



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	Aarhus University
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	S2, 2023
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	LLB and BA
<b>Major(s)</b>	Law and Sociology (minor in Communications)

### Academics/ course load

*Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?*

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Language of instruction</b>	<b>Otago equivalent</b>
Introduction to Sociological Theory and Analysis of the Contemporary	English	
Introduction to Global Challenges	English	

Total Otago credits gained:  54 points  72 points  108 points  \_\_\_\_\_

*Any comments about these papers?*

Very different teaching style to Otago's, however they were in-depth theoretical understandings that I find useful in the sense that it provided me with more confidence in presenting my ideas.

*How did the academic experience/ workload/ style of teaching differ from Otago?*

The academic experience was very different to what I am used to. Each of my lectures was in small classrooms, where the majority of the teachings came from discussion and dialogue about the readings assigned for that class. It was also obligatory to meet with your assigned study group for around 2 hours per week to discuss the assigned readings or prepare presentations (which we had to do a lot for Introduction to Global Challenges).

As for the workload, the intensity can be disputed. Each class had 1-5 readings assigned to it – which was essential to read in most circumstances because we were to discuss it in depth. There were also

plenty of presentations and for each class in Introduction to Sociological Theory and Analysis of the Contemporary, we were asked to answer around 3 or more questions that we used in discussions. However, these were not compulsory nor marked therefore you could get through the class but each lecture would be rather awful. Both papers had three internal portfolios which constituted our grade. Introduction to Global Challenges required significantly more time because we had to make a podcast within a group and prepare a video essay, while in Introduction to Sociological Theory and Analysis of the Contemporary, there were two essays and one presentation.

Furthermore, the style of teaching was different from Otago. It depends on the department/lecturer, but many of the lectures (especially in the arts department) were 3 hours long and were discussion-based rather than lecturing.

## Accommodation

*What accommodation did you stay in? What were the pros and cons of your accommodation?*

I stayed in Kollegium 2, which is one of the University Residential Halls on campus. Each hall has around 15 full-time Danish students with one room reserved for an international student.

The positives of the accommodation is that I was forced into interactions with Danish people. I got to experience birthday and Christmas traditions, learn the language and make some amazing friends. I also had a spacious room with my own ensuite and balcony one minute's walk from the Royal Library.

The negatives were that there were not any international students, and it is culturally known that Danish people are more reserved and take longer to socialise than many other cultures. So my first month was a little rocky. Also, the kitchen is not equipped to house everyone cooking at 7 pm so dinners were a bit stressful.

## Money matters

*Please detail your basic costs, e.g. accommodation, flights, visa, food, insurance*

Accommodation: \$800/month

Flights: I paid around \$1600 but I booked rather late (and flew into Naples and backpacked up to Aarhus)

Food: very similar pricing to NZ

Insurance: bought the one offered at the university seminar

*What means did you use to access your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, Cash passport, foreign bank account, etc.)*

I cannot stress this enough – USE WISE!!!! They are so good, no matter what country you are in and you can upload money from your NZ account almost instantly. I had one issue with them not verifying my address for a few days so I suggest having a back up (maybe another cash passport or having your NZ card).

Don't worry about getting a Danish bank account, you don't need it and no matter how annoying it is not having mobile pay, it isn't worth it.

## Visas & Insurance

*Did you have to apply for a visa? What was the process?*

You have to apply for a Danish visa. I made the stupid mistake of waiting until I got to Denmark to apply which made travelling difficult as my visa card took ages to arrive.

Apply online and get all your documentation sorted, book an appointment at the VFS Global in Auckland (make sure you have paid the money to the Danish Consulate in Sydney and printed out every single bit of the documentation). Get your biometrics done and then get your visa as soon as you get into Denmark. If you are flying in, ask at the airport. If you are going in by train, like me, they will not stamp your passport unless you ask. Get them to stamp it because your Schengen time may decrease ☹️

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

Don't think so

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

*What organised activities were available to students? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students?*

The events at the Studenterhus were amazing when we first got there! There is an English pub quiz, Latin nights, International nights and much more! The drinks are super cheap and a really good atmosphere for meeting other people. The fredags bars are also amazing and each department has its own which you can volunteer at.

There were organised career expos and trips to places like Skagen (beach on the coast) and Lapland (Finnish territory) that were available to students. Also, I suggest trying their running group Run for Friendship, which occurs three times a week and is a great way to meet others no matter your capabilities.

*What was the university/ city like?*

The University was

The city is known to be the cultural city of Denmark.

*Any recommendations for things to do, places to visit, places to eat etc.?*

My favourite places to visit outdoors were Mølleparken during the summer where there is live music and locals love to picnic there, the Risskov beach is also a favourite (but there are heaps of jellyfish so watch out), Salling Rooftop and Udsigtspladsen. Indoors were ARoS, the many board game cafes and live gigs at Sound of Aarhus or Ridehuset (techno and bands).

You are looking at Denmark so obviously I am going to give you café's with good pastries. Briançon (croissants), For Emma (gluten-free), Café Englen, and Grød. But, honestly the main university library was my favourite because it was so accessible (try the drømmekage: it is the best thing I have ever had). Finally, my favourite bars were Willies, Bar SMIL, Waxies + Sherlock Holmes (they played the Rugby World Cup Games) and Der Kuhstall (they have this fun Danish game with nails).

*Any tips for future students?*

Bring weather-appropriate clothes. Denmark gets cold if you are there during the Autumn/Winter months

## Overall Experience

*Please write one paragraph (or more) about your exchange experience. Please include some photos!*

Aarhus, Denmark is now my second home on the other side of the world. Everything was amazing about it: the university, the people, the food, the culture and the city! Being the second largest city and the capital of culture in Denmark, Aarhus is very vibrant in the summer months with all the parks and festivals, and cosy in the winter with a Julefrokost every other day and colourful markets.

I recommend Aarhus to those people who like a tight-knit community, being fully indoctrinated in a beautiful culture specialising in pastries and hygge (the warm feeling you get by enjoying good things with good people), and those who like riding their bike in the snow. I met the best people and lived in the best city, and I would do it all again in a heartbeat.

