

No matter what kind of student you are, Aarhus has something to offer. Known as Denmark's 'second city', it is a city full of life, only three to four hours away from Copenhagen by train. From museums and galleries, to hundreds of cafés where you can experience *hygge*, to clubs, bars and pubs, you are definitely spoilt for choice. Studying at Aarhus University is a fantastic experience, with interesting classes, passionate professors, and a great student life.

The administrative process prior to departure and when you arrive is fast and simple. The university are extremely helpful and are more than happy to answer any queries that you have. During the Introduction Week, the faculty set up time for incoming students to complete all municipality registration requirements. Here, you can apply for your CPR (this is mandatory and gives you access to a range of services in Denmark, from healthcare to borrowing books at public libraries), residence permit and other administrative documents. This is particularly useful to have it done all in one place, otherwise you have to take multiple trips to various municipal and administrative offices. In addition to the guidance provided by the university, exchange students are paired with a student at the faculty as a mentor. This was very useful as they were able to show you around, help with settling in, and aid in the integration process in the faculty and with other students, both Danish and exchange.

The primary reason I chose Aarhus University was because of the courses on offer – they really do offer a wide breadth that satisfies all scholarly tastes. Courses can be found in the course catalogue and are accessible prior to the exchange application period at RUG, so it is easy to see what is available and what is required of each course. The courses are all 10 ECTS, and so you will only have to take three courses while on exchange. That being said, only courses at LLM level are available, which means that extra preparation and reading is necessary before class. Depending on the classes you take, the workload is a little more than that experienced in Groningen, with noticeable differences in the reading required. As the courses are at LLM level, your Danish counterparts have completed their Bachelor's. In this way, students have a lot more independence with regards to their studies, and classes don't generally have mandatory attendance. There is usually the requirement to take part in presentations, which I highly recommend, but this again was not mandatory. I found the teaching to be very good and the professors were very much engaged with the topic and their students, with discussions on the topic frequently occurring during class. This was easily facilitated, as the class sizes – even in classes where there were lectures only – were relatively smaller than those in Groningen. The relationship between professor and student is much more informal than that at RUG, and so approaching professors with questions or queries is not intimidating at all.

The courses I took were Drafting Commercial Contracts, Law of the EU Internal Market and European Company Law. I thoroughly enjoyed my classes, with European Company Law being my favourite. Despite classes for this course being four hours long, the content was new and it was taught in a way which facilitated discussion and prepared you for the topics of the exam. I highly recommend taking this class if you have any interest in business or corporate law, as it provides a comprehensive understanding of the basics of company law, while contributing to a deeper level of understanding of legislation on a European level.

I also followed the course Drafting Commercial Contracts. Having only experienced theoretical contract law at RUG (based on the DCFR) it was interesting to see how the theory was applied in practice with legislation that was actually in force. The professor taught classes in a way in which he was preparing us for legal practice, and so it was valuable to see what the best and worst approaches to the law were. Doing the reading for this class was essential, in order to compliment the content of the lectures as well as providing an awareness of what was going

on. The material tested in the exam could also be based on the reading, so I recommend students take time to prepare well for this exam.

The last class that I took was Law of the EU Internal Market. The course focused on the four freedoms, and so we had the opportunity to go in-depth into each freedom, more so than is possible during the course at RUG. A definite highlight of the course was a presentation by Judge Allan Rosas who is currently a judge at the European Court of Justice. Since it is relatively similar to European Law taught in Groningen, if you did well in that course, you should have no difficulties following this one. What was different about the method of examination in this class was that we had to write a paper. Seven thousand to nine thousand words in length, you have approximately two weeks to complete it. In this way, I highly recommend doing the reading for this class as it is prescribed, as doing research and writing for this paper in the exam period – when you have other exams – could prove a little difficult.

Something completely new to me was the concept of an oral exam. Two of my exams were oral exams, and once you've experienced one, the others that follow are not as bad. They typically last around fifteen to twenty minutes, where you choose a topic from the option provided to talk about, similar to a presentation, and the remaining time is for questions on other parts of the curriculum. The good thing about oral exams is that you receive your grade immediately. After the exam, you leave the room while the examiners discuss, and then they give you your grade and justify their reasoning. The grading scale in Denmark ranges from -3 to 12, with 2 needed for a pass.

I was excited to have a campus experience, and Aarhus certainly didn't disappoint! AU is set on a sprawling green campus where you can find everything from canteens, to the International Office, to all your classes. I definitely got lost during my first few days, but once you know your way around, it is super easy to navigate. AU also spoils you for choices of study areas, with several libraries and university buildings open 24/7; they all have great amenities and offer spots for both individual and group study. On campus, there are countless opportunities to interact with other students, especially at the 'Friday Bars'. Every Friday, the faculty hosts a gathering where you can hang out with friends, fellow students and professors over beer and snacks. They're usually very popular, and so it's a great time to relax and meet new people at the end of every week.

What I found to be noticeable at AU was the university's focus on the mental health of students. From guidance counsellors, to student mentors, to countless events organised by the faculty (like a trip to LEGOLAND, which was all things epic), and the ease with which you can approach professors, the university strives for an open and (relatively) stress-free environment. If being alone is something you worry about when going on exchange, fear not, as the university puts in a lot of effort to mix incoming students and ease the transition of integration into a new city and culture. Further, if you are going through a hard time, or need extra assistance, there are many services that are available to help you. In addition to this, language is not a barrier that should be a concern when thinking of studying in Aarhus. While I recommend learning some basics like 'yes', 'no' or 'thank you', 86% of Danes speak English as a second language, and further, all courses and course material will be in English. This means that getting around town or seeking assistance is very easy, even in the smallest of Danish towns, and you should have no trouble, nor need to have extensive – if at all – language preparation.

To say that finding housing in Aarhus is difficult would be an understatement. I recommend that you get ahead of the game and start scouting for places early. In this regard, the AU isn't too helpful, and offer extremely limited university housing. Most student, Danish and exchange rent on the private market, with few students living close the university itself. It is not uncommon to live twenty to thirty minutes away by bus, in fact, most students do. I managed to totally luck-out and found an amazing place about twenty minutes by bus from the campus, with the major perk of living right on the bay. I think that rent is a little more expensive than that offered in Groningen, so it is something that you should be aware of.

I would not worry about not being directly in town, as the public transport is really good, and runs almost 24/7. Like Groningen, or The Netherlands in general, the majority of Danes cycle. I chose not to, so I cannot comment on the prices of renting or buying a bike. As I took the bus, I definitely recommend getting a long-term pass. This is super easy to get, either at the bus station or via the app. For a semester, it cost approximately one hundred and fifty Euros for a two zone pass. This pass allows you unlimited use of buses and trams within those the zones of your pass. Train travel is more expensive than that in The Netherlands, with a one-way ticket from Aarhus to Copenhagen Airport costing approximately fifty-six Euros. I chose to travel by train between Aarhus and Copenhagen or the airport as it was the most convenient method, however, there are frequently scheduled buses, such as FlixBus and other local services, which offer a student discount and considerably cheaper tickets. Something to keep in mind is that Denmark has a very high standard of living, and everything is more expensive, especially compared to costs in Groningen. If you are cost conscious, then Denmark probably should be further down your list. I think the exchange rate is $1\text{EUR} = 7\text{DKK}$, so divide all prices by 7 to get the Euro equivalent.

Aarhus is really a cool city, with lots to explore, and the Danes are super nice, friendly and willing to help. There is no shortage of things to do, either at day or night. A favourite area of mine was the *Latinerkvarteret*, right next to the centre of town. Filled with amazing cafés and shops, it was such a great place to hang out or study, and I suggest that you pay it a visit. Another of my favourite hang-out/study spots in the whole city was Dokk1. It's useful to know where it is, since you may have to visit it for lots of administrative/registration things once you arrive. Apart from being a municipal building, it is also a public library and cultural centre. One of the coolest spaces in Aarhus, Dokk1 is really a gem that I wish we had an equivalent of in Groningen.

Overall, I would highly recommend Aarhus as an exchange destination. As my first choice in exchange destination, I was ecstatic to be going to this destination. Both the city and university are amazing, and the Danish culture is warm and friendly, and my experiences exceeded all expectations. If you think Denmark is somewhere that you would like to explore, Aarhus should definitely be on your list.