

EXCHANGE STUDENT EVALUATION REPORT

Student Name: Christopher Herndon

Institution where you studied: Copenhagen Business School (CBS)

Semester of participation: Summer 2015

E-mail address (if possible *not* University email): cherndon85@gmail.com

1. Pre-Exchange. Why and Where:

- a. Why did you decide to study in the US or Denmark as an exchange student?
 - My ancestors are Swedish so I was looking for a university with an exchange program partnership with my home university. Copenhagen Business School was the only one with an existing relationship.
- b. Why did you select the program/University?
 - The credits earned at this university applied to my home university requirements
- c. What were your expectations?
 - Meet people from all over the world, including local Danish people
 - I wanted to come away with a broader perspective and appreciation for other perspectives – business, social and political
- d. What preparations did you make prior to departure?
 - Completed all requirements of home university and IE3 Global (student ambassador organization)
- e. How could you improve your preparations?
 - Start saving money earlier, you will spend more than you think

2. ARRIVAL/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

- a. Recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.
 - Student housing was available and ready to go the day of arrival
- 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?
 - Home university orientation was quite basic – the main takeaway for me was to keep in mind that you are an ambassador for both the U.S. and your home university so act responsible and be respectful.
 - The host university orientation was very beneficial – it provided advice on key locations, how to get around, how to succeed, get the most out of your experience, etc.

2. ACADEMICS:

- a. Evaluate the instruction you received. Compare the following to your home institution's system:
 - class registration
 - Easy process, however keep in mind that there is a difference in time zones, so you'll have to wake up early to make sure you sign up for the classes you want.
 - classroom structure
 - There were about 100 students in both of my courses, which is up from the previous year (35 students)
 - instruction

- The courses I took were lectures with some group discussions
 - The Danish students are used to being talked at, rather than engaging in discussion
 - Theory based learning in my courses and lacking real world application
- teacher/student relations
- Professors were great – open and willing to meet outside of lecture
- grading/exams
- Grading system is not like in the U.S.
 - Exams are formal and are proctored off-site (seemed unnecessary)
- administration
- Didn't deal with them very much so not sure
- library, computer, and classroom facilities
- These facilities are nice and wi-fi enabled
- b.** Evaluate the quality and content of instruction.
- 10/10 quality and 7/10 content
- c.** In general, what did you like best and least about the academics?
- Best: professors from other countries (in my case Australian and Austrian) brought in various perspectives and life experiences
 - Least: theory based only which is not what I expected from a masters level course
- d.** Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?
- Maxwell Winchester's course on Consumer Behavior will challenge your existing assumptions about marketing – game changer
- 3. HOUSING:**
- a.** How would you assess the housing arrangements?
- Housing process is very poorly managed (not handled by CBS, but private owners)
 - Get up early (time zone differences) to apply for your preferred housing
 - Communication is very poor within this area
 - Laundry facilities were not straight forward – you must load an access card in order to use them – no need to buy detergent as the machines have it
- b.** How did you locate your housing?
- Student volunteers took us to our student housing via public transportation
- 4. EXCHANGE SITE:**
- In general, please describe your impressions of the host University campus and its location and surrounding community.
- CBS is located in an ideal area, close to grocery stores, gym, mall, restaurants/bars, parks, and public transportation
 - Overall it was a great university
- 5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:**
- Describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study.
- Since privacy laws are different in Denmark, housing authorities can enter your premises at any time
 - While this didn't happen to me, it happened to other students in the program
- 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 bought in the International Student University Program (ISUP) social and excursion programs which provide ongoing access to activities throughout the term
 - I joined the gym Fitness DK which is conveniently located next to campus

- b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them. (e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)
 - No significant differences or challenges with the Danish people
 - Danish people are friendly, but don't usually strike up conversations – don't be afraid to break the ice!

7. FINANCIAL:

- a. Describe how the Scan|Design Foundation Fellowship assisted you / made a difference in your decision to study abroad.
 - They made this trip financially feasible for me, especially since I was no longer working
- b. What is the best way to access/transfer money?
 - Use a debit/credit card with no international transaction fees
 - Banks are conveniently located throughout the city
 - Most establishments take cards
- c. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.
 - This is going to vary depending on the person
- d. Comment on the relative "cost of living" between your home University and the host University.
 - The cost of living is more expensive in Denmark
 - Get off the main streets if you want to find lower prices on food, beverages, restaurants/bars, etc.

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?

- Coordination and administration was very easy
- I thought it would have been beneficial to push forward tips and tricks of traveling via email rather than pointing to resources on the website

Activities

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

- There was one activity arranged prior to leaving up in Seattle, WA which I was unable to attend because I live in Portland, OR

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.

- Undergraduate or graduate business students
- This was a great experience that I highly recommend

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

- a. How would you rate the quality of the overall experience?
 - 10/10 quality of overall experience
 - It will stretch you as a person and you will grow leaps and bounds
- b. How realistic were your academic and personal expectations and how did the Scan|Design Fellowship Program make a difference?
 - Expectations were very realistic
 - Can't say that the program made any difference other than financially

- c. What did you consider to be the greatest benefit and challenge of studying abroad?
- Benefit: meeting people from all over the world
 - Challenge: making time to study because there's always people hanging out, something to do and places to explore

FEEL FREE TO ADD OTHER COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE.

Embrace discomfort. Don't be afraid to introduce yourself to people – these will be friends for life. Don't stick to the same few people you become friends with early on. Keep meeting other people (including the locals because they'll tell you how to best explore Denmark).