

Erasmus Exchange Student in Copenhagen

Report from the spring semester 2010

Copenhagen is a beautiful, lively, interesting and diverse city! In the spring 2010 I was an exchange student in at the Faculty of Life Sciences, Copenhagen University. This experience has been very important to me, and it has been fantastic to live in a city like Copenhagen. I spent hours just walking looking at the beautiful houses and the people of Copenhagen that seems ride their bikes everywhere. I lived in Nørrebro, where I rented a room from a small family. I lived in a lovely old house. I found this accommodation very good, since it was cheaper than the accommodation arranged by the university and it is a lovely neighborhood.



A picture from Nørrebro where I lived.

When I first arrived in Copenhagen it was a cold winter, one of these rare winters in the southern parts of Scandinavia when the snow cover stays for weeks. The snow made Copenhagen look like a winter land and an ideal “Christmas town”. However the snow melted and the town changed into a green city with beautiful parks and lively streets. When spring arrived the city got more lively, more people hung out outside and cafés moved out into the streets. In addition numerous festivals are arranged in streets and parks, either organized and announced festivals or just spontaneous parties. There is always something happening and it is easy to meet Danish people as well as people from other countries, as Copenhagen is an international city with many foreign inhabitants and visitors. Since my stay in Copenhagen I now have friends from Italy, Germany, Australia, New Zealand, France and Hungary.



A free music festival in a park near my home, with beautiful weather and a lot of people.

The Faculty of Life Sciences is a very good faculty and the organization and support for exchange students is great. The faculty is located in Fredriksberg in the western parts of Copenhagen. It might appear a little bit strange to have an agricultural university in the middle of a big city, however some of the teaching is done on a farm about 40 minutes bus ride from the university. Close to the main buildings in the city center there is the most beautiful park, to follow the development of this park during the spring was truly a pleasure.

There is a wide variety of courses offered. However I found it a little bit hard to find a suitable course for the last block (block 4) for my degree (agroecology). But for students with agriculture or natural resource management as their main subject should not have any problems to find suitable courses. I took courses in environmental effects of land use change, organic farming, weed science and life cycle assessment. The course structure clear and the fact that all courses are being fitted into a week structure makes it easier to predict when you have classes even when you apply for the courses. The courses that I took was well structured and the teaching was very good. Most of the teachers speak good English. The international office is very helpful and always there to help you if you need any help, information or support.

Since I didn't live in a students residence I had to work a little bit harder to get in contact with other students in my free time. But much of the teaching is based on group work and therefore you will easily meet people and find people to study with. The university of Copenhagen is the largest in Denmark and there is a great possibility to meet Danish students as well as foreign students. It is easy to participate in activities arranged by the student organizations, me my self participated in swimming classes. Another way to meet people is to participate in parties or just go to one of the student bars.



The view from the round tower in the city center. The weather is not always great, however Copenhagen still offers a beautiful view.

To sum up, I warmly recommend Copenhagen and the Faculty of Life Sciences. Copenhagen is my new favorite city in Scandinavia. I will definitely come back here.

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