

## EXCHANGE STUDENT EVALUATION REPORT

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**Student Name:** Mary Cochran

**Institution where you studied:** Copenhagen Business School

**Semester of participation:** Fall 2014

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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 Denmark because I wanted to study abroad in a place I did not know much about and a place not many people studied abroad in. After researching Copenhagen and Copenhagen Business School (CBS), I knew Copenhagen was the place for me.
- b. Why did you select the program/University?
  - I selected my program because it was a Foster School of Business direct exchange, meaning I could receive business credit while abroad. I also researched CBS and was interested in the diversity the university had to offer.
- c. What were your expectations?
  - I expected the classes to be difficult.
  - I expected the weather to be a little colder.
- d. What preparations did you make prior to departure?
  - I got my Denmark student visa before I left.
- e. How could you improve your preparations?
  - I could have planned more trips within Denmark before I went. I did not do as much travelling within the country as I would have liked.

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

- a. Recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.
  - I stayed in a dorm that was set up for me through CBS. The accommodations were nice.
- 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?
  - CBS had a very engaging week of welcoming activities for all of the international students. The events they planned were very fun and it was a great way to get to know people from other countries.

### 2. ACADEMICS:

- a. Evaluate the instruction you received. Compare the following to your home institution's system:
  - class registration
    - Registration was very straight forward. CBS gave me a time period to register and a list of all of the available classes. It was actually less stressful than my home university.
  - classroom structure
    - Classes were only 2-3 times a week but the classes were very long (almost 3 hours). The classes were mostly lecture focused and focused on

the textbook that went along with the class. The learning is self-driven. The hardest thing to get used to was the final exam structure. The final exams are worth 100% of your grade, which can make for a pretty stressful few weeks.

- instruction
  - The teachers were knowledgeable. However, I feel like I learn better at my home university.
- teacher/student relations
  - Teachers were friendly and open to questions. However, help is more available at my home university.
- grading/exams
  - As I said before, the final exams are very stressful because they determine your entire grade. They often include an oral portion, which can be intimidating. I prefer having other projects and homework that can contribute to my final grade.
- administration
  - I had limited contact with the admin but when I did, they were friendly and helpful.
- library, computer, and classroom facilities
  - The CBS facilities were very nice.

**b. Evaluate the quality and content of instruction.**

- I found that the instruction at my home university was better than what I experienced abroad. I feel like I might have learned more at my home university.

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

- I liked the class schedules and the variety of class length (some of my classes only went for 6 weeks). I did not like the grading system.

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

- Take what you are interested in.

**3. HOUSING:**

**a. How would you assess the housing arrangements?**

- The housing arrangements were very nice. The dorm I had was much nicer than the dorm I lived in during my first year at UW.

**b. How did you locate your housing?**

- I found housing through the university.

**4. EXCHANGE SITE:**

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

- I loved Copenhagen and really enjoyed my experience at CBS. I enjoyed being at a smaller university for a semester. Copenhagen is a unique European city with a distinct culture.

**5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:**

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

- I felt extremely safe in Copenhagen. I had international student insurance and a CPR card, therefore I did not worry about my health because if I were to require medical attention, I would have gotten it easily.

## **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 community through my university.
  - I interacted with the culture and the Danes every time I went out into the city.
- b.** Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them. (e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)
  - I did not run into any major cultural differences. One thing I noticed is that when you greet someone you don't know, you don't ask how they are like you would in the US. Also, the grocery stores are very different and when you check out, efficiency is key. You shouldn't waste time. Bicycling is very popular in Denmark. If you bike, make sure to follow all rules because the Danes don't mess around when it comes to their bicycles. Lastly, most items are more expensive in Denmark than they are in the US. Especially, if you go out to eat. Expect to pay at least \$20 for a meal at a restaurant.

## **7. FINANCIAL:**

- a.** Describe how the Scan|Design Foundation Fellowship assisted you / made a difference in your decision to study abroad.
  - Scan Design was very instrumental in my study abroad. The fellowship I was awarded paid for all of my tuition while I was abroad as well as some of my rent. This was extremely useful in Copenhagen because the cost of living there is higher than in the US.
- b.** What is the best way to access/transfer money?
  - I did not have a debit/credit card with a chip in it, therefore I had to pay for everything in cash. I used my debit to pull out money from ATMs. I paid for my housing by doing a money transfer from my bank in the US to the housing department at CBS.
- c.** How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.
  - It is so hard to determine how much money I spent each month because I paid for my housing to two large sums. Outside of rent, I probably pulled out around 2000-3000 DK each month. How much you spend on food really depends on where you eat and how often you go out. For transportation, I paid 360 DK a month for my metro pass.
- d.** Comment on the relative "cost of living" between your home University and the host University.
  - Cost of living in Denmark is higher than it is in the US. Almost everything is more expensive in Denmark.

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

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?

- Scan Design offered a lot of cool activities/trips for us in Denmark. I think the trip to the Opera was a very cool event that should be continued.

## **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.

- This exchange is best suited for self-motivated students who are academically disciplined. Also, the student should be open and excited to be engrossed in a new culture.
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#### **10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:**

- a. How would you rate the quality of the overall experience?
  - I had a great overall experience.
- b. How realistic were your academic and personal expectations and how did the Scan|Design Fellowship Program make a difference?
  - I did not go into the exchange with too many expectations so the limited expectations I did have were fairly realistic. Scan Design helped me go out and explore my surroundings through the many activities and trips they planned. They also helped with my expenses.
- c. What did you consider to be the greatest benefit and challenge of studying abroad?
  - The greatest benefit is learning how to adjust to a completely different way of life. I learned so much about myself on this trip as well as about my surroundings. The greatest challenge is adjusting to your new life and making sure you enjoy every second of your trip because it will be over before you know it!