

# Erasmus report

Copenhagen

With all the hassle and pre-arrangements you have to go through when you decide to go abroad for a year it worth the effort once you get there. Plenty needs to be coordinated between the universities, you have to clean out your flat, go through your financials, find a new place to live in a foreign country, you have to find your way around, socialize and integrate, and to learn a new language. The list is almost endless... But don't let that scare you off by any means!

## Housing

I was lucky and got a room in a student dormitory for the first six months because it is extremely hard to find a place to live in this city and there a lot of scams you need to be aware of. If you are not so lucky then you still can find lovely people hosting you on the couch-surfing network until you do a real life flat hunting and checking where to stay. I highly recommend couch-surfing because it's a great opportunity to make your first new friends and to get introduced and shown around in the new city. And to be honest, no guide book can be as good as a local with your same interests! Danes are well-known that hard to get to know them (turned out true) so it is one of the way as well.

My first month ran by, it was impressive. I was so busy with administrative paper work, registrations and my language course that I completely forgot to call my parents. A language course is also something I want to recommend because you make friends who are interested in integrating themselves and that will be important if you want to get more out of your ERASMUS year than partying with other international students. And if you fall in love with the city and the culture as I dd, then speaking Danish is a must for better integration later on. Their English is probably better than yours but still if you are in Denmark you need to speak Danish.

I'm glad, I had more than a month before the university started to enjoy the danish summer and explore the city. We've been so lucky with the weather that summer. We spend a lot time at the beach or at one of the pools in the harbour. Copenhagen by summer is great: everyone is on vacation and spends

time outside in the cafes and there are plenty of festivals and events going on. Additionally, the entire capital area is well connected.

## The University

I did my exchange year at the National History Museum of Denmark and I took classes in Science Center. I was very positive surprised by Copenhagen's University! Their system is totally different and I like it a lot. The semester is divided into blocks and during one block of 6 weeks you have around 3-4 lectures per week of the same module. A block ends with an exam or other kind of evaluation. The idea at Copenhagen University is not to learn things by heart. Quite contrary, my exams has been home-assignments in which I had to write papers about certain topics or I had oral exams. I really like how Danish professors take so much time for their students and their teaching. We had external speakers and literature research sessions.

What makes Danes the happiest people in the world?

That's a really good question and all I can contribute is that in fact everyone seems above-average happy and relaxed. The Danes have a word called "hygge" which actually describes the differences with other people, cannot be described by words. It stands for an entire life-style and cosy just doesn't all of that. Let's say, that everything you imagine as nice, beautiful, cosy and relaxed is "hygge" and Danes always try to make everything "hyggelig". They also have a high feeling of nationality and self-identity, and they are very international and open at the same time. Danes feel also very secure in their county and society, and most of the people I met haven't been afraid of unemployment or social comedown. Denmark offers everyone the same faire opportunities and people are more important than a reputation as export trade champion. But still this seems like comparing apples and oranges and I guess the only correct answer is: because it is Denmark!