

## EXCHANGE STUDENT EVALUATION REPORT

**Student Name:** Blake Thomas  
**Institution where you studied:** DIS Copenhagen  
**Term(s) of participation:** Full Year Student  
**E-mail address:** Blak@pdx.edu

### 1. WHY AND WHERE:

- a. Why did you decide to study in the US or Denmark as an exchange student?  
**I have always had an interest in travel and the world. I was lucky enough to be able to do that this year. I chose Copenhagen, because I felt I would learn the most from Danish Design, over other European countries.**
- b. Why did you select the program/University?  
**DIS program had a very strong architecture department, so I felt academically I wouldn't be wasting a year.**
- c. What were your expectations?  
**I honestly went into the year and program blind, I think this suited me the best and allowed me to fully experience Denmark.**
- d. What preparations did you make prior to departure?  
**Not many, besides looking into Danish Design.**
- e. How could you improve your preparations?  
**I wish I would have taken a Danish course, or researched the language.**

### 2. ARRIVAL/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

- a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival  
**I was given housing through DIS. The first term I housed with a Danish student, which was a nice intro into the culture. The Second term I housed at a Kollegium, which allowed me to live with a lot of my peers and friends.**
- b. Please 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 adapt?  
**The home orientation, was very basic and was an intro to traveling abroad and how academics transferred. I have travelled before and found this not that helpful, my personal advisor helped me more in being ready for Copenhagen. The Copenhagen orientation was very in depth as it went over cultural, economic, social, living and academic issues. It was very helpful and allowed you to meet your peers.**

### 2. ACADEMICS:

- a. Please evaluate the instruction you received. Compare the following to your home institution's system:
  - class registration  
**Class registration was very easy and similar to my home university.**
  - classroom structure  
**I took mostly architecture courses which function wonderfully. Exactly the same as home.**
  - instruction
  - teacher/student relations  
**I felt much more comfortable with my Danish professors, as if we were closer to being peers to one and another.**
  - grading/exams

- administration

**On campus offices and administration were wonderful.**

- library, computer, and classroom facilities

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

**I felt as if I left DIS with a new set of knowledge so the quality was very high.**

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

**I liked the more open forum of academics, the classroom felt more like a discussion and knowledge-seeking place. Rather than a lecture hall forcing information.**

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

**If you are applying for Architecture, Courtney Coyne Jensen was a great inspiration for me.**

### 3. HOUSING:

a. How would you assess the housing arrangements?

**Housing was wonderful, everything you needed and comfortable.**

b. How did you locate your housing?

**DIS arranged it for me.**

### 4. EXCHANGE SITE:

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

**DIS has a very interesting campus, it is located in the heart of the old town downtown area. You would never know it is a campus but it is great studying in the city.**

### 5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

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

### 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 participated in bicycle races around the city and meet some great Danes that way. I also participated in some political groups where I learned more about their culture and met great people.**

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

### 7. FINANCIAL:

a. Please describe how the Scan|Design Foundation fellowship assisted you / made a difference in your decision to study abroad.

**I did not know about SCAN|Design until my second term unfortunately.**

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

**I used an international card and my home university financial card.**

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

**Not including the help given for rent, food, and transportation given by DIS, I spent around 300 USD a month.**

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

It is extremely expensive to live in Copenhagen, however I recommend it still because that cost is worth the experience.

### 8. EXCHANGE/SCAN|DESIGN FELLOWSHIP ADMINISTRATION:

- a. Please comment on the assistance and activities by the Scan|Design Fellowship coordinator before your departure, upon arrival, and during your stay. What worked and what could be improved or changed?

**Scan|Design events in Copenhagen were amazing. They allowed you to socialize with students studying at other universities as well as Danish Alumni. The events were fun and helped us learn about the culture even more.**

- b. Please evaluate services and effectiveness of the University administrative offices.

**9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:**

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

**I advise any student to attempt this program. I believe that traveling and learning from a new culture is the only way for America to grow healthier.**

**10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:**

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

**The best year of my life! I will always remember the friends I made, Danish and American, as well as how much I learned.**

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

**I feel as if I exceeded my academic and personal expectations. Scan|Design was a great support, financially, but more important socially. Scan|Design felt like a safe place to go to in Copenhagen, which is sometimes needed while studying abroad.**

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

**The greatest challenge would be missing your friends and family back in the states. That being said Studying abroad helped me grow so much as a person. I made friends all over the world which I plan on visiting again later in life. I learned in a new perspective about my field of study.**

**FEEL FREE TO ADD OTHER COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE.**