

Fall Semester 2017

Aarhus University in Aarhus, Denmark

A) Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.

- At uOttawa I am specializing in International Management, and while abroad I am taking my electives at Aarhus BSS (Aarhus University – School of Business and Social Sciences)
- All of my classes at Aarhus BSS are Bachelor-Level courses and are considered part of the Business Study Program, as opposed to Communication or Economics
- At this university, all of my final exams are worth 100% of my grade – nothing else is graded
- Classes are not always on the same days at the same times, they can change from week to week, and some take place earlier in the semester, some later
- I chose to take six classes, each worth 5 ECTS, which means that if I were to fail one of them, I would still have enough credits to pass the semester. My classes are:
 1. Digital Marketing
 - 2-hour lectures for 15 weeks, for a total of 30 hours of lectures
 - Some in-class group work that is not graded
 - Final exam is a 4-hour, open-book exam, written on-site
 2. Firms in the Global Marketplace
 - 2-hour lectures spanning over 6 weeks, 28 hours in total
 - Some in-class group work that is not graded
 - Final exam is a 3-hour, open-book exam, written on-site
 3. Intercultural Communication
 - 2- or 3-hour lectures, totaling in 28 hours over the semester
 - One in-class group presentation that is not graded
 - Final exam is oral, it consists of a 20-minute preparation period (closed-book) and a 20-minute oral examination
 4. Social Entrepreneurship – The Future of Doing Business
 - There are 13, 2-hour lectures for a total of 26 hours
 - The final exam is a take-home, 33,000-character (max) report. The exam question is posted online and you are given 48 hours to write the report before submitting online.
 5. The Chinese Economy
 - 2- to 4-hour lectures, totaling in 28 hours over the semester
 - The final exam is written on-site, closed-book, and takes 3 hours
 6. Sustainable Production and Consumption
 - 2-hour lectures, total of 28 hours over the semester
 - Final exam is a take-home report (22,000-35,000 characters) that spans over two weeks, after a topic is assigned in class

B) The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.) Please submit the precise dates so students will know when to book their flights next year.

- My application for the university was due May 1st
- I had to attend a mandatory Introduction Week from August 28th – September 1st, but it is recommended that you arrive a little earlier to get settled in first (I arrived in Aarhus on August 24th)
- Classes started on September 4th – there was no break for Labour Day
- There is no Thanksgiving break
- I had a study break (the same as reading week) from October 16th – October 20th
- Since the lectures change frequently from week to week, often-times I would have 3 or 4 days in a row without any classes at random points in the semester
- My last class is on December 5th
- Since some classes end earlier than others, some exams take place fairly early on, however this did not happen for any of my exams
- Five of my exams take place between December 7th and December 16th, the exception being my 48-hour take-home report – this starts on January 2nd and you are free to write it from home (just don't forget about the time difference)
- I had originally booked a round-trip ticket from August 23rd – December 22nd, but I moved my flight home to December 17th because of how early my exams finished

C) Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities

- Course selection was to be done before arriving in Aarhus, however changes could be made up until September 17th simply by emailing the course coordinator
- Well before arriving, the school also sent out a Pre-Arrival Guide that is full of very useful information – I would recommend reading the entire guide
- The International Office assigns each student with a mentor, and about a week or so before arrival my mentor reached out to his other mentees and I, offering us with assistance with whatever we needed
- I arrived in Aarhus the morning of Thursday, August 24th, and went directly to the International Office and Housing Office on campus
- The two offices are right next door to each other in the same building
- The most important thing was to go to the Housing Office, as if you are staying in one of the university's residences, you need to pick up your keys, housing lease and a mattress topper upon arrival

- Right next door I was able to register as a student and check-in for the Introduction Week (mandatory to complete before the beginning of Introduction Week)
- When you check-in, you are given a Welcome Bag filled with information about the city, school, events, and it includes a pre-paid SIM card which you can fill up at any convenience store
- After completing these tasks you are free to do whatever you want until the beginning of the Introduction Week
- The Introduction Week is Monday-Friday with mandatory activities all day, every day, and in the evening there are optional events. You meet up with your mentor (whom you share with a small group of students) and spend each day learning about the school, the city, making friends, and going to social events. There is also a day where the school helps you to get registered for your CPR card – essentially a Danish health card.
- The International Office as well as your mentor make it known that at any point in the semester they are there to assist you with anything that you might need
- Every Tuesday night there is an International Night put on by the school at one of the bars on campus, and every week it is a big, themed party for all of the international exchange students
- The business school also has its own bar on campus that has big events every Friday night

D) Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.).

- Almost everything in Denmark is more expensive than it would be in Canada, some things are worse than others
- The currency in Denmark is the Danish Krone (DKK) and at the time of my exchange, dividing the amount of DKK by 5 would amount in the CAD equivalent

Airplane Tickets

- I booked a round-trip plane ticket for a total of about \$1350 CAD
 - o I flew Toronto – Copenhagen - Aarhus
 - o My trip home is Aarhus - Copenhagen - Toronto - Ottawa
- I travelled with a carry-on bag and two large suitcases, so I also had to pay an extra \$100 CAD to check the second piece of luggage
- The airport in Aarhus is about 45-50 minutes away from the city, and upon arrival I took a taxi straight to campus – this cost about 600 DKK (\$120 CAD). Taking an airport bus is definitely a cheaper alternative [115 DKK (\$23 CAD)]
- Some other people also found it cheaper to fly into Copenhagen and take a train or bus directly into the city-center of Aarhus, right from the

Copenhagen airport. Copenhagen is about a 4-hour drive, or 30-minute flight from Aarhus.

Daily Travel Costs

- The main mode of transportation around Aarhus is bicycling, and the city is built around this – the bike paths are everywhere and they are very safe
- I personally did not want to buy/rent a bike in Aarhus, and I chose to buy a bus pass instead
 - o Most of the residence buildings at this university are not on campus. They are dispersed all over the city, and even in neighbouring towns. My residence building is about 5 km away from the school, and it takes about 10-15 minutes on the bus to get there.
- My bus pass costs around 375 DKK (\$75 CAD) per month
- Taxis are extremely expensive so I try to avoid them if I can – there is no Uber here

Housing

- I live in a two-bedroom apartment, 5 km away from the school. There is one bathroom, and a kitchen. There is no living area
- My rent is around 2,200 DKK (\$440 CAD) per month. I also had to pay a deposit when accepting my housing offer of around 5,500 DKK (\$1,100 CAD)

Textbooks

- I did not have to buy any textbooks

Food

- Some typical grocery prices:
 - o Milk: 6 DKK/liter (\$1.20 CAD)
 - o Bread: 5-30 DKK/loaf (\$1-6 CAD)
 - o Beef: 30 DKK/400g (\$6 CAD)
 - o Chicken: 45 DKK/400g (\$7 CAD)
- Eating in restaurants is typically slightly more expensive than in Canada
 - o Your average family restaurant would probably end up costing 200-225 DKK (\$40-45 CAD) per person
 - o A Big Mac Meal at McDonald's is around 75 DKK (\$15 CAD)

Vacation

- Travelling around Europe is extremely easy, and can be fairly cheap if you look for deals and sales
- My roommate and I did a lot of travelling by taking weekend trips in the first two months of the exchange

- A typical weekend trip could cost anywhere between 750-2,500 DKK (\$150-500 CAD) depending on where and what the specifics are

E) Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).

Visa

- Once you receive your acceptance letter, you can begin to apply for your visa
- When applying for my visa, I was informed by the Danish consulate that you cannot submit your application for the visa earlier than 3 months before your planned date of departure
- It is important however, to make sure that you apply as early as you can because it can take up to 90 days to hear back and you should not travel to Denmark before obtaining the visa
- In order to get your visa you need to have your passport, as well as a bank statement proving that you have sufficient funds to pay for housing while you are in Denmark (I needed to have about \$7,000 CAD in my account)
- The visa application fee cost around \$500 CAD. After meeting with an agent and submitting all of the required documents, you are charged an additional \$383 CAD.

Course Registration

- Course registration was completed online a few months in advance
- The coordinator at the university sent out a list of all the available courses and we just had to email her back with the list that we wanted to take

Housing Deposit

- After accepting my housing offer, I had to pay a deposit of around 5,500 DKK (\$1,100 CAD)

F) Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.

- I live in a two-bedroom apartment, 5 km away from the school. There is one bathroom, and a kitchen. There is no living area.
- My rent is around 2,200 DKK (\$440 CAD) per month, it is cheaper than others because I am a little further away from the city
- My address is 257 Stavnsvej, 8381 Tilst

G) Work term (if applicable).

- N/A

H) Other comments or recommendations.

- Everyone I have met in Denmark has been extremely helpful, and I have not met anyone yet who can't speak English as a second language
- There is not much of a culture shock, it is easy to feel at home
- One thing I did not know is that it rains in Aarhus almost every day, and the weather feels a lot colder than you would expect
- I would recommend using the SIM card given to you in the Welcome Bag (Lebara), I pay 99 DKK (\$20 CAD) every 30 days for 10 hours of international calling and 30 GB of data!
- If you are interested in travelling, RyanAir has extremely cheap flights, and it is typically cheaper to fly in and out of Copenhagen, and to take a bus to get there from Aarhus

I) Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience

Going on exchange has proved to be one of the best decisions I have made. Over the past two months, I have made friends from all over the world and have been able to fully immerse myself in a foreign culture. Aarhus has a wonderful university and I feel that I have the chance to learn so much not only from my classes, but also by living outside of my comfort zone and embracing the new opportunities that come with that. I am very happy that I will have this experience under my belt and am excited to see how it helps me in the future.