
I felt very well prepared for my exchange before leaving, through the information sessions at SFU, talking with advisors, and my friends and family. I was really excited for some change, and to experience life abroad. When packing for Copenhagen I brought a lot of clothes that I had no need for. I packed plenty of shirts and shorts but never wore them once, except while travelling. The weather there never exceeded 20 degrees Celsius and often hovered around 5 and was very windy. It was definitely necessary to pack a heavy winter jacket, hat, and gloves. Almost every store in the city accepted international credit cards and it was not necessary to open a foreign bank account. The cost of living compared to Vancouver was slightly more expensive. The food and drinks (drinks especially) while eating out were often close to double the amount I would pay for in Vancouver. However, shopping at the grocery stores was only slightly more expensive compared to Vancouver. If you want to live “cheap” it is possible, but it is very easy to burn through a lot of money very fast.

Through the university I was met and brought to my apartment by my “buddy” who was extremely helpful. Not everyone I met on exchange had the same experience though; it all depended on who your buddy was and how much effort they put into it. I would highly highly recommend attending both of the two orientation weeks as that’s where I met the majority of my friends for the semester. The orientation was almost strictly a social experience and the school related information was not as important. It was
extremely difficult to find housing in Copenhagen as the school had only enough housing for half of the students. Up until my departure I did not have a place to stay until the school found me a place slightly outside the city. Many students arrived to Copenhagen without a place to stay and had to search for a few weeks before finding something. Students should begin their search for housing early; I would recommend searching in the Frederiskberg or Norrebro neighbourhoods. I had many friends who lived with host families who were all incredibly helpful and friendly and had amazing experiences.

In terms of the schooling, I found it to be extremely relaxed compared to school at SFU. The professors didn’t do much in terms of lecturing but preferred working with real world cases and discussions while in class. All of my courses had finals worth 100% and no midterms, often the final will be based on a written assignment. My classes were all held once a week for 2 and half hours, attendance was never mandatory. The grading system is strange you start at -3 (fail) and the highest mark is a 12 (A). If you put in as much effort as required at SFU there is no reason to even come close to a failing grade.

The Danish culture was one of my favourite things about the exchange. Everyone spoke very good English and communication was never an issue. The people were all very nice, although they were not the most outgoing. If you like to drink beer then you are going to fit right in! There is a very heavy drinking culture, especially at the university. Every Thursday night the school transforms into a club where student mingle and drink together. The weather is very similar to Vancouver in the fall, although it didn’t rain as much when I was there. Be sure to pack at least one warm jacket to survive the cold and windy storms.
There is always something to do while in Copenhagen. In the day many people would spend their time in a café studying or just hanging out. There are plenty of great places to eat in the city, including the best restaurant in the world Noma (it comes at a cost). There is no shortage of places to go out at night, from nightclubs, to concerts, even theatre. The opera house is a spectacle in itself and I would highly recommend seeing a show there (student’s get 50% off). You can see one of the local hockey teams, or take a short train to Malmo Sweden and spend the day. Copenhagen is also home to Europe’s first theme park Tivoli. Tivoli is probably the biggest tourist point, and is located dead center in the city. There are plenty other sites to see but you can scratch most of them off if you attend the orientation week.
The school also has sports teams including volleyball, soccer, basketball, badminton and others. At the start of the semester you can sign up for these teams and play either competitively or just for fun. If you are just looking to stay in shape there are plenty of gyms in the city Fitness DK or Fitness World that you can take classes at or just workout. The school also offered two weekend trips in the school year, one to Berlin, and one that toured Denmark. I would highly recommend these trips, they were two of the best
I was lucky enough to travel to 14 different European countries during my stay and experience a lot of different cultures. It was incredible seeing all the different countries and the differences between them. I made some incredible friendships with some amazing and very intelligent people. I learned a lot about myself on the trip, and it helped me choose a career path. Exchange is something that I would recommend to absolutely everyone; don’t let money or anything else stand in your way. Go into it with an open mind and make the most of such a unique opportunity. Also, don’t take the school too lightly as it may seem easy but there were many students who ended up failing at least one course.