

It wasn't until October 2015 that I decided to go abroad for an Erasmus Exchange from February 2016 on. Since I was this late, I did not have that many different options to choose from. The University of Aarhus immediately caught my eye, as I got a positive feeling about this University and city after some research online. Aarhus is a cute little city in Denmark, though it is the second biggest city of the country. There is a small city center with a nice canal with bars and cafes, a pedestrian street with shops and a Latin quarter, which was absolutely my favorite area. The campus of Aarhus University is very big with lots of nice parks and areas to chill, play sports or barbecue if you're lucky enough to have some sunny days.

Once I got the e-mail that I got accepted as an exchange student at Aarhus University, it all went pretty fast. The information I received was very clear about how to apply for housing, courses, etc. Also, the exchange coordinator of Aarhus was very helpful, which made it very easy to finish the applications. Moreover, she made a Facebook group with all of the exchange students in advance of the start of the semester. There was always someone in this group who could answer any questions about the exchange and it was a useful tool to meet new people in the beginning. Every international student also got a mentor assigned, so you'd always have someone to help you and show you around in your new hometown.

When it comes to housing, the university gives you one offer for a room, which you can either accept or decline. There are three options to choose from: cheaper rent, private bathroom or close to university, the latter being my choice. I received my offer in the end of December or beginning of January. In the e-mail there was a picture of the house itself and some additional information (for example, the location and how many roommates you would have). Even though the location was not as good as I was hoping for, I still accepted the offer. The University made it sound like it would be very difficult to find another accommodation in Aarhus, so I decided that this would be my best option. When I arrived here, though, I found out that it would not have been as difficult as they wanted you to think to find something else. I never regretted my decision, though, as it was a great experience living with people from all over the world. In the e-mail about the house, it said that it's a house for 8 students, so it was quite a surprise when I arrived and found out that the house exists of two different parts. I lived in the basement with 2 other international students, and there was a separated part upstairs for 5 international students. Even though we had two different front-doors, we were really one big group. I can imagine this really depends on the people you live with, though. . The house I stayed at is about a 5-10 minute bike ride to the law campus. The way back took a bit longer, as Aarhus has some pretty tough hills.

Another possibility is that you get to live in one of the student dorms, where international and Danish students live together, which is also a great way of meeting lots of people. If you decide to look for a room in Aarhus yourself, I'd recommend the areas close to the city center or campus, but from a social aspect I'd recommend getting out of your comfort zone and choose for either a shared facility house or student dorm.

Regarding to the courses, there was not too much choice but that was fine since most courses sounded very interesting to me. There were only a few Bachelor's courses in English, which is why I decided to apply for three master courses of 10 ECTS each: International Trade Marks Law, Drafting Commercial Contracts and Comparative Liability Law. For the first two of those

courses I had a Danish teacher and the teacher of the third course was American. The relationship between teachers and students in Denmark is very informal, which made the classes very fun and lively, since the teachers were always joking around and very approachable. The level was not as high as I expected from master courses, though they want everyone to be very interactive so you would make sure to be well prepared and do all, or at least most, of the reading.

My absolute favorite class was International Trade Marks Law. The teacher, Klaus, was so passionate and made it really interesting by giving lots of real life examples. If you were interested in trademark law, I would definitely recommend this course. The course Drafting Commercial Contracts was also pretty useful and interesting, but since the teacher did not get that deep into the material, it should be seen as an introduction more than a real master course on how to draft commercial contracts. Comparative Liability Law compared the German, French and English law systems. Very interesting, which was especially because of the teacher. She really tried to make it more fun for us by giving group work and giving us interesting cases to solve. If you don't have any interest in other law systems than the Dutch one or EU law, I would not recommend taking this course, though.

The Danish teachers both spoke fluent English. Moreover, my overall experience in Denmark is that most Danes have a high level in English. It is possible to get a free course in Danish, but you are really perfectly fine with just speaking English, though the Danish course is a nice way to meet other international students.

All of the exams at the law department are oral exams. This was something that made me pretty nervous when I first found out about this, but in practice it was a system I very much liked. The teachers were all friendly and trying to make you feel comfortable. They really try to get you into the right directions and start asking a bit easier questions when they notice that it's a bit too difficult. Because of that, there is no reason to be nervous, the teachers really want you to pass and won't ask any trick questions. For one course we had to prepare a case, for the other two we just got questions about the content of the course. My experience is that it was always clear what they expected from you and how to prepare.

The introduction week for law students was in the same week of the start of the classes. In my opinion, this was not the most desirable timing. Business students had their introduction a week before and all had the greatest stories about it. Because of the fact that law students also had to go to their classes, they unfortunately skipped all the fun parts of the introduction for us. I must admit that I decided not to attend the introduction anymore after two days, as it was really boring and pretty easy to meet new people in the Studenterhus (a private organization that organized international nights) and in other bars in Aarhus or for example through the Facebook group. The only part of the introduction I strongly recommend attending, is the one where they help you registering for a so-called CPR number. This is a residence permit everybody needs to arrange who is planning on staying for longer than three months.

Something to really keep in mind is that Denmark is very expensive. People obviously warned me beforehand, but I was still shocked when I arrived. Most of the books you need for your courses cost around €100,-. There is a digital library where you can find lots of literature, but if you prefer to have the book instead of reading it from your computer screen, try to find and order

the books online and have it sent to your place. Also, it's very common to pay around 50 DKK for a beer in a bar (almost €7,-) and also grocery shopping costs a lot of money. Make sure to save some money before you come to Denmark, because you always spend more than you want to here. A low budget dinner in a restaurant will still cost you at least €17,- for just one dish and a water. On the other hand, this is why lots of people organize (dinner) parties at their own place, which is really fun and a guarantee for a good night with your friends.

I really fell in love with Aarhus. The cold winter months have their own charm, since everybody is getting cozy together in one of the many bars, cafes and restaurants or just at their own place. The real fun starts when it gets a bit warmer. There are many street festivals, with live deejays or bands, the nicest decoration you could imagine and lots of outside bars. Quite hipster, but even if you're not a hipster yourself, it's a whole new experience of a night out in Aarhus and you'll definitely meet some cool new people as every single person during those street festivals seems to be happy. The biggest student event of Aarhus is in May, the Kapsejlsden. Every student from Denmark, in total around 25.000 of them, wake up latest at 5 in the morning to all go to the University park and find a nice spot as close to the small lake as possible. It doesn't matter how early in the morning, everybody is just drinking beers, chatting with each other and enjoying the atmosphere and radio. The main event during this day is the boat race, in which every faculty is represented. The students who have the honor to take place in this race have to row about 5 meters, chug a beer, turn around 10 times and row back. Everybody is very fanatic and the whole atmosphere of this event made this day one of my most memorable days in Aarhus.

Aarhus also has a very nice harbor, a beach close by which is truly more beautiful than any beach you'll find in The Netherlands and some nice museums, such as the Aros museum or Moesgaard. There is also a deer park where you are allowed to feed the deer carrots and apples and take lots of selfies with them, which is a fun activity for a Sunday afternoon. Aarhus also offers great connections to Copenhagen, Sweden, Germany and other places in Europe as the flights from Copenhagen are much cheaper than those from Amsterdam.

In conclusion, I had a wonderful time in this lovely small city, which will always have a special place in my heart and will definitely have one in yours.