

EXCHANGE STUDENT EVALUATION REPORT

Student Name: John Paul Calavitta

Institution where you studied: Independent Summer

Semester of participation: Summer quarter 2014

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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 am interested in climate change and my research led me to Denmark as a city concerned with being climate proof. Also, I study design movements & aesthetics and was interested in studying Scandinavian design, a movement which was generated by local artisans and folk. It was not a top down movement, but one that responded to local conditions, materials, and ideas**
- b. Why did you select the program/University?
 - **I choose summer independent study so I could target library's and museum's in a shorter amount of time.**
- c. What were your expectations?
 - **I expected to be able to access the culture more than I was able to in a span of a summer**
- d. What preparations did you make prior to departure?
 - **I studied basic Danish**
- e. How could you improve your preparations?
 - **I would have participated in more meet-up groups, and found what groups locals were actually going to, or websites for making friends**

2. ARRIVAL/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

- a. Recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.
 - **Hostel, air bnb,**
- 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 UW study abroad office connects summer independent students to affiliates in Denmark, and that was very helpful**

2. ACADEMICS:

3. HOUSING:

- b. How did you locate your housing?

- **I choose mostly AirBnB and hostels that were near neighborhoods of interest or the city center**

4. EXCHANGE SITE:

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5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

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

- **I didn't have any medical or safety issues.**

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 used one meet-up friend site and I would use more in the future**
- b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them. (e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)
 - **I did find it hard to make friends, and the period from 6pm-midnight when museums and library's and university library's close was very difficult, as this time became social time and it was hard to make friends, especially if you don't drink**

7. FINANCIAL:

- a. Describe how the Scan|Design Foundation Fellowship assisted you / made a difference in your decision to study abroad.
 - **I has access to many people who helped me create a study itinerary, as well as contact people**
- b. What is the best way to access/transfer money? I would bring more on hand cash / money in the future, as it became expensive to deposit money, and I don't remember cash back being an option at the grocery stores?
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- c. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.
 - **800-900**
- d. Comment on the relative "cost of living" between your home University and the host University. n/a
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8. EXCHANGE/SCAN | DESIGN FELLOWSHIP ADMINISTRATION:

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.

- **Summer Independent study is a little more socially difficult than going during the year as a university exchange. I imagine that would have more structured activities**

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

- a. How would you rate the quality of the overall experience?
 - **Very good! I was very challenged to grow academically and socially in a good way**

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- b. How realistic were your academic and personal expectations and how did the Scan|Design Fellowship Program make a difference?
 - **I think I had realistic expectations, academically, socially I needed to have done more work.**
- c. What did you consider to be the greatest benefit and challenge of studying abroad?
 - **I really benefitted from seeing the importance of design at a cultural level.**
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FEEL FREE TO ADD OTHER COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE.