

EXCHANGE STUDENT EVALUATION REPORT

Student Name: Kevin Cussen

Institution where you studied: Copenhagen Business School

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 love traveling and meeting new people. I had never been to Denmark and this seemed like (and was) a fantastic opportunity to achieve all of these goals.
- b. Why did you select the program/University?
 - For the above reasons and because it was the only summer program that matched with my home university summer term.
- c. What were your expectations?
 - I didn't have many expectations. I had no preconceptions about Danish culture before starting my summer experience.
- d. What preparations did you make prior to departure?
 - Very little. I was actually employed during my summer trip and worked remotely. Both projects I was involved with were on Eastern Africa time, so the timezone was very beneficial to me.
- e. How could you improve your preparations?
 - I would have wired money to pay for my apartment ahead of time. As it stood, I had to stay in a hotel for several days while my wire transfer was verified.

2. ARRIVAL/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

- a. Recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.
 - Tietgen is amazing! Katherinekollegiet was great because many of my friends lived there, but the location and building are nothing special.
- 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?
 - Since I was working full-time during the quarter, I missed many of the orientation events. However, those that I was able to attend were fantastic and I quickly made friends.

2. ACADEMICS:

- a. Evaluate the instruction you received. Compare the following to your home institution's system:
 - class registration
 - I don't recall – which means it was probably very easy. I remember getting both classes I applied for.
 - classroom structure
 - Very similar to my home university. Medium sized classes with a lot of interactions.
 - instruction

- My instructors were American and Canadian. Both were what I would expect from a professor at my home university.
 - teacher/student relations
 - Classes were very interactive. Foreign students were much more eager to speak out in classes compared to their Danish counterparts.
 - grading/exams
 - Much more formal than at my university. Difficulty was lower than expected.
 - administration
 - No comment.
 - library, computer, and classroom facilities
 - On par with my expectations.
- b.** Evaluate the quality and content of instruction.
- I felt that I received a lot from 1 of my 2 courses. I use content from that course on a weekly basis and have reached out to the professor since for professional advice. The other course was a lot “softer” and less applicable, but still interesting.
- c.** In general, what did you like best and least about the academics?
- I enjoyed the very international student mix. I would have expected more rigor in coursework than I experiences.
- d.** Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?
- Ted Ladd for Internet Business Models
- 3. HOUSING:**
- a.** How would you assess the housing arrangements?
- Acceptable. I had a studio apartment that was perfect for my working arrangement.
- b.** How did you locate your housing?
- Google maps and mass transit
- 4. EXCHANGE SITE:**
- In general, please describe your impressions of the host University campus and its location and surrounding community.
- Copenhagen Business School has many beautiful buildings. It’s surrounded by a mostly residential neighborhood with easy access to mass transit.
- 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, Copenhagen felt extremely safe. I went to a clinic to treat a persistent cough and the doctor’s served me without insurance or charge.
- 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 had fewer opportunities to integrate than many of my classmates due to work demands. However, I worked on several group projects with Danes and made many international friends that I still keep in touch with. I did this through hosted events, dinners, weekend trips, etc.
- b.** Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them. (e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)
- I found that many Danes are much more blunt with their speech than Americans. I found this to be refreshing.
- 7. FINANCIAL:**

- a. Describe how the Scan|Design Foundation Fellowship assisted you / made a difference in your decision to study abroad.
 - The Scan|Design Foundation made my study abroad experience much more accessible.
- b. What is the best way to access/transfer money?
 - I used my credit card from home (Danish card readers require a chip).
- c. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.
 - I don't recall, slightly higher than cost of living in Seattle.
- d. Comment on the relative "cost of living" between your home University and the host University.
 - Food and alcohol was more expensive than Seattle. Rent was less expensive. Transportation (via bike) was much less expensive.

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 probably needed less support than other students because I've lived abroad for many years. I remember one pre-departure meet and greet as well as one in-country meet-and-greet. However, there could have been others that I missed because of work responsibilities.

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 activity schedule seemed appropriate.
- Suggestions for activities we should add to the program
- N/A

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.

- I think all students can benefit from study abroad. I would advise students to get out of their comfort zone and meet new and different people that at home you probably wouldn't have talked to.
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10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

- a. How would you rate the quality of the overall experience?
 - Fantastic!
- b. How realistic were your academic and personal expectations and how did the Scan|Design Fellowship Program make a difference?
 - The Scan|Design Fellowship enabled me to more confidently commit to the cost of studying abroad. I was able to meet my personal academic expectations and I exceeded my social expectations
- c. What did you consider to be the greatest benefit and challenge of studying abroad?
 - The great diversity of awesome people I met while studying in Copenhagen. In addition to Danish, Swedish, and Norwegian friends. I also met great people from Portugal, Australia, and Germany. Studying in Copenhagen was a

great opportunity to meet a load of fantastic people with no pre-made cliques.

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FEEL FREE TO ADD OTHER COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE.

Thank you for this opportunity!