

EXCHANGE STUDENT EVALUATION REPORT

Dear Grant Recipient:

The Scan|Design Foundation requests that fellowship / scholarship recipients submit an evaluation report concerning their experiences and the services provided by the institutions that manage grant programs funded by the Scan Design Foundation. This report has a dual purpose: to help us to evaluate our current programs and to help us inform and orient grant seekers who will be future recipients. We ask you to reflect on your experiences in the US or Denmark. Advice or comments on other topics are also welcome.

Thank you for your cooperation. We appreciate your time and effort.

EVALUATION OUTLINE:

Instructions:

- It is not necessary to answer every question
- Use this form and fill-in your answers.
- Send a copy to:
Admin@scandesignfoundation.org and to your University

UW – Seattle ScanDesign@uw.edu
UW – Madison jkallen@wisc.edu
PSU goffra@pdx.edu

Student Name: **Benjamin Ahearn**

Institution where you studied: **University of Washingtonx**

Term(s) of participation: **January – June 2014**

E-mail address: **Benahearn88@gmail.com**

1. WHY AND WHERE:

- a. Why did you decide to study in the US or Denmark as an exchange student?
I was looking to be immersed in the strong Danish design culture.
- b. Why did you select the program/University?
I was interested in gaining experience working in a Danish architecture firm.
- c. What were your expectations?
I expected to learn more about the development of competition proposals.
- d. What preparations did you make prior to departure?
Began taking Danish language course at the UW, and obtained all the necessary travel papers.
- e. How could you improve your preparations?

2. ARRIVAL/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

- a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.
- b. Please 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 adapt?

2. ACADEMICS:

- a. Please evaluate the instruction you received. Compare the following to your home institution's system:
 - class registration
 - classroom structure
 - instruction
 - teacher/student relations
 - grading/exams
 - administration
 - library, computer, and classroom facilities
- b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.
- c. In general, what did you like best and least about the academics?
- d. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?

3. HOUSING:

- a. How would you assess the housing arrangements?
There were no arrangements provided.
- b. How did you locate your housing?
Through existing Danish friends.

4. EXCHANGE SITE:

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

The office was located very centrally and I enjoyed my commute each day.

5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

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

I never felt unsafe in Copenhagen, it is a very peaceful city.

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.)

Having Danish friends from past experiences as well as other Scan|Design scholars who had studied in Seattle helped to get to know the locals. It also helped to have a group of interns from the office who were from outside of Denmark.

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

People are in general much more introverted and secluded, dressing in dark colors and forgetting to smile, but once you get to know the Danes and understand the culture everything becomes warmer.

7. FINANCIAL:

- a. Please describe how the Scan|Design Foundation fellowship assisted you / made a difference in your decision to study abroad.

It made it possible, financially, and through the professional connections for my time abroad to exist. I am truly thankful for all the support Scan|Design has given, it was an absolutely unforgettable experience.

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

Open a Danish bank account so you have a card that works in all the shops and transfer the money over from your US account.

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

I think that \$1,000.00 is adequate to live in Copenhagen.

d. Please comment on the relative "cost of living" between your home University and the host University.

Copenhagen is definitely more expensive. I would say rent is about the same, but food and any extracurricular activities are more expensive.

8. EXCHANGE/SCAN|DESIGN FELLOWSHIP ADMINISTRATION:

a. Please comment on the assistance and activities by the Scan|Design Fellowship coordinator before your departure, upon arrival, and during your stay. What worked and what could be improved or changed?

It all went very seamlessly, I felt the support of Scan|Design when it was needed, but aside from that it was a great independent learning opportunity.

b. Please evaluate services and effectiveness of the University administrative offices.

The advisers were more than helpful and the administrative offices aided in completing the correct paperwork in a timely and effective manner.

9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:

Please describe the type of student for whom this exchange is best suited and what advice would you give to future students.

If you have knack for adventure and a curiosity of different cultures, do not hesitate to apply.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

a. How would you rate the quality of the overall experience?

Top notch, I couldn't have asked for anything more out of my time in Copenhagen.

b. How realistic were your academic and personal expectations and how did the Scan|Design Fellowship Program make a difference?

Scan|Design made it possible for me to gain international work experience, something I have always aspired to gain, but can be hard to get started in.

c. What did you consider to be the greatest benefit and challenge of studying abroad?

The greatest benefit was gaining the knowledge to put together a professional competition proposal, not to mention the obvious career connections.

FEEL FREE TO ADD OTHER COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE.