



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

<i>Host University</i>	University of Copenhagen
<i>Semester & Year of Exchange</i>	Semester 1, 2018
<i>Otago degree(s)</i>	LLB, BSci
<i>Major(s)</i>	Genetics

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent	Otago credit value
Plant Breeding	English	GENE 314	30 points
Corporate Social Responsibility	English	LAWS400 level paper	18 points

Any comments about these papers?

Really interesting papers, that I would not have had the opportunity to take at Otago

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

There was more contact time in class than at Otago and no internal assessments, rather all marks are from the final exams.

Accommodation

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

Hall of residence accommodation. It was really nice- quite a new building. However, it was very expensive.

Money matters

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

Costs included flights, insurance, visa, accommodation, food, phone plan, semester travel, public transport, bike.

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

I kept my NZ bank account and used a debit card and a cash passport whilst in EU and UK (cash passport doesn't do danish krone).

Visas & Insurance

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

Yes, I had to apply for a residency permit for Denmark. It was quite an intense process and included going to Auckland to have my biometrics taken (photo, fingerprints), I also needed proof of financial stability for living in Denmark. And when I got to Denmark I needed to get my CPR number (social security number) which is required for a phone plan and bank account, and NEMID.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

No

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

There were a few activities available, and they had a peer mentor system for the international students which ran events as well.

What was the university/ city like?

Really great city to live in and a good university: very accessible lecturers and good class content. City is easy to get around, especially with a bike, and is very safe. The people are friendly and nice, and overall there is a very social atmosphere. It definitely comes alive in the spring and summer compared to the winter. Even then winter has a very hygge feel.

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

Copenhagen has so much to see and do: Nyhavn, Christiania, Louisiana museum of modern art, Rosenberg castle & Kings gardens, Kronborg castle, The little mermaid, Tivoli amusement park, boat rides in the canals, a few towers with amazing views of the city, amager beach, amalienborg castle, Frederiks church, Ny Carlsberg glyptotek, Carlsberg brewery, Danish design museum, Copenhagen zoo and frederiksberg gardens, Gasoline grill burgers and any of the Danish hotdog stands.

Any tips for future students?

Copenhagen/Denmark is insanely bureaucratic so make sure you get all the paper work done and on the right days (the Danes run often at odd hours on random days). Get a bike ASAP. Denmark is expensive to eat out/get coffee but supermarkets are on par with NZ. Get google translate. Danes all speak English, but some Danish words are handy: hej (hi), tak (thanks), unnskyld (sorry/excuse me), nej (no), ja (yes). Also get a rejsekort travel card, which will work for all public transport (metro, train and bus).

Overall Experience

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

Exchange was an incredible experience! It was nerve wracking going to a country where English is not the first language and Danish is very difficult to learn and pronounce. However, everyone speaks perfect English and will switch automatically, and then apologise for not initially speaking English. The Danes are very polite and can be perceived as a bit reserved, but are very friendly. Copenhagen University was very nice and was weighted heavily in the final exams. It was very discussion based and there was lots of class participation. The city itself is really cool and a great place to live! I loved the bike life and it is by far the best mode of transport in Copenhagen. It got a bit cold in winter but there are always people braving the snow on the bikes. The city has its own character and each district has a different atmosphere. Once spring and summer arrives all the “summer Danes” come out and hang out on the bridges and sunbathe in parks. There are also no drinking restrictions so it’s not unusual to bike past a group having some beers in the afternoon on the Queen Lousie bridge.





