

## **LLB/BSc Exchange at Copenhagen University (KU)**

I was attracted to Copenhagen by pictures from Scandinavian design books, comments that the entire population was blonde and good looking, their eco-friendly approach to living, and finally that the Danes are consistently voted "The Happiest People in the World." I was not disappointed! I absolutely loved Copenhagen, and would go back in a heartbeat.

Because I was a semester two exchange, I had two months travelling around Europe before setting up in Copenhagen, and when I arrived I knew I had picked a good spot to be based for 4 months.

First of all, make sure you buy a bike ASAP! This is essential! You can catch the trains if you have to, but mostly people get around by bike, so its much better to join a group of people biking, rather than having to meet them at the train station. I had a bike with a basket which was fantastic, because you can put your backpack/groceries or whatever in there.

### **Classes**

I studied at Copenhagen University (KU) and did two papers at the law campus in town, and one paper at the science campus in Friedriksburg. Being at two campuses was very manageable in terms of transport, (only a 15 minute bike ride between them). It was also good because each faculty has Friday drinks once a month, and if you are part of two campuses you can go to both.

The science papers operate in a block system, where you do one paper intensively for 2 months, with an exam at the end, and then the other for two months. Because I had to leave at Christmas, I had to pick a science course that was finished in Block 1 (September-Mid November) because the block 2 courses finish at the end of January.

Both law courses had a lot less contact hours than those at Otago, even at Masters level. I recommend doing classes where they say something in the course description about group work, because it makes it a lot easier to make friends in class, rather than awkwardly trying to strike up conversation with the people sitting next to you.

The law classes especially have lots of international students, so there's good opportunity to grab a coffee in the breaks. The Danes are all really nice, but it can be hard to make the move from acquaintance to friend.

The text books for the law classes were really helpful for the course, but also very expensive. They have copies on reserve at the law library which you can loan out for the day, so I made do without buying them, and just borrowing them when studying.

### **Good places to study**

Studentarhuset is the student café in town (close to the Norreport train station and law campus). This has reasonably priced coffee, and good atmosphere with heaps of cool events

on the weekend. The upstairs is good to study in a group, but gets really noisy if you are trying to concentrate to cram!

There is a building down Fiolstrade called BISP which is an epic big study hall with chandeliers! This is great if you have some serious work to do because it is silent, and there is a hot water jug on the first floor so you can make coffee.

### **Cafes**

Café Paludan in Norreport is great! Reasonable brunch options, you can get a massive brunch platter for 100DKK (which is cheap!). The inside is full of books, and it's also a good place to study for a couple of hours.

There are Emmery's everywhere, which makes delicious coffee and food, but it is expensive! A large latte will set you back about 45DKK (\$9NZD), so I would usually order an Americano which was a bit more manageable at \$37DKK

Papiroen (Paper Island) is a massive indoor food market located over the bridge from the Nyhavn canal. It is set in an old paper factory, and has every type of street food available under the sun and a cool atmosphere. Particularly nice in summer where you can sit outside in the deck chairs

### **Art galleries**

Louisiana modern art gallery is a must do! You have to catch a regional train to get out there, but its only about 1 hour each way, and definitely worth the trip. It is right on the sea, with a big outdoor area, so if it's a nice day you can bring a packed lunch. They have great exhibitions, but the setting itself is good enough to justify the trip.

Arken also requires a regional train trip, and is in the middle of nowhere, but a great gallery, and a nice trip if you feel like getting out of the city.

### **Parks and walks**

Faelledparken is in Osterbro and a huge park. The Sparta running club operates out of here, and they run every night of the week. If you like running this is a great way to meet some Danes! They were really friendly, and you visit lots of cool parts of town on the runs. Its also nice to not have to worry about where you are going, and having a group to go with makes it easier to run in the dark and cold.

Kastellet is reasonably close to Nyhavn and is an old military fortress. It feels very Danish with windmills and old army barracks.

## **Night life**

The on campus drinks (Friday bars) are a great starting point on Friday night. From there in Kobenhavn K, Butchers and Klub Bisou are great for a boogie.

The meat packing district (Kodbyen) is also has cool clubs, Joline and Bakken. There are also great restaurants around here, like Mother pizza, or Tommi's burgers if you feel like a cheap burger.

## **Bank accounts**

I didn't set up a Danish bank account, because I was only there for a short time. This was mostly fine, but some shops don't take international bank cards, so I tried to carry some emergency cash around me. This saves awkward situations where you have ordered a coffee and then can't pay for it!

Copenhagen is a fantastic city and an excellent exchange destination. It's easy to get cheap flights to other countries for the weekend, but there is also so much to do in Copenhagen itself, enjoy the opportunity to get a look in on the Scandinavian lifestyle!