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When the opportunity to study/work in Denmark was presented to the welding program I was very interested. I saw this as a great opportunity to learn about the Danish culture and a chance to see the differences in technology. I have always been very intrigued by Denmark's energy independence and I saw this as a great opportunity to learn and share with my fellow students what we can achieve in our own country. Preparing for Denmark I studied up on their history and language. It was a little intimidating not knowing if there would be a huge language barrier, but I was eager to learn as much as I could from the Danes.

We started our adventure by flying to Amsterdam. From there we flew to Copenhagen. Then we took a train to the center of town. This was my first time riding on a train. It was very interesting right off the bat to see 100's of bicycles and very little cars. In Denmark it is very expensive to drive a car (taxed heavily) the reason is to keep their air clean. In Denmark it is more common to ride a bike, scooter, or train. From the train station we walked to the CabInn Hotel. Located also in the center of town, it made it very easy to walk around and see the sites. Our first night in Copenhagen we walked to the canal, which was very beautiful.

After we had spent 2 days in Copenhagen we took the train to Esbjerg to meet up with our host families. When we reached Esbjerg the EUC Vest instructors had an amazing list of activities for us to participate in. We toured local businesses, towns, historic sites, and we did job shadowing with our hosts. We also participated in private workshops at EUC vest. We did everything from milling our own candle holders to bricklaying. The EUC vest college is very impressive. There were a lot of similarities to BTC as well as a lot of differences. It seemed the Danes were ahead of times with lots of technology. All the staff and students treated us very friendly and were extremely knowledgeable. The experience I had at EUC vest was amazing and something I would not get to experience here at BTC. The one major difference with schooling in Denmark is that they go to school for free. The Danish people are taxed quite a bit. This tax however, pays for their school, healthcare, etc. This allows everyone to be educated and have the ability to have healthcare.

The second part of our trip we stayed with our host families in the towns which they worked. Some of the students lived on the opposite end of Denmark from their schools. Because of this during the school week, the Danes stay at the EUC Vest dorms. After the week they return to their homes and work. I had the pleasure of staying in Hanstholm. While in Hanstholm I worked as a ship fitter for Hanstholm Skibssmedie. They have 23 employees all in all, 17 journeymen and 6 apprentices. They are taking an education as or educated as i.a. ship fitters and diesel mechanics. At Hanstholm Skibssmedie they have experience within all reparations of vessels and servicing within shipping, industries, wave energy and so on. During

my time with this company I worked on a couple fishing boats, made light posts for their dry dock, and I even had my open job making aluminum flooring for a vessel. I was the first female to work as a ship fitter at the company. I was treated as an equal. At first I wasn't sure how I would be treated, but I thought the best way to be accepted was to jump right in and start working and prove myself. After my stay with the company they sent me home with some kronestick electrode holder, and a thank you card. This part of the trip was my favorite. I loved being able to weld on Danish equipment. While most Danes speak English, many of the employees that were older at the company did not. Clause spent a lot of his time translating conversations and helping me set the weld machines as they are all written in Danish. After work, Clause and I spent the time exploring the town. We toured old military barracks and hiked along the beach. He was an excellent tour guide. He was very focused on taking me to little towns with lots of history. One of the coolest places we went was the Island of Fur. This is where my host is from. We stayed in Nederby, Viborg with some of Clauses friends. From there we took mopeds around the island. The people of Fur are very hospitable and friendly. I hope to visit my new found friends of Fur again someday.

The Scan Design Foundation helped us greatly with our trip. Without their help this trip would not have been possible for me. I almost switched all my money to kronas but I decided to stick to using my Debit card. Surprisingly, I was able to use my debit card almost everywhere. I would suggest to future exchange students to try and save some additional money for trip. We were spending \$500 dollars or more a week. Everything in Denmark is at least \$5 dollars more than American costs. Also if you plan on using your phone, be prepared for a hefty bill when you return. Your best option is to buy a SIM card when you arrive in Copenhagen. Once again, thank you so much Scan Design Foundation for the trip of a lifetime.

This experience was something I will never forget. I had a wonderful time traveling to Denmark and taking in all the culture. I made lifelong friends with the EUC Vest instructors and my hosts friends and family. This trip would not have been possible without Scan Design. Words cannot explain my gratitude to Scan Design. This was one of my biggest accomplishments and I cannot wait to go back someday. I would rate this trip a 10. I felt this trip was so well prepared. We were up every day early out exploring and wouldn't get home till late at night. The only word that suits this trip is unforgettable. Thank you EUC Vest and Scan Design for making this possible.