then a final at the end. Homework and project are also assigned during the semester. Attendance in some WSoB classes is very important and can impact your final grade. At CBS, most classes only have a final at the end that is worth 100% of your final grade. Projects and presentations are sometimes assigned and may impact your final grade but are generally not graded. Attendance is optional and does not affect your grade.

- instruction- Class instruction are all very similar at WSoB, generally the professor uses all of class time lecturing or working out example problems. At CBS, this was very similar, the professor used most of the class time to lecture, however, the student participated more during class and often the class was guided by the questions and contribution from the students.

- teacher/student relations - At WSoB, some of the teachers have a closer relationship with their students if the class size is smaller but generally the classes are larger making it difficult for teachers and students to get to know each other apart from office hours. At CBS it was very similar, the class size determined how well the teacher and students knew each other.

- grading/exams- **At WSoB the grading system is straight forward, whatever percentage you got determined your grade and you know which percentage will give you which grade. Apart from curved grades the grading system is easy to understand and for the most part fair. At CBS the grading system is different. Exams are graded using a seven point scale: -3,0,2,4,7,10,12. These grades may be linked to percentages but the impression I got was that the grades are relative and the professor decides which grade he thinks you deserve based on your exam.**
- administration- **The administration at both schools is well organized and respond quickly to emails.**
- library, computer, and classroom facilities- **The facilities at both schools are good. At CBS however, loading money on to your student ID is much easier than at UW-Madison because it is just a machine in the library that you stick your card in and put money on. At Madison you have to go online or go to the front desk at one of the dorms.**
- b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction- **The instruction content at CBS and Madison are both good and so is the quality.**
- c. In general, what did you like best and least about the academics?- **What I really liked about CBS academics is the laid back atmosphere and the fact that we only had one assignment that counted as our whole grade. I liked the atmosphere because it eliminated a lot of the pressure and stress that I often feel at my home university, this makes learning easier. I liked that we only had one graded assignment, this made me want to do really well instead of always convincing myself that I can improve on the next assignment which is how it is at Madison. I also liked how the exam formats varied from class to class. For some you had to write a paper, sit in for an oral exam, or participate in the ordinary written exam.**
- d. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?- **I would definitely recommend Corporate Finance (Fin 300) and Organizational Behavior (MHR 300). Both of these are great classes at CBS and fulfill business school requirements for all business students.**

3. HOUSING:

- a. How would you assess the housing arrangements?- **Housing was great! I loved the residence I stayed in. It is called Holger Danskes Vej and is a residence hall with only exchange students. At first I was skeptical because I wanted to meet other Danish students and not just exchange student but it ended up being really great because like me everyone was always willing to go out exploring or just hang out in the courtyard. The kitchens and bathrooms are shared and the courtyard is great for BBQing during warm weather. The shared kitchens are really great for meeting people and spending time together. The bathrooms are only shared with one other person.**
- b. How did you locate your housing?- **CBS assigned me a buddy who was to show me around and help me during my semester abroad. Upon arrive my buddy picked me up from the train station and took me to my housing.**

4. EXCHANGE SITE:

In general, please describe your impressions of the host University campus and its location and surrounding community.- **CBS does not exactly have a campus, the buildings are spread out but still relatively close together. Most of the CBS buildings are newer and have a very modern look to them. The neighborhood of Frederikberg in which CBS is located is really nice with a beautiful park, a shopping mall, lots of cafes and nice places to eat.**

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.- **I had no experience with any of these. Going to a doctor in Copenhagen is easy and free. I did not have any health or safety concerns.**

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.)- **I participated in some of the school events, went out on the weekends to all of the popular bars and clubs, and on occasion met up with my buddy and his friends.**
- b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them. (e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)- **There are some cultural differences but none of them proved challenging to adapt to. Men and Women in Scandinavian cultures are equal, so men and women can fulfill the same roles of working or taking care of the household. That was the main difference that I noticed.**

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 fellowship has been amazing! It allowed for so much more to be possible for me and I got to see more of Europe than I had originally planned.**
- b. What is the best way to access/transfer money?- **What I did was use a debit or credit card from home and just got money from an ATM and always paid in cash. Some people opened up bank accounts in Denmark and transferred money which is probably another good option because there are some things (concert tickets, festival tickets) that you can only purchase with a Danish card. It is very important though to get a pin for both credit and debit cards. Nearly everyone in Copenhagen pays with card and so it is just assumed that you have a pin number.**
- c. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, transportation, etc.- **It is really hard to say because each month you want to go out and do different things. An important thing to remember is that going out can get very expensive so it is good to keep in mind what you spend on the weekends because it can add up fast.**
- d. Please comment on the relative "cost of living" between your home University and the host University.- **Living in Copenhagen is expensive and so is eating out, compared to Madison. If you cook for yourself, the cost of food at the grocery store is reasonable so home cooked meals are the cheapest way to go. Overall Copenhagen is more expensive than Madison in most ways but living there is doable as long as you pay attention and keep track of your spendings.**

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?

The ScanDesign Fellowship organized a dinner for all of us to meet each other, I was unfortunately unable to attend but I think it is a good idea. During my time in Copenhagen I really liked attending the ScanDesign events, they were fun and offered us some insight into the Danish culture. The events were also things that I really wanted to do like: seeing a ballet in the royal theater, attending a handball and soccer game, going to Oslo for the weekend. The events were great and I am so glad that I attended nearly all of them.

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

The University administration office was great! They responded quickly to emails and were always very helpful.

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.

I think this exchange is suitable for anyone! CBS is a good school and Copenhagen has so much to offer, I think it has something to offer anyone. My advice to future students is to not let time get away from you, 6 months may seem like a long time but it really isn't. Go and see something new multiple times a week and participate in school and social activities, besides the point of going on exchange is to get out of your comfort zone and have an unforgettable experience.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

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

The quality of the overall experience was amazing! I do not regret my choice to study abroad at CBS and would choose the same school again if I could do it all over again.

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

Since I had no idea what to expect, the whole exchange surprised me. ScanDesign made a difference because I think it improved my study abroad, I got to meet new people and participate in and experience things that I normally would not have. It also let me know that I was still a part of something that was linked to my home university. During our activities, I got to talk to other student from my home university, which was nice because we could talk about how Denmark compared to home. Along with the many activities and financial benefits Scan/Design offers its participants, for me it also offered a sense of community which brought with it comfort in knowing that even though you are miles away from home you still know at least a few people who are will to help you if you need it.

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

The greatest benefit and challenge is definitely traveling with others or on your own. I did some traveling on my own. Of course it's challenging, scary and lonely at times but it made me so much more independent. By the end I was surprised by everything I could handle and do on my own.