



Student Exchange Program

International Student Services

Exchange Final Report

Student Information

Faculty at UVic	<u>Anthropology</u>
Major/Minor	<u>Anthropology and Environmental Studies</u>
Host University	<u>The University of Copenhagen</u>
Host Country	<u>Denmark</u>
Dates of Exchange	<u>February 4th – June 7th</u>

Overall Exchange Experience

Please Rate your Overall Exchange Experience

1	2	3	4	5
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What was the most rewarding part of your exchange experience? Please outline any highlights.

I learned a lot from stepping out of the academic context of UVic and into a completely new study environment. I found the casual atmosphere of the classroom at KU to be very rewarding: class sizes were small (about 30 people in a lecture) and professors were easy to engage in conversation regarding course material.

What was the greatest challenge during your exchange?

I found budgeting in Denmark to be quite challenging. I usually work during the semester, but I was unable to in Copenhagen because of how short of a period I was going to be living in the city. I found myself constantly thinking about balancing my two goals of enjoying my exchange semester to the fullest and not spending too much money living in one of the world's most expensive cities.

Travel

Cost of air travel \$3,000

Cost of ground transportation (ex. monthly bus pass) Bike rental subscription for \$30/month

Did host university representatives meet you at the airport? This option was offered, but I declined to be picked up because I was arriving in Copenhagen with my mom.

Is there easy transportation between the airport and university? Yes

Orientation

Is there an organized orientation session upon arrival?

Yes

How easy was it to find the info you needed to know upon arrival?

The University website is difficult to navigate, but relevant information is always sent out by email. Additionally, the system of building, floor, and classroom notation as is recorded on the university website were explained at orientation.

What assistance did you receive from your host institution upon arrival?

Prior to departure I signed up for a "buddy program" and upon arrival I was invited to a brunch with my "mentors" and fellow "mentees". There were also university events held throughout the semester especially for those enrolled in the exchange program.

Accommodation

Is on-campus accommodation available? Accommodation for students is available through the Housing Foundation, which provides accommodation for both students and interns.

If yes, did you live on campus? Yes

Would you recommend this to future students? Yes

If you lived off-campus, how did you find housing?

Approximately how much money would you budget per month for living, including accommodation and meals?

\$1,000

Language Programs

Is there a language program available either before or during the semester?

Yes

Is there an additional cost for the language training?

No

Academics

Was it possible for you to get all the courses that you wanted?

No

Please describe the course registration process

The course list for the upcoming semester was made available on the university's website prior to registration. However, the courses listed on offer for the spring semester of 2019 changed between when I first went on the website and when I returned to the site to register. Registration involved a simple process of emailing a word document with desired course names and codes to school officials.

Describe the manner and quality of instruction at your host university

Classes were held once a week for three hours. Style of instruction differed between professors, but generally consisted of a mixture of lectures, group work, and student presentations. Some lecturers relied more heavily on different aspects than others, yet I would say that all of my classes were well instructed.

What do you feel is the greatest academic benefit you have gained personally from your exchange?

One of my professors included a peer editing component in the course structure, which I found immensely valuable for my own learning. We handed in two drafts of a final paper to be edited by peers and then met in feedback groups to discuss the papers that we had edited and hear the feedback we received on our own papers. Through this process I was able to refine my coursework to a degree that I would likely not have been able to achieve on my own.

Personal and Cultural Connections

How easy was it to adjust to the local culture? What (if any) cultural differences did you find particularly challenging? What parts of the culture did you most appreciate?

I found Danish culture to be relatively easy to adjust to. The most difficult aspect for me to come to accept was that no matter how hard I tried to say the words I had learned in Danish that people would recognize that I was an anglophone and would consequentially speak to me in English. I really appreciated experiencing the start of the Nordic summer. The Danes truly know how to make good use of a sunny day by lounging by the sea playing in the grass and eating soft ice. I got quite used to jumping into freezing cold bodies of water on any day that the temperature was above 15 degrees C.

What kinds of cultural, athletic and social activities were available for students at your host institution?

A wide array of activities is available to students through the University of Copenhagen's athletics association, but they are not the most economical option. I chose instead to seek out cheap or free recreational activities independent of the university, and I ended up attending free biweekly yoga classes and a free weekly improvised acting class.

The university did provide lovely free social activities: there were departmental Friday bars and parties on campus every couple of weeks as well as an end of semester festival that was free to attend.