

**Aarhus School of Business**  
**Semester 1 2010**  
**Bcom Marketing**

The five months I spent in Aarhus attending Aarhus School of Business (ASB) were probably the best 5 months of my life and I would definitely recommend an exchange to ASB to anyone looking to go on exchange.

**Aarhus**

Aarhus is the second biggest city in Denmark with two main universities, Aarhus University and the school of business (ASB). Upon arrival I was nervous because I knew absolutely no Danish even though I knew my classes were in English, arriving in a non English speaking country was a little scary. I soon learnt I had absolutely nothing to worry about, everyone in Aarhus speaks very good English, in my whole 5 months I only met one old lady in a bank who didn't speak English and people don't mind switching to English for you. When I arrived in Aarhus it was freezing with snow on the ground and most days during my first month the high was still below zero so definitely take some warm clothes! By the time I left the weather was much nicer at the end of June and it was hard to believe how cold the winter was.

**Aarhus School of Business**

Aarhus School of Business is a really nice university located about a 20 minute walk from down town with buses frequently running to and from school to the city and the suburbs. ASB has heaps of classes in English so it wasn't too hard for me to pick courses that matched up with papers back home. Classes are a lot smaller than Otago with no more than 40 people per class so at times in class participation is more customary than at Otago. All classes have no internal grades and the grades are based on the final exam, however my classes all had a requirement to do a group presentation during the semester which was not graded. Exams were relatively easy, one of my exams was a take home essay, one was a ten minute presentation and two were open book, open lap top exams which you could go on the internet during the exam and had the option to type exams rather than write. Class attendance is not compulsory it is said to be more for your own benefit which makes it easy for exchange students to travel during the semester.

**International Office**

ASB has an amazing team at the international office. Firstly they organise accommodation for every exchange student and pay the first deposit on the rent (which you pay them back on arrival) so you can move in as soon as you arrive. The international office also organises a really fun orientation week when you first arrive which is a great way to meet other exchange students and some of the Danish student tutors. The international office also organises events throughout the semester including a trip to Brussels, a trip to Legoland and various exchange student parties.

**Accommodation**

The international office at ASB finds accommodation for all exchange students. When you arrive in Aarhus you make your way to the school and to the international office where they drive you to where your accommodation is. I was incredibly lucky with my accommodation out of the 140 exchanges students me and a girl from Austria were lucky enough to be placed in a nice apartment right downtown. We were very lucky, most people are placed either in Skjold Kollegiet or Viby which are both about 25min bus rides away from school and down town. I would say however it really does not matter at all where you live, the bus services are pretty good and no matter where you live there are always other exchange students living there too especially in Skjold where every other weekend there was a party happening at somebody's common room. Accommodation varies in price depending on where you get placed ranging from about 12,500dk (\$3000NZ) - 14,500dk

**(\$3600NZ) for the 5 months. This includes everything (power, heating, internet) and there are no bills after the rent is paid.**

### **Money**

Denmark is really an expensive country; GST is 25% on everything so it is not the cheapest place to live. When I arrived I opened up a bank account at Nordea bank which is relatively easy to do. Then I just transferred money across so I wouldn't have to pay international transaction fees every time I used my card or withdrew cash. I would say that after rent I spent between 700dk (\$173NZ) and 1000dk (\$247) a week on food, alcohol, bus pass, phone card, etc. So it was very expensive but it was so much fun that I think it was definitely worth every dollar.

### **Night life**

The two main places we went out to in Aarhus were on Thursday nights the bar at ASB called Klubben and on Friday and/or Saturday nights a big club called Social Club. All the exchange students usually went out all together in a big group on Friday and Saturday's with people having pre-drinks all together somewhere before. Klubben was really fun to go to on Thursday with cheap drinks and a good way for all the exchange students to hang out together. There are also other bars along the canal and downtown including an Irish bar Tir Na Nog which exchange students always went to during the soccer world cup to watch each other's home countries play.

### **Travel**

Aarhus is a great city to stay in because Ryan Air has really cheap flights flying into Aarhus airport and the nearby Billund airport. There are also great train tickets you can get to travel around Europe. During my time there I used Ryan Air a lot including a trip to London for 5 days and 10€ return flights from Aarhus to Oslo in Norway. I also used the train with a group of 9 to travel to Berlin, Prague, Vienna and Innsbruck during the spring break. There is also the organised trip by the international office to Brussels which was really fun. Because you have to have a visa to go to Denmark travel is relatively easy especially in European countries other than the UK because your visa grants access to these countries during your time in Denmark. After my exchange a group of 10 of us went to Malta for 5 days as a final holiday goodbye and had the most amazing time. Definitely make the most of travelling because in Europe it is really cheap to fly with Ryan air and the other budget airlines.

Overall... Best time ever! Met the most amazing people and I really miss them now and can't wait to visit them/ them visit me here!



Aarhus Canal



Local Bar Downtown



Ice Skating in the outdoor rink