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EUC Vest/Denmark

Spring 2012

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To study in Denmark was a once in a lifetime opportunity and I am so grateful for the experience. Being able to participate and learn about the culture in Denmark was an experience that I looked forward to. I also wanted to learn about their education, school, and possibly open doors for myself in the future for employment. I didn't know exactly what to expect as far as traveling to Denmark, since I have never traveled to abroad before. So, I spent some time on the internet researching what I could, I let my bank know that I would be traveling to Denmark and the surrounding areas, and I packed as best I could for different weather situations, after learning that their weather is similar to ours.

The accommodations and location of our hotel were perfect. They were located near the train station and the activities that were planned for us. I would recommend learning how to read a map to the future students. Upon arriving, we were taken on a tour of the EUC Vest campus. We toured all the programs offered at the school which was interesting. I feel that it gave some insight to their culture and the traditional roles men and women play. For housing, I was able to stay with the same student that I hosted when they visited us, so I felt very comfortable knowing I would be staying with a friend. He picked me up from the train station and I found him to be very hospitable and accommodating while I was there. I would recommend getting to know the Danish exchange students when they come to Bellingham, so when you go to Denmark, you feel more comfortable in a foreign place.

Participating at their school was a great experience. I found the structure of the classroom in Denmark to be very similar to ours. Both schools have very detail oriented instructors, and there is an extreme amount of respect for the teacher, making for good teacher student relations. I do think that the BTC labs and libraries are more accessible and a better resource than at EUC. I did find that their teaching methods were very detailed oriented and found it to be very informative. I also like that they offer a four program in comparison to our two year. I thought their college was in a good location, in a town similar to Bellingham. I felt very comfortable there.

Having a host family definitely helped us integrate into the culture in Denmark. Fortunately, many Dane's speak English as well, so we didn't have a language barrier to deal with. I feel like being open-minded to experiencing another culture helped with any challenges that could have

been. I expected things to be different and having the experience with hosting prior to our trip, I was able to ask different questions about some of their customs.

The Scan Design Foundation Grant assisted me greatly. I would never have been able to financially study abroad without this grant and I am so grateful for it. I thought about exchanging my U.S. currency into Crohn's but I decided to just use my Visa/Debit card instead and feel like that was a great choice. It extremely easy to access money anywhere I went. I feel that a fair amount to anticipate as far as spending money is \$500 per week. The cost of living is much higher in Denmark. A simple bottle of water could cost \$5 U.S. in Denmark, compared to our \$1-2 bottle of water. Future students definitely need to anticipate spending more than they would here.

I feel that the administration did a great job of helping us to prepare for our trip. They were great at communicating what things needed to be done prior, such as, passport, travelers insurance, etc. They also helped provide information on where to go to get these things done as well. Our instructor that accompanied us on the trip was awesome to travel with and helpful in the preparation. My instructor for my specific program at BTC was also helpful and encouraging when applying for the grant and opportunity to host a student. I think the best student for this exchange would be one that wants to open a wider range of work fields in the future, someone who is open-minded, and wants to enrich their education as much as possible.

I would give this experience a 10 out of 10! I had a wonderful time both hosting and traveling to Denmark. I am so grateful for this experience and find it to be invaluable in both my personal life and my education. My expectations were far surpassed and the Scan Design Foundation made this possible. I think the greatest benefit was learning how other countries educational systems compare to ours and making worldwide connections in the industry that I am studying. I would like to formally thank the Scan Design Foundation for this amazing opportunity. I can't express enough how grateful I am for this experience, thank you for making it possible.