

EXCHANGE STUDENT EVALUATION REPORT

Student Name: Doug Smith

Institution where you studied: University of Washington

Term(s) of participation: January – June 2016

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1. WHY AND WHERE:

a. Why did you decide to study in the US or Denmark as an exchange student?

I was inspired by the design culture in Denmark

b. Why did you select the program/University?

I wanted to expand my ideas about architecture beyond the USA

c. What were your expectations?

To have fun, work hard and learn a lot

d. What preparations did you make prior to departure?

I took a language class at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle.

e. How could you improve your preparations?

I was already traveling in Scandinavia and I did all the paper work in Denmark

2. ARRIVAL/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

I already had an apartment when I arrived through a friend. If a student doesn't already have an apartment I would recommend contacting the firm the student is working at and asking for an intern e-mail list – in the mean time hostels or airbnb can work.

b. Please comment on the orientation activities offered both at your home University and at the host University, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt.

UW has a good online course I took that covered the basics of travel abroad.

3. HOUSING

a. How would you assess the housing arrangements

N/A

b. How did you locate your housing?

I stayed with a friend who studies architecture in Copenhagen

4. EXCHANGE SITE:

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

The COBE architecture office is in a great location – right across the water from central Copenhagen. It took about 20 minutes to bike to the office from my apartment.

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.

In general Copenhagen is very safe – the hospitals are responsive and easy to use.

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 met many interns at the office I worked at as well as the other ScanDesign students that were interning at other offices.

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

Other than language there aren't any big cultural differences that presented a challenge. Everyone at work speaks English and most Danes speak English in general. It would have been nice to speak Danish but it isn't necessary.

7. FINANCIAL:

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

I couldn't have made this happen without the financial assistance from ScanDesign as well as the connection with the architecture firm.

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

A Danish bank account is necessary – I would also recommend a US travel credit card that doesn't charge forex fees.

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

About \$2,000 per month is enough to cover everything.

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

Overall the cost of living is less than Seattle at this point. Grocery store food is about the same, but rent is cheaper.

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?

N/A

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

Very helpful when needed.

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.

Anyone seeking adventure and expanding their view on architecture. Working in Denmark is very different from the US and I would highly recommend it.

10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:

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

Very good.

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

The program exceeded my expectations – without the Scan|Design Fellowship this would not have been possible.

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

Meeting many inspiring people both within architecture and beyond.