My name is Anita and I am majoring in Economics with an extended minor in Asia-Canada Studies. I went on exchange because I wanted to travel without taking time off from school so exchange was a good way to combine the two. I also wanted to take the opportunity to meet people from around the world and learn about different cultures so this was the perfect decision for me! Århus was such an amazing place to do exchange—the university is very involved in the community so they host a lot of events so there is always something happening, whether it is organized by the university, the city, or students. I know it’s such a cliché, but exchange really did change my life. If you have the opportunity to try it, don’t hesitate for even a second because you’ll regret it if you miss out on this chance!

**Travel/Visa**

You don’t need a Visa to stay in Denmark, but you do need to get a Residence Permit in order to stay there as a student and to get a Danish CPR card. [ISS Note: Please check your Visa requirements as they may be different depending on the length of study, citizenship, and any updates/changes to Danish visa requirements.] In total it cost almost $300 for the permit with shipping and handling. You will get the CPR card when you arrive in Denmark; it’s basically an identification card that you can use to get their medical care or to borrow books and other things.

I bought a flight from Vancouver to Copenhagen via British Airways for $1150 round trip through Travel Cuts (I booked it online because it was more expensive for the same flight when I went to ask in person for some reason). I took a train from Copenhagen to Århus for around 365DKK and it took around 4 hours to get there. If you arrive in Copenhagen early enough and are planning to be using the trains a lot (for traveling around Denmark or going to Copenhagen to catch different airlines for traveling), you can get a WildCard and you get 25-50% off train tickets. You can also take a bus to Århus (Google Linie888), but you will have to take the metro to Valby Station which is a little ways out of the airport and Copenhagen city. If you fly directly to Århus airport, you will have to take a bus to town which costs 95DKK.

If you plan on traveling around Europe a lot, the airports you will most likely fly out from are Århus, Billund, and Copenhagen, depending on the airlines you want to use. I found that RyanAir, EasyJet, and Norwegian.com are the cheapest options for traveling, although KLM also had some good deals at times. Keep in mind that if you are using RyanAir, you will generally be brought to an airport that is a ways out of the city, so it will take some time and money to take a bus/train in to the main city that you are traveling to… that being said, it may be more worth it to pay a little extra to be sent to a more convenient airport.

**Arrival, Accommodation & Orientation**

The university assigned a mentor to meet with me and she gave me the key to the room that I was subletting from a girl who lives at Børglum Kollegiet. I really recommend this kollegiet, it was one of the cheapest places to live, you get your own bathroom, and it was
only 2.5km to the university as well (10 mins by bike, 30 by foot). You live with 13 other people on a floor and two of the rooms are reserved for exchange students, but there may be more if there are subletters (like me!). Other than that, everyone else on the floor are Danish students studying around Århus, so it’s a great place to meet Danes and exchange students! They also have a bar and large basement where a lot of events are held, sometimes people living at the dorms will rent it out and invite everyone to come out and have a drink or play some games.

Århus University really takes care of its students! There was a week long orientation for newcomers to the city but it was nice because they fed you (a LOT of food/beer/soda), and it didn’t take up the whole day so you had an opportunity to explore the city and have some time to yourself as well. Don’t forget to apply for the travel grant. To get this you must be taking a full course load (30 ETCS) and you have to keep your plane ticket stubs/confirmation of return ticket, and any other expenses you paid to get to your Århus accommodation. This includes train/bus tickets, taxi stub, hostel, etc. I was able to get 1000 Euros from the university because of this, so it’s a huge help.

**Academic Details**

I tried to register for classes before I went to Århus, but it didn’t confirm my registration online so I did it when I arrived at the school. I studied economics there and there was an orientation for economics students where they helped you sign up for your classes. If you are going to study economics, you actually don’t have to sign up for the classes. You just go to which ever classes you are interested in and at the end of the semester you register for the exam and that’s how you get your credits. I took Masters level classes because they were the only classes taught in English. All Bachelor level economics classes are taught in Danish. I’m not sure if it’s because I was taking Masters level classes or not, but I found that the teaching style was a lot more dependant on individual studies. A lot of required and supplementary readings were assigned, but it was expected of students to do a little research on their own as well. It was also the first time that I had to do oral final exams. They were a bit nerve-wracking, but interesting to experience.

**Country Details**

- Denmark is an expensive country, so be prepared to eat in most meals!
- Danes have a huge drinking culture, so don’t be shy to join in 😊
- Weather is quite similar to Vancouver, although certainly a lot windier during the transition from winter to spring.
- Be prepared to get a bike and bike everywhere because public transportation is almost $4CAD a ride! Everyone there rides bikes.
- You board the buses from the middle/back (depending on the bus) and leave from the front.

I went during the Spring semester and it was really great because there are so many city-wide events during the transition from spring to summer. There are tons of outdoor music festivals and street festivals, as well as kapsejladsen, the annual boat race across the
university park’s lake… it’s amazing! I was also there for Fastelavn, which is the Danish version of Carnival/Halloween that happens on the Sunday/Monday before Ash Wednesday. If you stay later in to the summer there are also some great events happening around Denmark. I went to a 5-day long street party in Copenhagen called Distortion, and there is also a week and a half long music festival at Roskilde. I’d also recommend you go up to Aalborg to see Jomfruanegade and to see the Baltic Sea and North Sea meet at the tip of Skagen.

Århus was perfect because it was a small enough city that you could bike everywhere with your friends and almost every time you went out, you would see someone you knew. It is a really intimate city and the people there are exceptionally friendly and kind! Danish people are beautiful and very sociable after a beer or two so don’t take their initial quietness to heart. It’s strange, but I found that they are much more willing to talk to you with a beer in their hand!

If you have anything else you would like to know or talk about feel free to send me an email at awa16@sfu.ca, I would love to help if I can!
Danish lagkage that our mentors made for us

Waving to the Danish Queen Margrethe II on her birthday.
D.A.D. playing an outdoor concert in Århus University’s park

Celebrating Sankt Hans aften in the University park with a giant bonfire!
Family photo with my floormates…missing 4 of them!