

SCAN|DESIGN FOUNDATION BY INGER & JENS BRUUN

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Institution where you studied: [Danish Institute for Study Abroad \(DIS\)](#)

Semester of participation: [Summer 2015](#)

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1. Pre-Exchange. Why and Where:

a. Why did you decide to study in the US or Denmark as an exchange student?

- I started out wanting to do a study abroad program somewhere in Scandinavia. I took a class on Scandinavian politics for my major in political science. I was encouraged by my professor Christine Ingebritsen to apply for study abroad and also to apply for the Scandesign fellowship. I chose Copenhagen, Denmark because their government and politics interested me the most out of all of the Scandinavian countries.

b. Why did you select the program/University?

- Professor Ingebritsen was the first to tell me about the DIS program. When I did some research it seemed like the perfect program for me. The classes were based on learning about different aspects of Scandinavian and primarily Danish culture and also politics.

c. What were your expectations?

- I went into the program with absolutely no expectations, other than to learn about Danish culture and politics. I just wanted to have an experience of a life time.

d. What preparations did you make prior to departure?

- I studied Scandinavian politics, culture, and social norms over the course of a year while taking classes on Scandinavian politics.

e. How could you improve your preparations?

- I would have liked to know some Danish before going. Although I never needed to know Danish since everyone speaks english it would have been nice to at least know basic conversational Danish.

2. ARRIVAL/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

- Everything was great, I have no recommendations

b. Comment on the orientation and activities offered at both your home University and the host University, what did it cover and how did it help you prepare/adjust after arriving?

- The DIS orientations both at home and in Denmark were very informative and allowed for an easy adjustment into Danish life. The social events that ScanDesign organized were particularly helpful since they provide an opportunity to interact with Danish students before going to Denmark.

2. ACADEMICS:

a. Evaluate the instruction you received. Compare the following to your home institution's system:

- class registration
 - Very easy, similar to UW
- classroom structure
 - This also was great, not too different from UW
- instruction
 - This was great! Teachers allowed for many questions and made sure that subject matter was being understood clearly.
- teacher/student relations
 - This was great as well. In fact one Friday after class one of my teachers went to a park with a group of students to have a beer and discuss the subject matter further.
- grading/exams
 - All similar to grading at the UW
- administration
 - Easy to work with and always available during business hours.
- library, computer, and classroom facilities
 - The facilities were all great.

b. Evaluate the quality and content of instruction

- Instructors did a great job at provoking thought and critical thinking. In addition, instructors were not afraid to discuss any topic that came up in class.

c. In general, what did you like best and least about the academics?

- What I liked best the how refreshing the instruction was. Instructors had unique perspectives on their subject matter and were excellent at provoking critical discussion of the subject matter.

d. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?

- Spies and Espionage: The Enemy Within - Matthias
- The World of Vikings

3. HOUSING:

a. How would you assess the housing arrangements?

- The housing arrangements were above my expectations.

b. How did you locate your housing?

- DIS had a charter bus at the airport.

4. EXCHANGE SITE:

In general, please describe your impressions of the host University campus and its location and surrounding community.

- DIS is in downtown Copenhagen. It was super easy to get there from my dorm by bike.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study.

- No concerns

6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

a. How did you integrate into the host country culture and meet members of the community? (e.g., mentors, clubs, sports, extracurricular activities, pubs, etc.)

- I lived in a kolegium which is a dormitory. The kolegium had mostly Danish students and also a bar in the basement. This made it very easy to integrate and meet Danish students.

b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them. (e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

- These were all very similar to Seattle's culture and were easy to adjust to.

7. FINANCIAL:

a. Describe how the Scan|Design Foundation Fellowship assisted you / made a difference in your decision to study abroad.

- ScanDesign provided me with a very generous scholarship for my study abroad. They were a big reason why I ended up choosing Denmark as the country I would study abroad in.

b. What is the best way to access/transfer money?

- Having ScanDesign just pay the scholarship directly toward the UW tuition

c. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.

- \$1,000 - \$1,500

d. Comment on the relative "cost of living" between your home University and the host University.

- Copenhagen is a little more expensive than Seattle but the costs are pretty close.

8. EXCHANGE/SCAN|DESIGN FELLOWSHIP COORDINATORS AND

ADMINISTRATION:

Coordinator team

Comment on the assistance by the Scan|Design Fellowship coordinators and administration before your departure, upon arrival, and during your stay. What worked and what could be improved or changed?

- Everything was great, I would have loved to attend more events.

Comment on the number and type of activities arranged by the coordinators. What worked and what would you like replaced with some other activity.

- In Seattle I attended a ScanDesign event and a pub and also a Mariners game. Both were perfect ways to interact with other fellows. Also, in Denmark there was a harbor booze cruise which was a blast.

Suggestions for activities we should add to the program

- None

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

Describe the type of student for whom this exchange is best suited and what advice would you give to future students.

- This type of exchange is perfect for anyone who wants to experience a different culture in an immersive way. I would suggest studying some politics or culture, or norms, this can make conversations with Danes more interesting

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

a. How would you rate the quality of the overall experience?

- Incredible! A truly life changing experience!

b. How realistic were your academic and personal expectations and how did the Scan|Design Fellowship Program make a difference?

- The social events that ScanDesign organized were perfect for allowing to figure out what to expect when I arrived in Denmark

c. What did you consider to be the greatest benefit and challenge of studying abroad?

- The greatest benefit is to truly experience a different culture and a different way of doing things. This allows you to appreciate another culture and also criticize our own culture honestly. The greatest challenge is trying to find your way in a city that has no english street signs.