

IP&E PROGRAM EVALUATION

Copenhagen University - Copenhagen, Denmark

Studied Danish language and literature at KUA (Københavns Universitet på Amager)

Jan. 2007 – June 2007

1. Arrival Overseas/On-site Orientation

Accommodations: the university will make an offer to you, which you can accept or decline. If you decline their offer, then you must find your own accommodations. You can make a request regarding accommodations, but there are absolutely no guarantees (if you are a non-smoker, this is an important thing to note on the request form somewhere – there is no box to check regarding smoking, so you just have to remember to write that you are a non-smoker and would prefer a non-smoking place). The accommodations vary widely – from your own “mother-in-law” apartment, to sharing a room in a student apartment. Dormitories are nearly non-existent, though there is one near the school called Tietgen. They only allow a small number of foreign students here, though. If you do research, you’ll find that they have student “communal” apartment complexes, but most of these have a 6 month to 2 year waiting period. Sometimes you can sublet from someone living there, though. If you want to find a place on your own before you leave the U.S., you could try www.boligmax.dk, or www.boligfinder.dk if you speak a little Danish. You have to pay to join, but they send you a lot of announcements about available apartments, sublets, etc.

On-site Orientation seemed to focus more on the city than the university. There were bus tours and they made sure we knew where the local pub for students was. They also told us the history of the university and explained that the buildings of the university were spread out around the city, not gathered together into a “campus” as with the American model. At one session they handed out a small, green piece of paper with the address of the Folkeregister on it. (They didn’t talk a lot about it, but that was a vital bit of information. You have to go there in person after you have found a place to live. Bring your passport, your admission letter to the university, and – most importantly – a contract of some kind proving that you live at a certain address. Then they will issue you a cpr number, which you cannot survive without). They also organized a very nice tour of the Royal Library, and a trip to the National Theater.

2. Academics

Classroom Structure: Very similar to our small classrooms. Usually lecture-style. Students are generally welcome to ask questions or make comments in class, though the students in the classes I took seemed a little less likely to do so than in my American classes.

Instruction: Lecture-style. Language classes incorporate a “language lab” component where students listen to a cassette of Danish sounds, words or sentences, and repeat what they hear into a microphone. The teacher can listen in and give individual feedback.

Teacher/student relations: all my teachers were kind, but the language teachers were the most approachable. Teachers hold office hours, as they do in America.

Grading/Exams: in Denmark students do not register for classes, but they DO register for exams, and it is VERY serious business. You must also choose what type of exam

you will take (there is a confusing list of about 10 different kinds, and you can not take the same kind of test in two different classes). I advise asking a school counselor to assist you, rather than attempting to do so yourself. Especially as it causes a lot of trouble and ill-will if you do not do it correctly. (I thought I had done it correctly, and found out I hadn't a month after the deadline for registration had ended. I had to apologize a lot, and it was unpleasant. Best to avoid it. Have a counselor help you register for exams). The exam registration period is open for 1-2 weeks in March. Exams take place between mid-May and the end of June. No one knows the day or time of the exam until 1-3 weeks beforehand.

Library Facilities: there are many libraries – Germanic, Nordic, Linguistic, History, etc. at KUA. The library hours are very short compared to what UW students are used to. They usually close between 4 and 6pm and none of them are open on the weekends. Some libraries do not allow their books to be taken out even if you are a student, so this can be frustrating at times. The math, science libraries are somewhere else in the city. There are also many community libraries, and there's a great Main (city) Library ("Hovedbibliotek") off of Fiolstræde where you can get Danish and English books, videos, DVD's and the like. Your yellow "cpr card" is your insurance card, but it is also your library card, and you can check books out as long as you have your cpr card with you. The Black Diamond is the most beautiful library I've ever seen. You can take books out of there if you sign up online using your university card.

Computer Center: found in one of the "New KUA" buildings – the one between the "Old KUA" (reddish) buildings and the building where the Cafeteria ("Kantine") is. To use the printer you pay a minimum of 20 kroner to the attendant outside the computer room and it is put on your account. When you log on with your university i.d. and password, there is a small icon of coins you can click on that will tell you how much money you have left in your account. If you need to make copies of the document, it is easiest to just print multiple copies, as there is no copy machine available in the building. To make copies you either must go to "old KUA" or to the other "new KUA" buildings (though you will still need to buy a copy card over in the "old KUA" and the copy machines in the "new KUA" are very often broken).

Classroom Facilities: are great. They have a very cool blackboard system, where the boards slide up and down as needed. Lectures are given using overheads and/or blackboards.

The courses I took at KUA were meant to increase my understanding of Danish and Danish literature. As I am not a native speaker of Danish, my time in Denmark was invaluable to learning more of the language. The course I took in Danish short stories required a great deal of reading, so I felt that my reading comprehension increased especially during this time.

3. HOUSING

I opted to sublet an apartment. I found a place on Amager about 15 minutes from the university by bike through www.boligfinder.dk. I chose this option because I am older than most graduate students (40) and I did not want to live in a dormitory-type of situation. It was just a personal choice. I know others lived with roommates and had a wonderful time (also a few of them had the benefit of Danish roommates who spoke Danish with them at home).

4. COPENHAGEN

This is a very manageable city for someone who is not comfortable in huge cities like New York or Chicago. You can bike or walk to many places, there are wonderful parks and lakes dotting the area, fabulous narrow cobblestone streets in some places, and a wonderful wonderful wonderful public transit system which is expanding and improving by the month these days. It is a terrific place to have a bike because everything is generally flat and there are super bike lanes where two bike riders can comfortably ride side by side. If you plan to commute by bike during peak traffic hours, though, you should be careful. It can be a little overwhelming if you aren't ready for it – sometimes groups of 30+ bikes travel at a clip very close together. Most importantly, if you are a pedestrian never never never never stand in a bike lane – you can be very seriously hurt by fast bike riders, and it will be your own fault.

5. HEATH AND SAFETY

If you know how to be safe in Seattle, you'll be fine in Copenhagen, which is generally quite safe. After 6 weeks you are eligible to receive free health care in Denmark. When you get your cpr card you will also be asked to choose a doctor from a list they give you (of doctors near where you live). Your cpr card serves as your insurance card. It covers medical expenses in general, but it does not cover drug prescriptions.

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS

It is difficult to meet students at school, though there is a student-run little pub in the “new KUA” building near the cafeteria. You can usually meet people in the cafeteria itself, too. Danish students tend to seem more aloof than international students, so it's easier to meet the international students – you usually share a class, or at the very least you are sharing the experience of being a foreigner, which also gives you something to talk about immediately – where are you from? why are you here? The “Studenterhus” in town is also a place to meet foreign students, but they play such loud music it is difficult to hear people talk. One place I met some Danes was at “Litteratur Haus” where “literature people” came to hear poetry readings or lectures and the like. There is no gym facility associated with the university, but there are a few gyms around town. Some of them only allow teams to join (i.e. you have to be on the volleyball or basketball or fencing team to come lift weights here) but not all are like that. There are also some nice pool facilities around town. These are places you can sometimes meet people. I met a few families at the swimming pool because I played with a child and then got to know the mother. However you meet people, you will very probably have to be the one to initiate. Once you do, Danes are friendly and happy to talk to you. They just don't like to start the conversation. Caveat: it is considered a little odd to start chatting with someone you don't know on a bus or the metro, and such overtures may be met with caution. The stereotype of an American is that he is loud and boisterous, sometimes rude, but at the same time strangely prudish (e.g. saying “bathroom” or “restroom” instead of “toilet”). In Copenhagen they do not like our country's politics, and they have much to say about that, but they usually do not blame individual American exchange students for the decisions made by their government.

7. FINANCIAL

Accessing/Transferring money

Option one: Use your American visa or debit card to withdraw cash from ATM's in Denmark. Pro – it is simple to do (just note that your debit card **MUST** have a four-digit PIN number, or it won't work). Con – you will be assessed a rather hefty fee from your American bank and probably another fee from the Danish bank whose ATM you are using each time to withdraw money.

Option Two: open a Danish bank account. Pro – you will avoid all fees associated with withdrawing cash from ATMs. Con – you will not be able to use anything but cash for your transactions. In Denmark you can open an account, but they will not give you a credit card OR a debit card. Only people who live in Denmark and make regular deposits from a direct-deposit salary are allowed to have a “Dankort” which is nearly the only type of credit/debit card accepted in Denmark (though there are places where American Visa or MasterCard are accepted – Tivoli, some restaurants, some museums, places where tourists go) Grocery stores and malls only accept cash or Dankort. With my account I was given a card that would **ONLY** allow me to retrieve cash from an ATM (belonging to my bank). So that is what I did – I withdrew cash from my account and used that for all my expenses. The only exception was when I paid my rent. Then I got the bank account number of the landlord, filled out a form online, and the money was directly deposited from my account to my landlord's account (for a small fee). In this particular case, this was my only option, as my landlady did not want to deal at all with cash. Danes seem to use only 3 methods for paying for things: cash, Dankort, or account-to-account transfers. Checks do not exist.

I had hoped to open and keep an account in Denmark because I wanted to be able to buy Danish books online using my Danish bank account after I'd returned home (thus avoiding fees related to exchanging dollars for kroner), but this is not possible. Because the bank will not issue me a Dankort, merchants will not accept payment from me unless I use an American credit card (and pay the accompanying fee).

If you decide to open an account in Denmark, you must transfer money from your account in the U.S. to your account there (unless you are being funded in kroner from a Danish source). You can not do this by yourself. The transfer **MUST** be initiated from the U.S., but they must have the Danish account number you are transferring the money into. This you can not get until you open an account in Denmark, and you **MUST** be in Denmark to open the account! I got around this by going to my U.S. bank and getting my parents put on my account. Then I went to Denmark, opened the account and gave the number to them. They then filled out the form requesting the transfer and the transfer was made. It is a good idea, if you do this, to take a copy of the form with you to Denmark, just in case you need to use it to clarify what you want to do when you are sitting in the bank in Denmark.

Budgeting: Plan on around \$1800 a month including airfare and rent, food, books (very expensive), metro pass, some concerts or events, a couple of tours to places outside of Copenhagen, clothes, laundry expenses, buying or renting a second-hand bike, coffee, and an occasional lunch or dinner at a restaurant. Plan on cooking a lot of meals at home; it's much cheaper than eating out.

8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION

In Denmark the international office was staffed by very kind people, but they lost our university identity cards the first 2.5 weeks we were there, which prevented us from using the school's computers and printers to complete assignments, and hindered us in other ways – whenever we had to prove that we were university students. It was irritating, but the most frustrating thing was that they did not tell us that they had lost the cards. Instead they kept saying the cards had not come in yet and that we should call back in 2 days. We called back every other day and got the same story each time. It was only when they found the box of cards that one of the office workers told me they had been looking for them the entire 2.5 weeks. I did not appreciate that. I would have preferred them to be truthful about the situation from the beginning..

The on-site mentor assigned to us, Marianne Stølen, was outstanding in her enthusiasm and kindness. She organized several trips for us (including one to Norway) and was always cheerful and organized.

The mid-March visit from Marianne Stecher-Hansen and also from Anni Fuller were very welcome, useful, and much appreciated. I never felt that we had been forgotten, and when we voiced questions or concerns via email, their responses were always swift and helpful.

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE

I think an independent upperclassman or graduate student would be best suited to this experience. It is particularly helpful, of course, if the student wants to improve his Danish language skills, but this is not an absolute necessity. Students of architecture and design, urban planning, eco-issues, history, cinema, and Nordic studies (among others) would also benefit from the program. Students who require frequent classroom meetings, and a detailed syllabus with requirements and frequent deadlines, would not do well at KUA, where independent study is highly encouraged. I do not know about non-KUA parts of the university.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE

Overall, an excellent experience, and very enjoyable. The academic disappointments I experienced could not have been avoided as they stem from a fundamental difference between the American and Danish university systems. In particular, I would have liked to have known by January (when I left for Copenhagen) what classes were being offered at KUA and how they would relate to my academic program at UW. Since the university does not publish their list of classes until the second or third week of January, this was not possible. I would have liked to have known by November, when I bought my plane tickets, when my final exams would be. They could only tell me that they would be sometime between mid-May and late June, which is just how it works there. I would have liked to have known what grades I would receive at UW for my work in Denmark by September this year, but my Danish grades were not sent to me until August and they were not sent to UW for conversion to the UW 4.0 system until early December. These things can not be changed, but it might help new students to know about them beforehand, just so they know what to expect.

ed ✓
OK ✓

University of Copenhagen, Denmark
guest student, fall semester 2008
exchange student, spring semester 2009

e-mail:
phone:

ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

Accommodations in Copenhagen can be relatively difficult to find so it is good to start early and find as many options as possible. Some specific programs offer housing in dormitories (primarily near the KUA campus) but all exchange students have the option to apply for housing through KU's International Office upon applying to the university. However, these accommodations will not necessarily be ideal (distance from classes/ city may be very far, students may be placed in cramped living quarters, etc.) so if housing is not provided directly through the program, I would suggest that before departing for Denmark, students should apply to several kollegier (dormitories) and find other options on the internet as a fall back. It may be best to arrive a week or two early to set up appointments and view the rooms/ apartments found online if a room in a kollegium has not been guaranteed.

The international office at the University of Copenhagen offers two orientation meetings at the start of the semester; one for students that arrive early to take a preliminary Danish language course and another during the first week of classes for students that arrive later. The orientation involves meeting at one of the main buildings in the city to outline helpful information such as computer access, library locations and hours, and also general information for incoming students. The meeting adjourns with a guided canal tour that allows students to mingle with other incoming international students.

The international office also offers group activities periodically throughout the semester that students are notified of via e-mail. These activities include soccer games, day trips outside of the city, and guided tours of museums and theaters in Copenhagen. Most programs at the university offer each international student the option of having a

mentor which I would highly recommend as it opens doors for more activities and contact with other Danish students.

ACADEMICS

Classrooms at University of Copenhagen can be very similar or very different to those at University of Washington. Depending on your faculty, lectures might be held in a campus-like setting with modern facilities like power point screens, white boards, etc. On the other hand, lectures can also be held in very old buildings scattered throughout the city where the classroom has pew like seats, limited writing space, and black boards.

Like UW, most courses consist of lectures given by professors and classes held by graduate students. The lectures cover the general material of the course whereas the classes function as a forum to practice acquired skills and ask questions about the lecture material. Depending on the size of the lecture, there is generally little interaction between students and professors although it is encouraged to ask questions directly to the professor during the intervals (lectures usually last 2-3 hours and therefore have 15 minute breaks on the hour). Professors do not usually designate office hours but you can usually set up an appointment via e-mail. Questions regarding course material should be directed to the teaching assistants for reason of expediency.

The examination process and grading scale at the University of Copenhagen are very different from that of UW. There is generally one final exam and no other opportunities to contribute to your final grade. Midterms, homework, participation, etc. may be voluntary or compulsory but in either case, they do not directly influence the final grade a student receives. Therefore, the final exam is comprehensive, usually 3-4 hours in length, and may be written or oral (although oral exams generally last a much shorter 30 minutes). The grading scale is a 12 point scale (ranging from 12, 10, 7, 4, 02, 00, -3 which roughly correspond to the UW scale A, B, C, D, F, and the remaining two are non passing grades). That being said, there is typically no grading curve and very few students receive the highest marks (in fact, it is typical that the majority of the class will fall between 00 and 4). Reexaminations are offered a month or so after the initial examination period has ended but re-exams may only be taken if a student receives a 00 or below (i.e. fails) the first exam.

Most departments are associated with a specific library but there is no general, central library for the campus located in the city center (although the campus in Armager has a large, general library for students from various faculties). Library hours on campus are limited but there are many alternative public libraries throughout the city (e.g. the Black Diamond) where if you create an account, you can print and have access to all available books/ periodicals/ internet resources. Most libraries are equipped with computers for student use and may have extended hours to students that are able to activate and use their KU student ID card.

HOUSING

As an exchange student¹, one is able to request housing upon applying for admission. The International Office then offers you an accommodation (in a dormitory, house, shared apartment, or spare room) but the quality and location of the housing offer are not guaranteed.

My first living arrangement was in a shared apartment with a Danish student that I found through Danish exchange students that I met while in Seattle. My second accommodation was a shared apartment with another international student. We were able to find the apartment on the internet (boligportal.dk) and arrange a short-term lease with the landlord that enabled us to stay there longer than a typical one year contract period. This worked out quite well, was a relatively easy process, but some knowledge of the Danish language is necessary to navigate the majority of housing websites.

I would recommend, as a first attempt, seeking a kollegium independently. Kollegier are the equivalent of dormitories in the US but are usually large single rooms with a shared kitchen and/or bathroom. These are often ideally located, relatively inexpensive, and serve as a good way to meet other international and Danish students. Then, if the offer the international office makes is less than desirable, searching for a room or an apartment becomes the next best option and is less daunting than most people make it out to be. Check internet sites, University of Copenhagen's newspaper, and facebook forums for international students to snag a room for a short to medium duration

¹ Note that as a guest student, the International Office is not obligated to offer you accommodation and must therefore be sought through a specific department or other resources (internet, word of mouth, etc.)

of time.

PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE

During my studies of economics, my classes were primarily held in historic buildings belonging to the University of Copenhagen's city center² "campus". This part of the University is not a campus in the American conception of the word but is instead clusters of buildings and halls scattered throughout the city center. However, the classes offered by most departments are relatively close to one another so commuting between classes is usually not an issue.

The Life Science Faculty is located in Frederiksberg and its setup possess a more campus like quality to it while the Armager campus of University of Copenhagen, has a true campus set up but is some distance outside of the city center.

Copenhagen may be thought of as a decent sized city consisting of several smaller neighborhoods and the one in which one chooses to live may be determined by location, price, or personal preferences.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Danish government provides healthcare (excluding dental) to all residents thus the cost is minimal or often nonexistent. In order to take advantage of Denmark's socialized health care, students must register for a CPR card (which serves many additional purposes). Based on location of residency, each student is assigned a specific physician as listed on their CPR card whom they should call for general health questions and concerns.

As far as crime is concerned, Copenhagen is a relatively safe city and unlike many other highly populated and touristy European cities, petty theft is relatively uncommon. The most common form of theft is bike theft so it is always smart to lock your bike regardless of where you go and bike insurance is a common thing to have on more expensive bicycles.

Although there are very few areas of Copenhagen that are somewhat risky with respect to crime activity, the one neighborhood that has been subjected to several violent

² The Economic Department moves to CSS in 2009.

events throughout the last couple of years is Nørrebro, most of which has been a product of gang and immigrant related violence. There is no reason to steer completely clear of these areas as generally, they are safe, but a reasonable level of common sense and caution is encouraged when frequenting these areas, especially at night or alone (a combination of the both is highly inadvisable).

CULTURAL ASPECTS

Although Danes can come across as somewhat standoffish, there are several social settings in which both Danes and foreigners can participate and easily overcome whatever barriers may seem to exist. Some of these events are sponsored by various departments at University of Copenhagen (e.g. Friday bars). There are also many events that cater to international students specifically such as Wednesday nights at Studenterhuset, frequented by many Danish students as well. There are also plenty of opportunities for those that enjoy sports (especially soccer) to join a casual or more permanent league.

As noted above, the biggest cultural challenge is finding a way to develop a network of Danish contacts. This is most easily done just by putting yourself out there and keeping a positive attitude as knowing just one Dane is all it takes to open the doors to meeting many others. Danish culture is relatively similar to American culture but you'll always encounter little quirks throughout daily life.

FINANCIAL

Depending on your banking institution in the US, you shouldn't have any problem using a debit card to withdraw money from ATMs throughout Denmark (and Europe for that matter). The transaction fee for most banks is around \$2, the same charge to use an ATM outside of your bank's own in the US. It's a good idea to check with your bank before departing as transaction charges can be relatively high.

The other option is to open a Danish bank account somewhere like Nordea or Danske Bank so that money can be transferred from your US bank account to an easily accessible Danish account. The convenience of online banking also comes in handy when paying bills and fees in Denmark.

It's important to note that most places outside of major clothing shops do not accept credit or debit cards unless they have a chip. Therefore, one must either open an account with a Danish bank in order to get a VISA with a chip³, or the alternative is to carry around a lot of cash all the time, which is relatively inconvenient.

As far as monthly spending is concerned, a student can expect rent to be anywhere from 3.000 DKK to 4.500+ DKK (roughly equivalent to \$550- \$830+) depending on his/her housing situation. The popular mode of transportation in Denmark is a bike, which after a fixed cost anywhere from \$100+ to purchase the bike, is clearly free to use. Alternatively, there is the metro and the s-tog which you can either pay for by purchasing a monthly pass, a klippekort, or individual tickets, and city wide buses may also be used as a form of transportation. A monthly pass is cost efficient if you take the metro at least once a day. With a klippekort, each card has 10 clips and depending on how many zones you need to travel through, can cost anywhere from 120 DKK – 180 DKK (\$25 - \$35). Klippekorts are always more cost efficient than individual tickets. All of these tickets are available at machines located at the metro and s-tog stations or at any DSB counter (sometimes located in large super markets, etc.)

Food is also quite expensive in Denmark relative to the US and I would find it quite difficult to spend less than \$50 a week just buying basics at a cheap grocery store. Therefore, I would budget anywhere from \$200+ for food every month. That in no way captures the cost of restaurants in Denmark, which are incredibly expensive relative to those in the US. Eating out at restaurants is a rarity/ luxury in Denmark but cafes are nice alternatives as they still offer decent food but at a more reasonable price.

Some unexpected expenses I incurred while living in an apartment were paying for the installation of wireless internet and paying for all repairs out of pocket (as opposed to this responsibility falling on the landlord).

I received financial aid from the Scan|Design Foundation for my second semester at University of Copenhagen and there were no major complications in accessing the funds. However, because this source of income was outside of Denmark, in applying for a student visa extension, I had to provide evidence that I could financially support myself

³ Note that banks have different requirements as to granting VISA cards with chips to new customers. Usually you must have a flow of income in Denmark (e.g. SU, work, etc.) to be eligible. If not eligible, you'll receive a VISA electron, which is solely an ATM card and cannot be used as a debit card.

in Denmark by opening up a Danish/EU bank account and proving that I had a minimum of circa \$4,000. I don't believe this complication would arise if one was attempting to receive a student visa as opposed to extending it their visa, but it's something to be aware of.

PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION

I spent the first semester (fall 2008) at University of Copenhagen as a guest student, pursuing an unaffiliated foreign study in close contact with UW's Department of Economics. The IP&E did not technically administer this study abroad but I still received wonderful guidance from contacts like Anni Fuller at the IP&E office. As an exchange student my second semester (spring 2009), the IP&E administered my exchange and was always prompt to respond to any questions or concerns and were also very informative and helpful.

The only improvement I could recommend would be more information regarding extending a student work and residency permit (i.e. student visa) as I found this process to be very complicated and felt that there were not many resources that might serve as a guide throughout the process.

PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE

This program is best suited for students that are very independent and enjoy being in a fast paced urban setting. Studying at University of Copenhagen is ideal for students looking to obtain additional knowledge within their area of study through courses that are complementary or altogether different, providing new and interesting perspectives. Students should also be willing to accept taking courses that may be more challenging than those offered at their corresponding level at University of Washington, as this is sometimes the case⁴. If a student is outgoing, independent and willing to take on challenges, studying at University of Copenhagen is a great fit for a study abroad experience.

⁴ This may or may not be because Danish students focus exclusively on one subject throughout their bachelor studies. Therefore, a third year bachelor's level course at University of Copenhagen may be equivalent to one at the master's level at University of Washington.

OVERALL EXPERIENCE

On an academic level, I expected to be able to study an area of economics (development economics) more intensively than I would be able to at University of Washington, in preparation for continuing to study this specific area of economics at the graduate level. My expectations in this respect were more than met as not only was I able to study the aforementioned development courses, I was also able to take several courses (e.g. econometrics, quantitative methods, mathematics, etc.) that furthered my personal research abilities and can be applied to many areas of economics and beyond.

From a personal perspective, Copenhagen was a great fit for me and met my expectations as wonderful European city in which to live and study abroad, so much so that I'm continuing my studies at the graduate level at University of Copenhagen. Culturally, the city is rich and diverse, the Danish lifestyle is both comparable and enjoyable, and the language and culture of Denmark is interesting and entertaining. I would recommend it to anyone with the ability to keep a positive outlook and step out of his or her comfort zone to try new things.

MAR 06

Copenhagen, Denmark (Direct Exchange). Fall 2007.

1. Arrival Overseas/On-site Orientation

- a. Students could find their own housing before going, but the best bet is applying through the international office. Finding housing independent of the international office may be difficult for those who do not speak Danish. The disadvantage of the international office is they only give you one choice, and you will obviously need a place to stay when you first arrive, making this the easiest option.
- b. The orientation covered general living in Copenhagen, and a little bit about the Danish Culture and Language. I thought the most important part was learning that the Danes are generally reserved when they meet someone new, so you have to be the one to instigate new friendships.

2. Academics

- a. My classroom experience in Copenhagen was excellent. The atmosphere was relaxed, coffee and cake welcome to be eaten during lecture, mini-assignments allowed us time to chat with other students, etc. The teacher-student relations were similar to that at the University, but my class was smaller, so although a professional nature was kept, they were more approachable. The exam structure at the University is much more formal, registration is required—lots of paperwork. The administration at the University was useful in answering questions, although finding the right person can be hard. Facilities for computers, libraries for studying, etc. were all satisfactory—note that libraries close much earlier, even if on campus. It should be noted that not all of Copenhagen University's website has been converted to English, including some exam registration material, but this will probably be done shortly.
- b. The quality of my instruction was extremely high from a published PHD. She was passionate about the topic and it was clear she had taught about this topic before. Another course I took on Danish Culture for International Students was a mixed bag, with rotating lecturers that ranged from excellent, to dull, to questionable English language skills.
- c. I would recommend Nina Moeller Andersen or Peter Christensen.
- d. My coursework related to my UW education in that Danish is one of my majors and I took primarily Danish Language classes while at the university. This could also be why my classes had more of a relaxed atmosphere.

3. Housing

- a. The only housing option available to me was one choice of an apartment given to me through the International Office, or I could find my own housing.

- b. I chose the offer through the International Office because I did not feel I could navigate making sure I had a place to stay right when I got there on my own before I left.
 - c. I would recommend taking the offer through the International Office. A warning that some people had bad experiences with landlords/ladies, but most did not. If one is not happy with the place they get through the international office they can move later, once one is established in Denmark and has connections to help find another place to stay.
4. Program Exchange Site
- a. Copenhagen is an international city with basically everything Seattle has to offer. The main difference is stores; libraries, etc. generally close much earlier. The nightlife in Copenhagen is good, and transportation by buses, bike, or the metro is easy and common. Copenhagen is a fairly small, easy city to navigate for being a capital city. The University of Copenhagen does not have a true campus. It has many small campuses/buildings which make up different faculties. This was the biggest difference I felt, not having a central meeting spot during the day for all students, and not seeing individuals from other faculties too often.
5. Nothing major. The city is very safe, crime is low. Make sure you have a good bike lock. The one time I went to see a doctor it was free...
6. Cultural Aspects
- a. Integrating into the culture is very hard as an international student in Denmark. While in Denmark, I generally hung out with other international students, and all of them I talked to had the same experience. I was able to integrate the most by taking Danish Language classes, and attempting to speak the language, working at the Student house (Studenterhuset) as a bartender, and joining a badminton league.
 - b. Copenhagen was very liberal and similar to Seattle in that regard. There may be a general stereotype of Americans as dumb, and I never met one individual that liked President Bush, or our government of late. But these are very minor issues that surfaced very little and just ended up leading to interesting conversations.
7. Financial
- a. I transferred money through the internet a bank account at Danish Bank. I would bring something at the beginning to get you started though as this could take a few days...
 - b. This was not something I kept track of...If one gets a bike (around 1000 kroner for an ok used one) then one should spend basically nothing on transportation unless going outside the city. Food in Denmark is very expensive, even at supermarkets, although this is the much cheaper option than going out for food. My rent was 3000 kroner per month, and this was around average, although cheaper options do exist, also in dormitories.
 - c. Nothing major unexpected. Make sure you are clear with your landlord if any damage comes up, who will be paying for it and how much it will cost (otherwise a tiny nick in a chair could be upwards of 100 dollars or more...). Also be confident about the bike you are buying beforehand, otherwise it may quickly breakdown.
 - d. I did use financial aid and there were no complications.
8. Program/Exchange Administration

- a. The services were effective. If I had any questions they were promptly answered by my e-mails.
- 9. Students who are very motivated. Classes do not meet very often, there is no central campus for hanging out, and it can be hard to become friends with the Danes. On the other hand this means you have plenty of free time if you can find your niche, and meeting other international students is very easy.
- 10. I think my expectations were very realistic. The only thing I was disappointed about was meeting more Danes. I met tons of international students, spoke Danish decently, and got involved in some activities, but even then it was hard to get to know the natives well. Academically the courses are similar to the U, but there was no busy work. My overall GPA abroad will probably be slightly lower than my usual quarter at the UW, which is what I was expecting.