

Aarhus Universitet, Denmark

For my Erasmus semester, Winter 2015/2016, I studied at Aarhus Universitet in Aarhus, Denmark. While not my first choice, I could not have been more pleased with studying at Aarhus. I had originally selected my Erasmus choices based on academic programs that aligned with my Master program. I had no prior knowledge of Aarhus, nor much of Denmark either. Unfortunately, I did not have much time to prepare for my semester, as I was busy with work at Hohenheim, and even found it difficult to find the classes being offered at the host University.

When I arrived at Aarhus, I could not have felt more welcomed and at ease. I was lucky enough to have a buddy there, and another student from my program greet me at the train station, even though my train was late and arrived past midnight! It was still wonderful, and they took me to my student apartment. Upon arriving I met my new roommate who was also very lovely. Unfortunately, I had missed some of the orientation events, as I arrived late, and therefore had some initial difficulty getting everything sorted. But everyone was very friendly and helpful at the university.

I was lucky and received student housing from the University, unfortunately it seems some student at the university had difficulty getting housing. For me accommodations were perfect. While a bit further from the University, it meant a long uphill bike ride on the way home, I was happy to be in a calmer area outside the downtown area. I was surrounded by many other student and very close to a shopping center, to get my groceries or other necessities. I had a great room, with lots of sunlight and shared a bathroom and kitchen with one other girl, who was lovely and we still talk often.

I completed the learning agreement and selected my classes once the semester began at Aarhus, and while late, it was not a problem, and I am thankful I was able to get all the classes I selected. Additionally, as a non-European citizen, I had to apply for a visa. I completed this once I arrived in Aarhus, and while it took a few months to schedule appointments and have everything processed, it was no problem and did not interfere with my studies or living in any way.

I found it very easy to assimilate into Danish culture, with everyone being so friendly and speaking English extremely well. The public transportation was extremely easy to figure out, as well as getting a bike and using that as my main form of transportation. I made many friends through my classes in Aarhus, but mostly focused on my studies. Living in Denmark can be very expensive, so I could not afford to go out and socialize that much, as it would be too expensive for me. They have a very big international community though, and many student bars on campus making it very easy to socialize with your classmates.

However, while at Aarhus, I was very busy with my classes. I found the work much more demanding at Aarhus than at Hohenheim, and even a bit difficult to keep up with all the assigned readings and

reports. While demanding, I welcomed the change. I also think the constant reports, were a great way for me to improve my writing. The professors were also very supportive in this aspect, with learning being most important for them, and therefore deadlines were constantly extended. They also provided a lot of feedback on all assignments for us to learn and improve from.

I could not have been happier with the academics at Aarhus. My classes were roughly 8-15 students and all the professors extremely friendly and knowledgeable. For my program many excursions were involved that proved essential to learning the material. I really feel like I gained a lot academically by spending a semester at Aarhus. I was so happy with the level of academics, and support from professors and classmates that I wanted to stay and complete my master thesis, and even thought about continuing to do a PhD there. Unfortunately, by the time I had come to this conclusion it was too late to apply for another semester abroad, and to receive funding in order to stay in Aarhus. However, if I financially could have found a way I would have loved to stay in Aarhus.

Even now, I still want to move back to Aarhus. It is an amazing city, full of wonderful and kind people. Not to mention, just a three hour bus-ride to Copenhagen, where many of my friends from Hohenheim had gone to study. Overall it was a great experience, and I am so happy I made the decision. I think it really enhanced my master program, and learning objectives.