

EXCHANGE STUDENT EVALUATION REPORT

Student Name: Andrea Moyer

Institution where you studied: Danish Institute for Study Abroad DIS

Semester of participation: Summer

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1. Pre-Exchange. Why and Where:

- a. Why did you decide to study in the US or Denmark as an exchange student?
I chose to study abroad in Denmark this summer because of the program offered and the advice of a family friend who had previously studied in Denmark.
- b. Why did you select the program/University?
 - I chose this program because it offered science courses. As a science major, it is difficult to find study abroad options that will fulfill major requirements. This program also included Study Tours. These study tours allowed me to get a different countries approach to what we were learning.
- c. What were your expectations?
- d. What preparations did you make prior to departure?
 - I made sure to look up some of the cultural differences between countries before coming. I looked up different social norms and dress. I also, made sure to get a bank account I could use abroad.
- e. How could you improve your preparations?
I could've improved my preparations by starting them further in advance,

2. ARRIVAL/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

- a. Recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.
 - Live in a Kollegium with a shared kitchen. I found that that was the best way to meet Danes and interact with them.
- b. 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 prepare / adjust after arriving?
 - The host university provided us with a get to know the city activity our first day after arrival. This helped us immediately get to see the major attractions of Copenhagen.

2. ACADEMICS:

- a. Evaluate the instruction you received. Compare the following to your home institution's system:
 - class registration
 - I wish the ability to switch classes would've been easier in my host country and more similar to my home institutions.
 - classroom structure
 - I did enjoy having smaller class sizes abroad, and the ability to get to know my teachers one-on-one.
 - teacher/student relations

- The study tours allowed for us to get to know our teacher better, and therefore learn better from them.
- administration
 - I did not have much interaction with the administration.
- library, computer, and classroom facilities
 - The facilities available were very helpful and well equipped.
- c. In general, what did you like best and least about the academics?
 - I enjoyed having the study tours the most from the academics. I disliked how much time during the day some of the classes were. Especially when the classes were straight lectures all day. I do not feel that the material was really learned.
- d. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?
 - Bicycle Urbanism and Bianca!

3. HOUSING:

- a. How would you assess the housing arrangements?
 - I really enjoyed my housing arrangement. I lived in Kollegium, but unfortunately on a floor without a shared kitchen. I was lucky enough to have friends on a floor with a shared kitchen and spent most of my time there. In that kitchen I was able to make life-long friends with the Dane's living there and other Americans. In the future, I recommend that students be required to have a shared kitchen because you miss out on so much more without one.
- b. How did you locate your housing?
 - The first day I located the Kollegium by a taxi. After though, my fellow students and I used the metro or bus to get home. Towards the end of my stay, I ended up renting a bike.

4. EXCHANGE SITE:

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

- The location was right in the center of Copenhagen. Extremely beautiful area and easily accessible.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

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

- None

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 met members of the host country through my living situation and at the local bars.
- b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them. (e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)
 - Danes generally have a colder exterior than at home, so one thing to get used to was the lack of small talk and the social barriers. But once you started a conversation, it was easy to tell how caring of people they are. I also learned to get used to the smoking everywhere. People frequently smoke in Denmark. I also picked up on different social cues on how not to stand out.

Such as wearing black or standing on the right side of the escalator- not in the middle.

7. FINANCIAL:

- a. Describe how the Scan|Design Foundation Fellowship assisted you / made a difference in your decision to study abroad.
 - The Scan Design Foundation helped ease the financial burden of studying abroad, and help make it possible for me to attend.
- b. What is the best way to access/transfer money?
 - I used a Schwab bank account on the trip and always withdrew cash to use. Schwab allows you to use any atm and does not charge you a fee.
- d. Comment on the relative "cost of living" between your home University and the host University.
 - The cost of living in Copenhagen is higher than home.

8. EXCHANGE/SCAN | DESIGN FELLOWSHIP COORDINATORS AND ADMINISTRATION:

Activities

Comment on the number and type of activities arranged by the coordinators. What worked and what would you like replaced with some other activity.

- There were two activities arranged when I was abroad. One I could not attend due to class, but the other I could. We went to a restaurant on one of the canals and it allowed us to get know the coordinators and for them to get to know us.

Suggestions for activities we should add to the program

- An activity on the canal

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

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

- Anyone who travels abroad should not be afraid to try new things and to ask questions. I found that getting lost was the best way for me to find my way around the city and it helped me gain confidence in my own abilities. I also would advise getting to know the people. I do not think my experience would've been as great as it was if I did not make the friends I did. They know the city and can teach you things about it that you would've never learned if you had tried yourself.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

- a. How would you rate the quality of the overall experience?
 - 100/10
- c. What did you consider to be the greatest benefit and challenge of studying abroad?
 - The greatest benefit of studying abroad was the confidence I gained from learning how to live in a foreign country. I was able to learn more about my own abilities and prove to myself that I could figure out a metro system or directions etc. The friendships I made and the experiences I gained will last with me forever.
 - The challenges of studying abroad were getting over the culture shock of having everything in a different language, and realizing it is okay to ask questions and to look "stupid". People are happy to help and in the long run it helps you become a stronger person.