



ERASMUS-EXPERIENCE REPORT

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Field of study: EnvEuro

Host University: University of Copenhagen

Year of study: 2022/2023

Duration of stay: from 26.8.2022 to 7.7.2023

Publication of the report

I consent to the publication of this experience report including the above data (field of study, host university, year of study, duration of stay) on the website of BOKU-International Relations for the purpose of sharing information related to the study visit, so that future interested outgoings can inform themselves about your experience at the host institution.

yes **no**

The consent is voluntary and can be withdrawn at any time without giving reasons with immediate future effect. Any withdrawal can be declared at any time by e-mail to erasmus@boku.ac.at.

ERASMUS-EXPERIENCE REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

1. City, country and people + social integration

Copenhagen is the capital of Denmark. It is very flat and has an amazing bike lane-network which makes biking across the city like a dream and the number one way of getting around. The city is divided in different areas which have different characteristics and vibes. Danes are a friendly and easy-going people, and they speak English well. However, the locals can be somewhat hard to get to know unless you make a real effort.

2. Accommodation

Finding accommodation in Copenhagen is very challenging. Prepare yourself for starting the search early on and expect very high cost of living. I would recommend starting to search and apply for places early, both for private flats and dormitories. Expect having to pay around 6000 DKK per month in rent as well as having to invest in furniture.

I managed to get hold of a room in a shared flat at Mariendalsvej through the Housing Foundation, but the competition was fierce and stressful. I paid approximately 5200 DKK for a furnished room with a nice location in a 6-person shared flat. The dormitory was nice, but hosted only internationals which I found a bit sad since I wanted to connect more with the locals.

3. Costs and expenses

Denmark is an expensive country to live in. It is quite expensive to go out and eat. Groceries costed me around 700 DKK on average per month. In addition to my 5200 DKK rent I needed to pay a deposit of 3 months' rent at the beginning of my stay.

4. Arrival and departure (mean of transport)

At the beginning and end of my stay I was lucky enough of having my parents bring and pick me up with all of my stuff. Going home during my stay I used bus and trains which worked well. This was a bit of a hassle to organise the pickup of my dormitory keys at the beginning of my stay since you could only pick them up on weekdays and I arrived on a Saturday.

5. Other (visa, insurance, etc.)

It was no problem for me receiving a visa, but you needed to book an appointment and bring some documents. Since I was going to stay in Denmark longer than 6 months, I needed to get a Danish registration number (CPR). The level of bureaucracy is lower in Denmark than in Austria.

6. Description of host university

The University of Copenhagen is a big university with several campuses spread out across the city. Google Maps are usually helpful to find the right campus buildings, but unfortunately



there exist no maps or the like to find rooms, so plan good time to navigate halls in the beginning. There is a mix of new and old buildings, and it is usually at least one canteen on each campus. The university or students sometimes host events that are often announced on various pin boards on around the different campuses.

7. Application and enrolment formalities and orientation phase

Fairly normal procedure. The introduction days consisted of some digital presentations, some social activities and campus tours.

8. Course offer and attended courses

University of Copenhagen has a broad spectrum of research areas and courses thereafter. Courses are mostly of sizes 15 ECTS or 7,5 ECTS. I did most of my courses within the topic of climate change and climate physics.

In addition to my thesis, I did the following courses:

- NFKY15008E Earth and Climate Physics
 - Somewhat difficult course in climate physics. Beside normal lectures “simple” coding exercises were coordinated to illustrate and make students familiar with very simple climate models/concepts. Final grade is based on a group report connected to one of the models introduced in the course.
- NFKY14007E Paleo-climatology
 - A course about how proxies (indirect sources) can inform us about past climate. It gives a detailed explanation to different types of proxies and how to interpret them as well as the uncertainties connected to it. A well-structured and interesting course. We also got the opportunity to visit the ice core lab during measurement reading. Lecturers expect selected papers to be read and some presented by a group in class. Final grade is based on a 24 h home exam where you write a text on a requested topic.
- NPLK14030E Climate Change and Land Use
 - Very varied course covering aspects of how land use (change) affect climate and vice versa. There are many different lecturers involved from different fields giving different perspectives on challenges and potential solutions. The main lecturer our year hosted it alone for the first time making it somewhat less structured and chaotic than maybe usual. However, some guest lectures are really good. Final grade is based on hand in of a paper or poster created in groups along with oral questioning from lecturers.
- NFKY17002E Climate Models and Observations
 - The course covers the fundamental workings of climate models as well as findings of the latest IPCC-report. Groupwork and presentation on a selected topic with the use of real climate model data is mandatory. Lecturers are very nice. Final grade is based on an individual prepared oral exam on a randomly selected topic among 10 topics announced ahead of time.



9. "Study workload" (ECTS) per semester + grading

It is common to do 30 ECTS per semester and the total workload is on average similar to levels at BOKU. You are to a higher degree expected to arrive on time for class. The grading system is a 7-scale system (-3, 0, 2, 4, 7, 10, 12) where 12 is the best and both -3 and 0 is failed.

10. Academic counselling/support

Academic support is offered. They are helpful and usually fairly quick to answer e-mails.

11. Tips and summary

- Start the accommodation search early.
- Estimate good time in the beginning to find rooms at campus.
- Buy or rent a bike.