

EXCHANGE STUDENT EVALUATION REPORT

Student Name: [Andrea Bouma](#)

Institution where you studied: [Copenhagen Business School - MBA](#)

Semester of participation: [Summer 2014](#)

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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 was looking for an MBA program abroad to gain cultural exposure and learn business fundamentals from a different point of view.](#)
- b. Why did you select the program/University?
 - [Copenhagen Business School has a great reputation.](#)
- c. What were your expectations?
 - [I expected to be immersed in another culture and leave with strong friendships with people from other countries.](#)
- d. What preparations did you make prior to departure?
 - [I just made logistics preparations. I pre-arranged a couple places to live through airbnb and tried to learn a little about the Danish history.](#)
- e. How could you improve your preparations?
 - [I wish I had been able to figure out parts of town better before I got there. I ended up living in a not great part of Copenhagen away from most students, which I would have rather been closer. There were a lot of students that were able to sublet from other students onsite \(were from Europe or had friends from CBS\) for much cheaper and better location. In retrospect, I would have tried harder to use my personal network to find a better place to live or possibly reached out to Scan Design.](#)

2. ARRIVAL/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

- a. Recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.
 - [Live closer to Norreport or Fredricksburg, I was out by Valbyparken and it was a trek to see anyone.](#)
- 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?
 - [Both did not help with things like needing a credit card that had a chip in it \(the US just now has switched but last summer none of mine had the chip and I was stuck\). It would have been nice to have more of an orientation around where things are in Copenhagen before leaving home.](#)

2. ACADEMICS:

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

- class registration
 - OK.
 - classroom structure
 - It was interesting to not have any attendance or assignments and have entire grade dependent on the final exam/project. I was fine with that, but it did end up putting a lot of focus on someone just cramming at the end and doesn't encourage in class participation (which makes the whole class more enriched when people are incentivized to be engaged).
 - instruction
 - I really liked my 2 instructors. They pushed the thinking quite a bit and encouraged discussion. There was more theory based lecture in Copenhagen than at home. At PSU more of our instruction is pragmatic instead of theory.
 - teacher/student relations
 - OK
 - grading/exams
 - (Same as classroom structure)
 - administration
 - OK
 - library, computer, and classroom facilities
 - OK
- b. Evaluate the quality and content of instruction.
- I felt like it was the same or very similar in quality to my home university.
- c. In general, what did you like best and least about the academics?
- Best – that the point of views in the room during discussion were coming from so many different cultural perspectives. It was really eye opening to have someone in the class from Kenya when we were talking about food security issues involving Kenya.
 - Least – Having all of the grading be based on the final exam/project.
- d. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?
- Both of my classes were great. I took electives:
 - Design for Change: Building Sustainable Communities
 - Food for Thought: Food Security and Entrepreneurship
3. HOUSING:
- a. How would you assess the housing arrangements?
- They were OK. I went outside of the system, so I didn't have any roommates, which in retrospect would have been nice to have.
- b. How did you locate your housing?
- AirBnb
4. EXCHANGE SITE:

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

- It was great. I felt safe and it was easy to get to with a large student community around it even in the summer.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

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

- It was a little confusing how to handle first aid and medical problems. Their system is so different from ours. For example, I fell off my bike and couldn't get Neosporin ointment to take care of my scrapes so my knees healed pretty poorly. I didn't realize that I needed to go to a doctor to get that. Here in the US, you don't go to doctors for that type of thing. I don't know how it would have worked being from the US using a socialized healthcare. More information on that type of stuff would have been helpful.

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 met most of my friends in class and joined in on as many outings in the community as I could. It was surprisingly harder to meet Danes than it was to meet students from other countries.

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

- I found that Danish women were extremely warm and helpful. The men were more standoffish and harder to talk to than in the US. No real issues, I just had way more female than male friends as compared to the mix here in the US.
- Also, it was really interesting... there weren't any homeless people! In Portland, they are everywhere and you have to be aware of your surroundings. I didn't even notice it at first, but then in discussions in my sustainable communities' class it became apparent. I found that really interesting and wonder how we can make that they case here in the US.

7. FINANCIAL:

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

- The scholarship helped quite a bit. The whole experience is extremely expensive but totally worth it. I was very appreciative to have some financial assistance outside of personal loans.

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

- Have a credit card with a chip in it with no foreign transaction fees.

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

- \$3000

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

- It was at least 2-3x as expensive for everything. If you buy most of your food at the store and not go out, that helps a ton. For example, a Ritter

candy bar is \$4 (vs. \$2 here) and cheap knee brace is \$35 vs. \$5 here. Rent was \$1200 a month (for a room) vs. \$450 here.

8. EXCHANGE/SCAN|DESIGN FELLOWSHIP ADMINISTRATION:

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?

- I didn't really get very much help. I actually reached out to the student representatives in Denmark right before I left once I found out that there might be student activities lined up, but there wasn't anything planned. It would have been extremely helpful to have been able to talk to a fellow student before departure for housing arrangement help (just getting to know the areas of town) and to be shown around upon arrival.

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.

- Independent students. There isn't much hand holding, which I honestly liked.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

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

- Great! I am so glad I had the chance to experience it!

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

- Fairly realistic. Although I expected it to be easier to meet Danish students but they seemed to stick together and all of our ISUP activities were geared toward international students so it was a lot harder to meet Danes than I had thought it would be.

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

- Really getting a non-US perspective both in classes and how people live. Being immersed in another way of life was invaluable.

FEEL FREE TO ADD OTHER COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE.