

Report Form Exchange Period Abroad 2013-2014

Aarhus University, Denmark

In terms of the study program there were a number of courses to choose from, about 8 or so, in English. The content of each course was very extensive and the reading material was more than what I was used to back in Groningen, but nonetheless very interesting with a lot of student-lecturer interactions and discussions. The examinations are all 20 minute oral examination on topics picked at random from a hat. The professors are very kind during the exams and they help to bring out the best grade in you.

I didn't follow a Danish Language course because I was taking 40 ECTS and did not have any time, but I would have liked to.

In terms of finances, Denmark is very expensive. A loaf of bread can be up to 7 euros in the supermarket, I had to receive a lot of help from my parents as a result. Estimated costs per month are between 600-800 Euros. The application procedure was fairly straightforward and simple and the residence permit application was pretty swift too.

Communication between myself and the faculty staff and lecturers was quick and easy, they are very helpful.

I was lucky to get accommodation right opposite the university but this was only due to cancellation by another student in the last minute. My room was in a government-owned student dormitory affiliated with the university and so the rent was lower than expected. My advice would be to apply for housing as soon as possible because it is very difficult to secure accommodation within close proximity to the university, and the bus/train fees are very high if you live far away.

In terms of social events there was not much to offer to exchange students as compared to full-time students registered in the Danish Programs. The planned events were mainly information-based with regard to administrative issues such as how to use Blackboard, how to buy books, register for exams etc. Despite this, Danish students are very welcoming and so it was easy to integrate and organize private get-togethers independent of the University.

The University staff are professional and efficient in everything that they arrange for you, emails are responded within 24 hours or less, the Erasmus arrangements are smooth and quick in terms of document signing etc.

I highly recommend Denmark for exchange; I absolutely loved it despite a few drawbacks such as the high costs of living. The staff was good, the level of teaching was high, the exams were fairly easy and Danish people were very hospitable and kind towards me. Aarhus is a bigger city than Groningen and there is always something to do or see.