

EXCHANGE STUDENT EVALUATION REPORT

Student Name: Megan Burns
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 wanted to learn about their bicycle infrastructure!
- b. Why did you select the program/University?
 - Copenhagen is the best biking city in the world.
- c. What were your expectations?
 - Learn specific policy tactics to address lagging bicycle infrastructure
 - See what true bicycle urbanism looks like.
- d. What preparations did you make prior to departure?
 - None, really.
- e. How could you improve your preparations?
 - I could have learned what "vegan" and "gluten free" were in danish

2. ARRIVAL/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

- a. Recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.
 - Make friends with locals! They're you're key to the city.
- 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?
 - Meh. The canal tours were alright, that was the only orientation activity aside from a brief walking tour.
 - The walking tour WILL NOT orient you. Ride your bike a lot to figure the city out.

2. ACADEMICS:

- a. Evaluate the instruction you received. Compare the following to your home institution's system:
 - class registration
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 - classroom structure
 - Better than PSU
 - instruction
 - Better than PSU
 - teacher/student relations
 - Slightly better than PSU
 - grading/exams
 - No exams, ambiguous grading-did not receive a grade, just a Pass.
 - administration
 - Not as helpful as PSU

- library, computer, and classroom facilities

- The library is lack luster, the computer room was fine, the classroom was... sufficient.

b. Evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

- Better than PSU.

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

- I loved the hands on learning, I would have preferred better reading materials and more foundational understanding: I see that Copenhagen has an incredible biking system, now teach me how to foster this environment at home.

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

- Bicycle Urbanism!
- Bianca.

3. HOUSING:

a. How would you assess the housing arrangements?

- They were fine. I would have preferred a bigger kitchen, but what can you do.

b. How did you locate your housing?

- I was automatically assigned my housing.

4. EXCHANGE SITE:

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

- DIS is right in the middle of a bustling downtown.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

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

- None.

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 hung out with a few locals, met them through events (queer dance parties), Couch Surfer meetups (vegetarian/vegan community).

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

- It was super refreshing to be in a country where people are very honest about their opinions about the US (that happen to align with mine).
- I was super confused about purchasing etiquette... and didn't end up addressing them.

7. FINANCIAL:

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

- I would not have been able to go without Scan|Design

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

- ATMs.

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

- Transportation is covered on study tours and depending on which transit zone your housing is in, and if you rent a bike (about \$75 for a month) you can go

anywhere with ease (Copenhagen is SUPER flat and safe for cycling). Dining out is expensive, but if you're in a dorm of your own you have to buy (or bring) containers to pack lunches/breakfasts, you have to buy cooking oils and herbs/spices, and it might be worth it to eat out. I would recommend \$1000 a month to be comfortable and afford to go to cultural events/activities to meet more people. Things are not cheap in Copenhagen!

- d. Comment on the relative "cost of living" between your home University and the host University.
- It's difficult to gauge. I was more stressed about money because I wasn't making any while in Copenhagen, obviously. Drinks are significantly more expensive (\$3.50 pints at home, \$8-\$10 pints in CPH). Food is also significantly more expensive unless you want to eat falafel every day for every meal. Produce is reasonable. Rent a bike. Whatever you do, just rent a bike.

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 didn't interact with them much, I cannot comment. People seemed nice enough?

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.

- The only activities organized by Scan|Design that I was made aware of was a baseball game in Seattle. I live in Portland and don't have a car, so it wasn't feasible for me to attend.

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.

- Outgoing, active.
- RENT A BIKE

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

- a. How would you rate the quality of the overall experience?
- 9/10
- b. How realistic were your academic and personal expectations and how did the Scan|Design Fellowship Program make a difference?
- c. What did you consider to be the greatest benefit and challenge of studying abroad?
- Challenge: finding food that I could eat (vegan/gluten-free)
 - Benefit: Meeting new people from different countries and experiences and sharing experiences and insights. The program was also really good at displaying what true viable bicycle infrastructure looks like.