Experience Abroad

My time in Copenhagen was simply incredible and I highly recommend it. I chose it because I wanted to be in Europe, it was a large city, and the University was pretty good as far as European universities go (I think it’s ranked 8th best in Europe or something). I didn’t know too much about it more than that. I was in for a huge surprise over how much I would love it when I got there.

The university does a phenomenal job of introducing all of the international students to each other and to the Danish student mentors. On your second weekend there you will go on a three day weekend "retreat" and get to know the 200+ international students in the Faculty of Life Sciences (At the entire University of Copenhagen there are over 800+ internationals, it’s the same as the CALS to Cornell relationship). Because of that trip I instantly had dozens of close friends from all over the world.

The city itself is, again, wonderful. There is something for everyone: the European castles and palaces and royal family and museums and yada yada Europe; but what made it special for me were the Danish people and culture. They are happy and easy going and fun to hang out with. I also bought a bike and truly felt like I fit in and integrated with their culture. Don’t worry--it’s totally flat and the most bikeable city in the world with 40% of people commuting by bike in separate lanes and separate traffic lights.

In terms of classes ending, I was finished on June 19 which is fairly typical for taking classes in Life. I was still able to get an internship the following summer, although barely. It IS possible, though, to work your schedule to be finished in mid-May. It’s a confusing University system because Life just merged with the entire University so Life’s academic calendar is different than that of the rest of the University. For example: I had one LIFE class go from Feb to April and a second from April to June while my two humanities classes went March to May. You could take Life classes in the beginning and finish up with humanities classes if you wanted. It’s all depends on what classes you take. I must say though that towards the end I almost wished I didn't have an internship so I could simply stay there all summer.

For the living situation, the housing office over there takes care of everything. Some buildings are definitely better than others. My building was pretty decent, I enjoyed it, but it could have been better. I was in my own apartment in a general apartment building with other Danish adults, families, whomever. Most of my friends though were in beautiful almost "resort" type dorms. Each room had its own private bathroom and they shared a huge common kitchen, living room, gym, and everything. They were beautiful. I can give you advice on housing later though if you do end up choosing CPH.

So if you couldn’t tell, I loved Copenhagen. Classes were good, the city is awesome, there is an endless amount of bars and parks and everything to spend time at, and there is time to travel. Not that I’m biased or anything, but I seriously think that I had the best abroad experience out of all of my friends!
What attracted you to this specific program? Location, Language of Instruction, Fields of Study Offered

Comments: There were a wide variety of classes to fit anyone's interests.

How did the coursework compare with Cornell? The difficulty was much less than Cornell. Most of the time the only requirement for a class as to pass a final exam or submit a final paper. There weren't many assignments or homework throughout the semester.

What was your housing arrangement? Off-campus apartment

How did you find your housing? Provided by university

How did you prepare yourself to live in a new culture prior to your departure? Went there with an open mind.

What additional pre-departure support would you like CALS to provide in the future? Evaluations/advice from past students.

What efforts did you make to learn the language of your host country, if other than English? Attended language class

Was the program staff at the host school available for assistance with academic and personal problems? Yes

Was there an orientation? Yes
If yes, was it sufficient? Please comment on the content and usefulness of the orientation. The orientation was incredible. There were events on campus and also a weekend trip for all international students and our Danish mentors.

Were there costs you had not planned for? No

How much money (in US$) would you suggest future students bring or have access to? Depends on the amount of travel. $5000?

Did you travel outside your host country? Yes

If yes, how did you prepare yourself for that travel? Internet Resources, Guide books

What advice would you give to future students who wish to travel? Go everywhere you can while you are there- you're only abroad once.

What did you enjoy most about your exchange experience? Culture immersion, new friends, living independently in a new country.

Were your personal goals for your exchange experience met? Explain. Learn a new language, have fun. Both were met.

Would you recommend this program to others? Explain. YES- it's incredible. Awesome city, many other exchange students from around the world and a welcoming university.

What suggestions or advice do you have for future CALS exchange students? Don't book a return ticket- I would've stayed all summer if I could've.