



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	University of Copenhagen
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	Semester 2 2018
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Bachelor of Science
<b>Major(s)</b>	Zoology and Genetics

### Academics/ course load

*Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?*

<b>Course title</b>	<b>Language of instruction</b>	<b>Otago equivalent</b>	<b>Otago credit value</b>
Gene Technology	English	2x generic 300-level gene papers	36
Conservation	English	ZOOL319	18
Ancient DNA and Evolution	English	GENE312	18

*Any comments about these papers?*

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

The style of teaching is quite casual. Students are encouraged to interrupt the lecturer if they have questions and class discussions are common. Overall the workload was less than at Otago (for my courses). Several of the final exams were oral exams – basically a chat with the examiner about the course content where they ask you a few specific questions and you discuss what you learnt in the course. Some courses have written exams instead.

## Accommodation

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

I was living in a student dorm, which is just like an apartment building for students. I had a studio apartment with my own bathroom and kitchen, and there were also shared kitchens in the building. I found housing through the Housing Foundation which provides accommodation for students (there are lots of student dorms in the city). Housing foundation dorms are quite expensive – it might be cheaper to find other accommodation, but private accommodation is really hard to find in Copenhagen.

## Money matters

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

Accommodation in Copenhagen is expensive. Food from supermarkets is about the same price as in NZ, but eating out is more expensive.

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

I used my debit card (NZ bank account). There were small fees for every transaction though.

## Visas & Insurance

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

Yes, you do need a visa to study Denmark. To get this you need to go in person to Auckland to get your biometric data taken at VFS global. All up the Visa costs around \$1000.

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

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

Volunteer if you can – I volunteered at the student run café (Studenterhuset) and with an organisation called Foodsharing Copenhagen.

The buddy programme (for the science department) ran social events and field trips.

The University also has lots of clubs and sports teams that you can join.

*What was the university/ city like?*

The city is quite small and easy to get around (either by bike, public transport or walking)

There are lots of bars and cafes, museums and castles. There is always something happening.

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

There is heaps to do in the city – lots of museums and castles etc.

If you are interested in art go to the Louisiana Museum of modern art (about an hour by train outside of the city)

You can also go to Kronborg castle or Frederiksborg castle (both are a few hours away but easy to get to by train). Kronborg is the castle that

*Any tips for future students?*

Get involved with buddy programmes and student organised events, especially in the first few weeks.

## Overall Experience

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

Going on exchange will take you out of your comfort zone. Being alone in another country is exciting and scary, but so rewarding. You meet new people and make new friends. I also wasted far less time while on exchange – I made the most of every weekend and every opportunity, to explore my new city, and to travel to other places. It was also good to experience a different style of teaching/learning – I feel like it made my overall education experience better.