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As a recently returned foreign exchange student, I am excited to be able to share a little bit about my experience with the people who so graciously assisted me financially in the journey. I was studying at Copenhagen Business School for a number of reasons. First of all, the school itself is such a highly reputable university within Denmark and throughout the world that I knew I would be receiving a superior educational experience to some study abroad programs, which have become little more than an excuse to travel. I also chose the program because the country itself was such a mystery to me. As a United States citizen, countries such as England and France are highly publicized and romanticized, but Scandinavian countries are more of a mystery. With those two criteria as my primary basis for my expectations, I was fully expecting to receive a thorough education and learn more about a country and a culture that was, thus far, a mystery to me. As a child, my family had lived in Singapore so I had a lot of assistance and assurance from my parents in regards to what to pack, what to do while I was there, and how to act when I found myself in a strange culture, but it is hard to prepare yourself completely for what you will find. If I could have done one thing differently, it would be to do a little more research on the habits of the Danish people before I left. Halfway through my trip, a fellow student found an article that outlined 6 major mistakes Americans made, and I had been making several of them, unknowingly making people uncomfortable.

Once I arrived in Copenhagen, the school was extremely effective and efficient in collecting the lost students outside baggage claim, leading us to an adjoining hotel, and helping us sign in and collect our keys. They helped us to transition easily into the apartments we were staying in and added helpful hints about the public transportation, how to get to and from school, and where the local grocery stores were. Overall, the initial day, although exhausting, was far easier than I had expected.

The school itself was a change for me as well. I am used to the typical, American structure of school where attendance and participation is compulsory. That made the drastic difference of optional attendance and participation quite noticeable but it also meant that the people I was attending class with were the people who were dedicated to their education and willing to put in the extra time for it. The grading also came as a bit of a shock. Not only are classes graded on a 7-point scale, but also there is only one grade per semester. Any midterm assignments were merely prerequisites for being allowed to take the exam. This was also a change for me, and particularly distressing around the time of the finals, one of which was an extremely lengthy and exhausting 4 hour exam, while the other was a ten page paper with a very particular set of rules regarding the word count, page length, and font size. Unfortunately, my professors were both American, one taught in Florida and one in New York City, so the style of teaching didn't differ much from my standard classroom at home. While I would have liked to experience a different

teaching style, being at the university was still an exciting change from my home university and the rules for both the classroom and the finals were intriguing, to say the least.

I was warned, prior to traveling, that I might be overcome with some sort of homesickness or culture shock when I arrived in a different country. I am happy to say that neither of these happened to me, and I felt welcomed into the culture immediately. Whether it was shopping downtown, talking to locals in class, or exploring Copenhagen's roaring night life, the people of Copenhagen were always more than willing to help me with directions, answer questions about their style of living, and tell me about how much they loved their beautiful city. The style of living, I found, was very similar to our own with one noticeable difference. While I am used to smiling at strangers and perhaps petting their dogs, the people of Denmark prefer more privacy and it was this that I had the hardest time adjusting to. However, once they were approached, they were always open and friendly, which made life very easy there.

While I was there, I was also fortunate enough to visit fellow Madison students studying in London and Paris, as well as to visit the intriguing city of Berlin with CBS. All of these experiences only helped to amplify the experience I had in Copenhagen and stood to contrast the feel of all of those big cities to the homier feel that I found in Copenhagen. Without the generous support of the ScanDesign scholarship, I would not have been able to have these experiences, let alone even have been able to attend CBS. The gift that you have given me, through this scholarship is more than just a summer abroad, it is a lifetime of life changing memories, friendships, and experiences that, I am grateful to say, have changed the person I am for the better.