

## Experience report study abroad semester

# How was it?

*You may have heard this question more often now that you are at the end of your semester abroad. The International Center would also like to know how you evaluate your semester abroad and what you need to know. The experience reports will be published and serve to help orient others going abroad. The International Office would also like to use the contents for advertising purposes if necessary. We would therefore like you to keep this in mind when filling out the report.*

## 1. General information

*Please do not mention any personal information (name, e-mail address, etc.) in the experience report.*

I agree to the publication of the report and the attached photos:

Yes  No

Study program at EUF

*European Cultures and Society*

Subject combination (if BABW)

*Klicken oder tippen Sie hier, um Text einzugeben.*

Host country

*Denmark*

Host university

*University of Southern Denmark*

Semester abroad (e.g. fall semester 2020/21)

## EXPERIENCE REPORT ON SEMESTER ABROAD

*Fall semester 2021/2022*

## 2. Your Experience Abroad

*At this point you can share the experience you made abroad. Sometimes it is not so easy to report on such experiences in such a compressed way. We have therefore prepared some questions to help you do this. At the end of the questionnaire, you will also find a free field for you to fill in, in which you are welcome to enter aspects that are not covered by any of these questions.*

How did you prepare for the semester abroad?

*Mostly researching the website of the host university in order to get an idea about the subjects I was going to study, as well as getting to know other people's experiences in Denmark (by watching videos or talking to my friends). I also attended all organizational meetings organized by EUF or my host university.*

How did you establish social networks in your host country? Do you have any tips on how this can be achieved?

*I lived in a shared apartment, and I very quickly made friends with my roommates. Moreover, the neighborhood I lived in was full of other international students, so it was very easy to socialize there. It was a little bit more difficult with Danish students, since they weren't very keen to speak English, but finally I also made some friends among them.*

Did you learn the local language, respectively how important did you think it was for your stay?

*No, and it wasn't important for me at all during the stay. Danish is a very difficult language, and I found that English was absolutely enough for living and studying in the country.*

How was the study program at the partner university structured?  
(e.g. premises, workload, language of instruction, examination forms, accessibility)  
What intercultural encounters/competencies shaped your stay?

*I took classes mostly from a program called „Business, Language and Culture“. I really liked that even though the program is a part of the Department of Humanities, there was a lot of focus on balance between learning in theory and practice, which is sometimes difficult to achieve in humanities. All of my classes were taught in English, so I found them very accessible. I also liked that examination forms focused on a variety of student competences (written tests, short and longer home assignments).*

What intercultural encounters/competencies shaped your stay?

*Mostly talking with other International or Danish students about cultural differences, in the neighborhood that I lived in were a lot of other exchange students so it was an amazing opportunity to share intercultural experiences.*

Which perspectives on the host country/country of origin have changed and why?

*I was a little bit concerned that it will be difficult to meet new people, especially considering also the Corona pandemic. However, it was really surprising that the Danes, as well as other international students were quite open minded and getting along with them was not as difficult. The university also made it easy by organizing multiple events for international students, especially in the beginning.*

What was your daily life like where you were? (e.g. living, shopping, leisure, inclusion)

## EXPERIENCE REPORT ON SEMESTER ABROAD

*My daily life included a lot of cycling, because in Denmark it is quite difficult to get anywhere without a bike. I also spent a lot of time with my flatmates, since we became really good friends. I would say that I lived a rather healthy lifestyle during my exchange semester, since due to cycling I had a lot of fresh air and physical exercise. I also did my best to buy healthy food, which was actually not that difficult, since in Denmark it is widely accessible and quite cheap (in comparison with other countries).*

**What are the unique or special issues in the host country and what were the opportunities for engaging with these issues?**

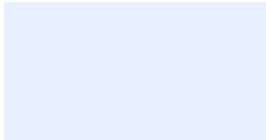
*One of the issues I encountered was that the neighborhood that I lived in was on the suburbs of the city, so quite far from the city centre (and therefore shops or cultural life) and from the university. Therefore, getting a bike was a perfect solution for this issue, and it was truly irreplaceable (since I found public transport very expensive, especially for a student). The second issue that I noticed was that the cost of living in the country was rather high, so I could not allow myself for a lot of leisure or cultural events. In this case, the financial aid from the Erasmus program was a major help and facilitated the stay in the host country.*

**Is there anything else you would like to share? (e.g. anecdotes, criticism, etc.)**

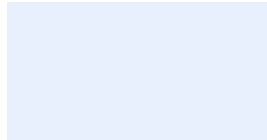
### 3. Photos

Finally, you can upload photos here, which visualize/represent your stay abroad well. If necessary, add a description. The following questions can help you choose the appropriate photos:

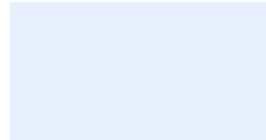
- Does the photo possibly reinforce prejudices or stereotypes about the country?
- Do you have the consensual consent of the persons depicted in the photos?
- "A picture is worth a thousand words!" What does your picture say about the country and your semester abroad?



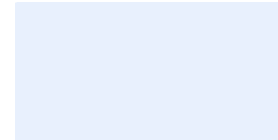
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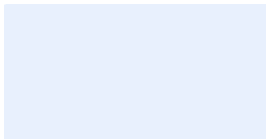
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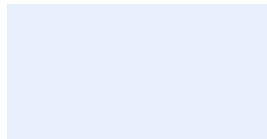
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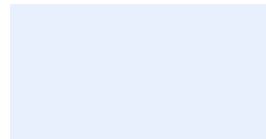
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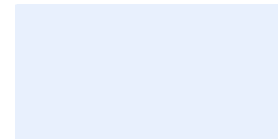
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**Many thanks for your support!**