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### Post-Program Evaluation Essay

I learned about the Scan|Design Fellowship opportunity through an email to the Political Science graduate email listserv. I then looked up program information on Scan|Design's website to find out more, see past recipients, and to find details about the application submission process. I had already known that Denmark would be a case study for my dissertation, and I thought the Scan|Design Fellowship was a perfect fit given this research focus.

The Scan|Design Fellowship staff—from those housed at the UW (e.g., Abigail Crossen and study abroad coordinator Katherine Kroeger) to alumni in Copenhagen (e.g., Jacob Matzen Thomsen and Kristine Amalie Østergaard)—were all incredibly cordial and accessible. Abby and Katherine helped me with logistics before leaving for Denmark, and Abby made sure that the expectations of the fellowship program were clearly articulated prior to me accepting funding. Moreover, I enjoyed the social activities hosted by Jacob, Marianne, and Kristine; it was comforting to have contacts “on the ground” when I arrived, and they seemed genuinely interested in our smooth assimilation into Danish culture.

I choose to conduct a month-long research program in Denmark to strengthen my dissertation research on Danish health aid allocation. The Scan|Design fellowship gave me the opportunity to live in Copenhagen, Denmark, and to meet in person with staff from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Danish International Development Agency, national and regional health policy scholars, health aid policy advocates, and accountability researchers. These face-to-face discussions facilitated a crucial exchange of information and allowed me to gain access to project/program reports. Data gleaned from these conversations and reports will form the basis of my case study analysis on the policy processes that determine Danish foreign aid policy to the health sector.

As I was a summer research award recipient, I did not take courses or have a formal relationship with an institution in Denmark. However, I did pursue a visiting researcher affiliation with the Department of Political Science at the University of Copenhagen. I chose KU because they have a large Political Science program, and their department chair was accommodating and accessible; I believe this affiliation provided me with some credibility in scheduling interviews with researchers and policymakers. Also, during my time in Copenhagen, I met with faculty and students from KU (in the departments of Political Science and Global Health) whose work was similar to my own research agenda. These conversations proved immensely fruitful for better understanding Danish politics/culture and considering other variables of interest; moreover, it was really nice to feel like I had an academic community, despite not taking classes.

I do not have any particular preparation advice for incoming students because my experience was very different from someone who is staying in Denmark/Europe beyond the 90-day tourist visa. I did not have to acquire a special visa, get a Danish resident number, or perform typical exchange student tasks before leaving the United States. I would suggest that students read about their institution, their academic program, and potential courses of interest before they leave the U.S., and I would recommend contacting relevant faculty and students before they leave. We often focus on logistics in our pre-departure to-do list, but I believe adding social and academic

components on this pre-departure list would be useful for semester exchange students and summer research fellows alike.

I think a lot of people struggled with finding housing once they reached Copenhagen. There were several people I knew that were staying on friend's couches or hopping between hostels in search of more permanent accommodation. I think it is a lot more difficult to find housing in Copenhagen than in Seattle, and fellows should be aware of this. I booked a month-long accommodation using Airbnb.com, and I found a beautiful one-bedroom apartment in residential Fredriksberg; during that time, the apartment owner stayed elsewhere in the city. I booked the apartment about four months before I left Seattle. Using Airbnb was a good experience for me, and because I was subletting a fully furnished apartment, I did not have a lot of upfront expenses. I also had someone who knew the area that provided recommendations for grocery shopping/dining out, activities, and such. She was also available if I got in a bind (e.g., locked out of my apartment).

In the month I was in Copenhagen, I spent approximately \$1450 on housing, \$300 on food (predominantly eating in, but with 1-2 meals out per week), \$150 on activities and entrance fees, and \$100 on transportation costs. This totals \$2,000, and I was fairly conservative. I bought a month-long, 3-zone ticket when I arrived at the airport (cost about \$75); this covered the bulk of my day-to-day transportation, but I did have to buy several multi-zone tickets when I visited sites or friends outside of the 3-zone radius. These tickets are not cheap, and travelers are likely to spend about \$5 per bus/metro/train trip if they are not careful. It is worth noting that a 24-hr, all-zones ticket is cheaper (~\$13) than buying two 5+-zone tickets. I visited Roskilde, for example, and if I bought a train ticket to/from there, it would cost me more than just buying the 24-hr pass.

My experience in Denmark was exceptional. Copenhagen is truly one of my favorite cities in the world, and I have traveled extensively. The city easily feels like home—it is easy to navigate the public transportation system; people are friendly, and English is widely spoken; and the weather and green surroundings are very Seattle-esque. Despite being an independent researcher and not taking courses, I was able to take advantage of social experiences with Scan|Design fellows and KU students. Through my time abroad, I learned a lot about myself, my independence/internal strength, my relationships with family and friends, and my research project. Perhaps most importantly academically, I learned a wealth of information and made invaluable contacts that I would not have been able to do otherwise; this was my expectation prior to going abroad, and the Scan|Design Fellowship Program helped these expectations come to fruition.