

## REPORT FORM

To which foreign university did you go: **Aarhus University**

Country: **Denmark**

- Study period : **1st semester**
- Year: **2015**
- Start date study abroad: **August 17th 2015**
- End date: **December 14th 2015**
- Period of classes: **from end of August until beginning of December**
- Examination period: **December and January (your own choice)**
- Did you follow a language course: **yes**

Courses completed at the host university:

- 1. Law of Armed Conflicts (10 ECTS)**
- 2. International Development Law (10 ECTS)**
- 3. European Human Rights Law (10 ECTS)**

## EXCHANGE REPORT AARHUS UNIVERSITY

Even though Aarhus is the second largest city in Denmark, before I went on my exchange I had never heard of the city. The main reason why I choose Aarhus was because I didn't get into the places of my choice. This was one of the few places left and I was interested in Scandinavia. As to what I've heard, Aarhus is not a very popular destination amongst the students of Groningen, something that needs to be changed if you ask me. The university is really modern and beautiful. It's almost four times as big as the University of Groningen (as in number of students) and every faculty has it's own building on the campus. As you can imagine with this many students, there is always a lot going on for students.

### Courses, Examination and Language

For exchange students the University offers a wide range of courses. If you're into business law, climate change law, pharmaceutical law or leaning more towards human rights law, they have it all. Compared to the level we have in Groningen, it's very similar. In class the Danes are a lot more active than in Groningen, so therefore I tried to read all the mandatory readings before class so I could keep up, something I did not always find very necessary in Groningen. All classes are three or four hours, and you only have them once a week per course. That gives you a lot of free time, and also some free days during the week. You will have enough time to do the readings and such, but also a lot of time to do fun things and explore the city. Something that is very different is the way of examination. In Aarhus they only do oral examination. For some courses you have to write a paper first, and then your exam will be about your paper, but most of the exams are about the whole course. Some found this way of examination more difficult, but I liked this way of examination. All my classes were taught in English and I had no problems understanding the teachers. Danish lessons are offered for free and they are not mandatory. You can sign up

for once a week or twice a week, but if you are busy with something else, it's fine if you miss a class. It's helpful to at least go to the first few classes, so you know some basic Danish words that you might need in the supermarket or whatever.

### Guidance Host University

Aarhus University was a really good host. Every exchange student has its own mentor. Every mentor has a group of 2/3 exchange students. My mentor picked me up from the train station on my first day and brought me to where I live. Beforehand she gave me a lot of practical information, which was really helpful. Also, she made us, also the other two exchange students that she was mentoring, dinner on one of the first nights so we could get to know each other. This is something that almost all mentors did. When you need to sign up on your first or second day at the university, you will get a welcoming pack with everything you need to know about Aarhus, the University and your intro days. You will get a welcoming bag which even includes a sim-card with 10 DKK on it! Throughout the semester, everyone at AU is really understanding and helpful when something is not clear to you as an exchange student. Also the teachers bear this in mind and always explain how things work at AU (like their nestor, how to subscribe for exams and that kind of stuff).

### Housing

Aarhus University has its own housing office, which will most likely provide you with a room somewhere. You have a couple of choices when choosing a room of what you find most important. I remember one of the options was private bathroom, this was the one I picked, but I learned that almost all rooms that you can be placed in have private bathrooms. I was placed rather far away from the University, so if I look back at it I should have picked the option 'close to University'. Of all my friends, I was the one living most far away. It was about 6 km to the University, but with all the hills it seemed ever further by bike. There are enough busses but almost everyone travels by bike. I was not provided with a room by the Housing Office so had to arrange one by myself, this was because I applied on the day of the deadline, a bit late you can say. I searched on different Facebook pages and found a room within a few days. I don't know anyone else who didn't get a room, so I don't think students need to be afraid of not getting a room in the future. You can pick the price you are willing to pay for your room in the list the Housing Office provides you with, my room was about 430 euro's per month and it was more expensive (and also bigger) than my friends' rooms.

### The City, Social Events and Other Exchange Students

The city was a lot bigger than I expected. I compared it a bit to Utrecht. There is a lovely area that's called the Latin Quarter, where you go out for dinner or a few drinks. Then there also is a big street next to the canal where all the bars and clubs are, so if you want to go out in the evening, there is enough! Also, every Friday the University has 'fridaybars'. All the canteens of every faculty turn into bars and you can drink from early afternoon until late at night in the classrooms and canteens. Next to that, the University organizes international parties and events for international students. Every Tuesday there is a quiz, game-evening, movie-evening or just a party for the exchange students so they can get to know

each other. Everyone is in the same situation, so making friends is really easy (!!). The University even makes a facebookpage of your faculty's exchange students where you will be invited for, so beforehand you can already see who is also going to Aarhus in the same semester.

### Conclusion

I can really recommend Aarhus University to anyone! The Danes appear to be very serious about studying in class, but you'll find out that in the weekends they are not so serious anymore. My tip to anyone who goes to Aarhus: make a lot of trips. You have enough time during the week to study, so in the (long) weekends try and explore Scandinavia. There are really cheap tickets and ways to travel. Also renting a car and going through Jutland (Aalborg and Skagen) is cheap. The Danes are really kind and helpful and all the exchange students take this over, so there will be no problem in making friends at all. There is room for all kinds of students in Aarhus, whether you like to study a lot and see the beautiful nature or whether you're more a party-type.