When I left for my exchange I actually didn't know anything about Denmark and what the Danes are like, let alone about Aarhus. In fact, I had never heard of it before. So the first thing I did when I got the news that I got to go to Aarhus for five months, was a simple google search. This taught me that it's actually the second biggest city in Denmark, known for its harbour and the university.

In my five months of being a resident of this great city and of course studying at its university I have gotten to know it quite well. I will write about some highlights of my exchange, fun things to do in Aarhus, Denmark and surrounding countries, and what the university and the courses are like.

Every law exchange student gets assigned a mentor. Most of the times its a personal mentor, however, I do know of some mentors having two mentees instead of one. You're mentor is there to make sure that your first couple of days/ weeks go as smooth as possible. Already before I had even met my mentor, he helped me out by picking up the key for my room and being there when I arrived. Furthermore, he showed me around the campus and the city and he introduced me to Danish cuisine. (Which is basically a lot of pork.) Most of the mentors from the exchange students stuck around for the five months. Not because we still needed their help though. Aarhus is not all that big and the university is located at the campus, so everything is really easy to find.

I got my room assigned by the university. You can try to arrange something yourselves, but all my friends simply went with the rooms they got from the university and everybody had quite a decent place. It is very common in Aarhus to live in a dorm as a student. These dorms are placed in 'Kollegiums', so you actually get little student communities. I lived in Vilhelm Kiers Kollegium. It was about a 7 minute bike ride from the university campus and a little less than 15 from the city centre. This is, as long as you are going to there. Aarhus is hilly and the city centre lays lower than the rest, so going back always meant having to cycle up hill. The room itself was really big and had a private bathroom. This is not uncommon in Aarhus, most of the times the dorms that lay a little further away from the city centre have an own bathroom. Otherwise you'll have to share a common bathroom with your dorm. I only had to share a kitchen, dining room and living room. These were pretty big spaces and we've had our fair share of house parties in them. The biggest house party, however, is called 'Tour de Chambre' and took place in the rooms. Everybody decorated their own room according to a theme and put on a fitting outfit as well. Then, as the name may have predicted, you go through all these rooms, play games, drink, and have a lot of fun! This 'Tour de Chambre' is very common for dorms to do in Aarhus, so basically all my friend had one as well.

I followed three courses this semester. All the master courses in Aarhus are 10 ECTS so there is no need to attend more. I had International Trade Marks Law, Drafting Commercial Contracts and International Law. Of these three, Trade Marks Law was my favourite by far. It is taught by Klaus, he's actually a full time lawyer at 'Bech and Bruun', specialised in intellectual property, and only teaches two courses at the university. He is the most passionate teacher I have ever had and has the best examples, that he gets from his work as a lawyer. In Denmark it is common to call your teacher by their first name. To be honest, I have no idea what the last names of my teachers are. Furthermore, you are expected to participate in class. They want as much interaction as possible.

Since I'm from the south of the Netherlands, I was quite sad about having to miss out on Carnaval. However, in Denmark they celebrate something similar. It's called Festalavn and it is originally a children's holiday, but of course students remain little children in heart. It is actually only celebrated on one day, but as it turned out, every organisation and association wanted to have their own Festalavn party, so I got to dress up and celebrate Festalvn almost

all through February. Fun fact about these parties: you get to hit a wooden barrel to pieces like it is a piñata! However, Festalavn was just an innocent party compared to some other events.

The biggest student event in Aarhus is Kapsejladsen. About 20 to 25 thousand students gather at the university campus to watch teams from the different faculties compete against each other in rowing 5 meters, neck a beer, turn around about 15 times, and then row back. It sounds a bit silly, but the students participating actually practice for this. Medicine is renowned for starting practice already months ahead. It may be no surprise that they win most of the times. The race, though, is not the most important thing at all. I hardly watched it when i was there. It is all about the atmosphere and just spending the day with almost every other student at Aarhus University.

As soon as the weather got better a lot of street festivals were organised. According to my flatmates Mejlgade Festival is the one best known. The music and the vibe were best described by the words electro hipster. I think. They go through such lengths to make it different, that they even put grass pads on all the asphalt streets. Everywhere you walked, you'd stand on grass. Even if you're not into this type of music or parties it is definitely worth to pay a visit and just look around.

Also worth visiting are AROS, the deer park, the botanical garden, Moesgaard, and Den Gamle by (the old town). I went to AROS four times. It is a contemporary art museum that tries to change their exhibitions quite often, so you get to see something different almost every time you get there. I never went to Moesgaard museum or Den Gamle By myself, but I've heard that they are fun to visit.

Last, but definitely not the least part of my exchange were my travels to other cities and places. It is really easy and relatively cheap to go to Copenhagen from Aarhus. There are special bus lines that take you there, furthermore, Stockholm is less than an hour away from Copenhagen by plane. For me, the most amazing trip I made was to Kiruna. This is a small town in the complete north of Sweden. I went there with two friends to see the northern lights. We also went dog sledging and snowmobiling. Especially the snowmobiling was such an amazing experience. You drive about 80 to 90 kilometres an hour over very thick snow and frozen lakes, and you get to see the most beautiful pieces of nature. One tip: don't go too early, because it will still be freezing cold up there. Also, don't go too late because it reduces your chances of seeing the northern lights. I went somewhere at the end of march, which was just right. The weather was getting better and we got to see the northern lights!

It is also worth mentioning that Hamburg is quite easy to go to. You can either take a bus or train, or do as my friends and I did. Since we were with 14 people we figured we should rent cars. It was more expensive than the bus, but cheaper than the train. On the way back the funniest thing ever happened. Well, at the time it was not so funny. We were driving back from Hamburg and it we were all hungry, so we wanted to stop in Kolding for dinner. We parked the car in a garage and ate at some little restaurant. But when we got back to car the garage was closed and there was no way to have it opened. We ended up spending the night at some random peoples' floor in Kolding. Hamburg was a lot of fun, but getting stuck in Kolding was in hindsight one of the craziest things of my exchange.

All in all it was a true experience and I if could I would do it all over again.