

For my exchange, I went to Aarhus University, in Denmark. Aarhus is the second city of Denmark, and about the same size as Groningen. It also has the same vibe as Groningen: a vibrant student city with a lot of young people. Denmark is seen as the happiest country in the world, and I can see why. Everyone is friendly, public spaces are extremely well kept, and the country is very well organized.

Study programme

There weren't that many courses to choose from. I would have expected that there were more, as Aarhus University marketed itself as a very exchange friendly university. I found three courses that were of interested to me: EU Company Law, International Commercial Arbitration and Legal Aspects of Corporate Social Responsibility. They were all interesting, especially the last one. The lecturers are all very friendly and open. The contact with them was very informal, on a first-name basis. For every course I had a lecture one or two times a week, which consisted of a small group of students. We would discuss the topics a lot, with each other and the lecturers. Each course had some mandatory readings, but it was very easily to combine the courses and the busy social life that you'll get when you're on exchange. The exams consisted of an oral exam of fifteen minutes. The lecturer would ask questions about the course and will give you a grade immediately after. I found it quite easy to achieve high grades.

Language / language preparation

The Danish government offered free language courses for everyone, which I followed. They were extremely fun and a great way to meet more people. Danish is pretty hard, but at the end of my exchange I achieved a decent level. Before I went I also learned some danish from the Duolingo app, which is a good way to learn the basics before you head to Denmark. I could also speak Danish with my roommates, which helped me learn the language.

Finances and general matters

Denmark is always seen as expensive, which is not entirely true. In the supermarkets the prices are about the same as in the Netherlands, but going out is more expensive. A beer in a regular bar would cost you easily 4 or 5 euros. Aside from my rent (370 euros) I probably spend around 600 euros a month, but i'm a pretty big spender. You can probably live with less, but I went out a few days a week which made it more expensive.

The registration in Denmark went smoothly. The university hosted a special day where you could take care of all registration matters with the municipality. The registration at the university was easy too, all people at the International Centre are all very helpful.

Housing

Housing is pretty hard to find in Aarhus, but the university helps you out (or at least tries). Tip: as soon as you know you have confirmation that you're going to Aarhus (or, when you are feeling confident that you will go there), sign up at <https://studenthousingaarhus.com/>. They have some kind of room guarantee system, but you have to sign up early to get a room in september. I did not get a room through the uni, but the university send me contact information of a guy who was subletting his room.

In Aarhus, most students live in big dorms (kollegiums) outside of the city centre. Some are close to the centre, but there are also dorms that are farther out. My dorm, Vilhelm Kiers Kollegium, was about a 15/20 bike ride from the city centre and about 10/15 minutes from the university. I had a pretty awesome room, quite spacious, for 370 euros a month. Private bathroom, but a shared kitchen with 15 people in total. It was an awesome way to meet other internationals and danes, and I can recommend living in a kollegium. Some kollegiums are awesome, some are pretty shitty, so get some information about the one you are offered! Keep in mind that Aarhus is a city where everyone bikes, so if you live farther out and have to rely on public transportation you might miss out on the experience.

Guidance

The International Centre of Aarhus University helped greatly with settling in, they were always kind and ready to answer your questions. In the beginning of the academic year they hosted an introduction programme of a week, where you would meet the students of your course. Every tuesday was 'international night', a themed party at the university where you could socialize with other internationals. I would absolutely recommend going there often, you meet all kinds of people that you wouldn't meet in your course. The International Centre also organises a lot of trips, for example to Legoland (tip: go there!)

Other

Concluding, I would absolutely recommend going to Aarhus for your exchange. I had the most amazing time there, and living in the happiest country on earth is a great experience!