

EXCHANGE STUDENT EVALUATION REPORT

Student Name: **Andrea Doll**

Institution where you studied: **DTU**

Term(s) of participation: **Spring 2015**

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1. WHY AND WHERE:

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

I decided to study in Denmark because of the engineering program, DTU. I also wanted to learn about their Green techniques and how they used them in everyday life. I wanted to experience a different culture other than American culture. Also, it helped that most people spoke English.

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

I selected DTU because of its high academic standard for engineering. I wanted to collaborate with international engineering students and professors.

- c. What were your expectations?

I expected there to be tall buildings in Copenhagen. I have only been to large cities in the US so I expected there to be lots of traffic, including cars and people. I also expected it to be more fast pace with people around. I also did not believe how flat it actually was.

- d. What preparations did you make prior to departure?

I didn't make many preparations because I like to learn as I go.

- e. How could you improve your preparations?

I could improve my preparations by learning even a minimal amount of Danish. Also, I should have explored and understood the cities and how the local transport worked. I should have learned about the different extracurricular activities

2. ARRIVAL/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

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

The best accommodations would be AirBnbs, prior to being able to move into campus housing. Also, Copenhagen Downtown Hostel was a fun and active hostel. Also, living in Campus buildings is also great. I lived in Campus Village and it was a great way to meet international students. Also, some of my friends lived in KampSax and thought it was great in regards to meeting Danes. If people wanted to live closer to the city I would suggest Tasingegade 29.

- 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?

2. ACADEMICS:

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

- class registration

Online process; straight forward.

- classroom structure

4 hour long classroom time in Denmark with most classes having half lecture and half group work. The class is only once a week. At UW-Madison, the class is about an hour with 2-3 lectures a week and 1-2 discussions (group work).

- instruction

In Denmark the lectures were not as in depth and detailed. They were based more on class discussion and participation. At UW-Madison the lectures are based with hard facts and in depth material. Most instructors are well educated and good at presentation of material.

- teacher/student relations

The classes are much smaller in Denmark so it makes for a better relationship between teacher and student. At UW-Madison the classes are extremely large so it is hard to get to know your teacher.

- grading/exams

The exams at DTU are mostly open note and are usually 4 hours long. There are also oral exams. There is also only 1 at the end of the semester, usually. At UW-Madison there are multiple exams during the semester, about 3 with 1 final. However, the final is worth less of a percentage, about 35% at UW-Madison where at DTU they are worth about 80-100% of your grade.

- administration

- library, computer, and classroom facilities

There about over 40 libraries at UW-Madison all with different genres of books and resources and only 1 at DTU. The library at DTU is very up-to-date and has great resources.

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

Teachers keep students more involved at DTU than at UW-Madison during lecture. Quality of teaching is great at both universities and the content is more in depth at UW-Madison.

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

I liked that there was more active discussion about the content and interaction with other students and teachers at DTU.

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

3. HOUSING:

a. How would you assess the housing arrangements?

I stayed at Campus Village and I enjoyed my time there. It was a bit grimy, meaning the showers had some mold and the bathrooms and kitchens weren't the nicest. Overall, I met loads of people there and the communal kitchen was a great feature.

b. How did you locate your housing?

Suggested by advisor and registered through university.

4. EXCHANGE SITE:

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

The host University, DTU, had great facilities. There was quite a bit of construction going on so you could tell the campus was being updated. In terms of location, it was nearly a little community or town because there was a clear cut of university buildings and residency buildings. There are 2 main streets that go through

campus. Also it was about 20 minutes from Lyngby, a quaint town, by foot and about 45 minutes from Copenhagen by public transportation.

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 did not attend any health facilities, but I felt very safe at all times even walking alone at night. If you have a bike, buy a lock. It will get stolen otherwise.

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 integrated with a majority of them through my courses. Everyone is very interested in talking to you and act as if you are part of the group. I also met many people at the pubs and out in the town.

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

If you didn't wear black, grey, or navy you might get a look or two. Also, people are always very quiet and usually keep to themselves, especially on public transport. People do not have random conversations, etc. Also, nearly everyone in Denmark treat each other at the same level. You are not looked down upon and you are not treated like a child. Everyone speaks to you in a mature manner and does not see ones age as an importance.

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 assisted me because it covered my entire tuition, without which I would not have been able to travel to such a lovely place.

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

ATM.

c. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.

Including rent, food, and transportation around \$700-\$800/month.

d. Please comment on the relative "cost of living" between your home University and the host University.

The cost of living was about the same. It's about \$450/month to live on campus at DTU and at UW-Madison.

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?

I found the coordinators most helpful during our stay. The events they planned were always well organized and were a great way to meet other studying individuals.

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

Everything ran smoothly.

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.

A student who is looking for a culture change but not a 180° culture change. A student who is willing to put effort into schoolwork but is also willing to explore and study outside the classroom. A student who wants to learn.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

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

I would give my experience a 10/10.

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

Academic expectations were achieved and I achieved personal expectations that I didn't even know if I was going to obtain. Scan|Design allowed us to attend events and see different parts of Copenhagen that we didn't think we could possibly do.

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

The greatest challenge was coming back to the US and immersing myself back into American culture. The greatest benefit was exploring and learning about different cultures and understanding how to live and thrive in a culture that you know little about.

FEEL FREE TO ADD OTHER COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE.