

EXCHANGE STUDENT EVALUATION REPORT

Student Name: Graeme Oberhausen

Institution where you studied: 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 decided to study in Denmark because I am interested in the political and social structure of the country and wanted to see it first-hand. I was lucky enough to be there during a major national election, and learned a lot about their political process.
- b. Why did you select the program/University?
 - I was especially interested in DIS because of the study tours that went to other countries to gain a third perspective on the topic.
- c. What were your expectations?
 - I expected to learn a lot about the country, make local friends and connections, and travel and explore a lot.
- d. What preparations did you make prior to departure?
 - I made sure that the credits would transfer the way that I wanted them to in my major
 - I made sure to have all visas, documentation, and prescriptions in order.
 - I planned travel time for after my courses.
 - I got some local currency.
- e. How could you improve your preparations?
 - I would have bought plane tickets for within Europe earlier.

2. ARRIVAL/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

- a. Recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.
 - Choose the option in the city, with roommates. The other options can be far out from the city, and be in mostly empty building (during summer term)
- 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 orientation at DIS was nice, and included an opportunity to explore the city.
 - Both orientations were very useful if you've never traveled abroad before, and less useful if you have.

2. ACADEMICS:

- a. Evaluate the instruction you received. Compare the following to your home institution's system:
 - class registration
 - Very simple, and syllabi were provided ahead of time.
 - classroom structure

- Much looser than home university, but varied between professors.
 - instruction
 - Very good! Professors are experts in their field, and work within the field as well.
 - teacher/student relations
 - Very good. Informal, and positive.
 - grading/exams
 - rather laid back.
 - administration
 - Very put together and smooth. DIS has been around for a while and they know what they're doing.
 - library, computer, and classroom facilities
 - Advanced! they actually have funding, and put their funding toward a good education for their students.
- b.** Evaluate the quality and content of instruction.
- Very high. I learned more in this short time than most any other classes I have taken.
- c.** In general, what did you like best and least about the academics?
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- d.** Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?
- Bike Urbanism
 - Renewable energy Systems
 - Both great classes, and had great instructors.

3. HOUSING:

- a.** How would you assess the housing arrangements?
- Not good. I basically chose the wrong option, and was not able to change.
- b.** How did you locate your housing?
- Through DIS

4. EXCHANGE SITE:

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

- Great campus location. Right down town, in the center of everything. Right in the middle of the Gay neighborhood.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

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

- Copenhagen is safer than anywhere in the US.

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.)
- Couchsurfing.com, bars, coffee shops.
- b.** Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them. (e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)
- Most everyone speaks English so that was no problem.
 - People there are much more timid than Americans, and take a while to truly warm up to new people.

7. FINANCIAL:

- a. Describe how the Scan|Design Foundation Fellowship assisted you / made a difference in your decision to study abroad.
 - This scholarship made it much easier to go. The cost of the summer term was rather low, and thankfully, Scan Design covered a large portion of the cost.
- b. What is the best way to access/transfer money?
 - Check with your bank about fees for using your card abroad. The cost for me to use my card was at least \$5.00 every time. There are cards that cost nothing at all. Definitely worth looking into.
- c. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.
 - Through DIS I did not have to pay for rent or transportation, and you bike everywhere anyway.
 - look up cost of living differences before you go (you can find this easily online). Copenhagen is quite expensive.
- d. Comment on the relative "cost of living" between your home University and the host University.
 - See above.

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?

- I did not interact with scan design staff very much.

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.

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.

- Anyone can enjoy this program.
- As a student of a commuter school, which has a rather high average age, I was much older (26) than many of my classmates. This meant that I had different expectations and interests than many of my DIS classmates.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

- a. How would you rate the quality of the overall experience?
 - It was great!
- b. How realistic were your academic and personal expectations and how did the Scan|Design Fellowship Program make a difference?
 - My expectations matched reality.
 - I did not utilize the resources of Scan Design as much as I could have.
- c. What did you consider to be the greatest benefit and challenge of studying abroad?
 - The cultural experience and diversity of my fellow students was a benefit.
 - Being older than all of my classmates was in many ways a challenge.