Denmark, Copenhagen – Fall/AY 2010-2011
IAP PROGRAM HANDBOOK

The Copenhagen, Denmark program is offered by International Academic Programs (IAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in conjunction with the University of Copenhagen. This IAP Program Handbook supplements handbooks or materials you receive from the University of Copenhagen as well as the IAP Study Abroad Handbook and provides you with the most up-to-date information and advice available at the time of printing. Changes may occur before your departure or while you are abroad.

Questions about your program abroad (housing options, facilities abroad, etc.) as well as questions relating to your relationship with your host university or academics (e.g. course credit and equivalents, registration deadlines, etc.) should be directed to IAP at UW-Madison.

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Contact Information

ON-SITE PROGRAM INFORMATION
Your primary contact at the University of Copenhagen will be:

Lisbet Bogh Sønderby
Admissions Officer
Københavns Universitet / University of Copenhagen
International Office
Fiolstræde 1
(PO Box 1143)
1171 København K
Denmark
+45 35 32 29 18
+45 35 32 39 00 fax
lbf@adm.ku.dk
www.ku.dk/international/

Bente Pedersen
Incoming Advisor and Admissions Officer
Københavns Universitet / University of Copenhagen
International Office
Fiolstræde 1
(P.O. Box 1143)
1171 København K
Denmark
+45 35 32 29 18
+45 35 32 39 07 direct
+45 35 32 39 00 fax
INT-admission@adm.ku.dk
www.ku.dk/international/

Faculty of Life Sciences Contact
Winni Lorenzen
International Student Coordinator
The Royal Veterinary & Agricultural University
International Secretariat
17 Bulowsvej
DK-1870 Frederiksberg C, Denmark
Tel: +45-3528-3769
Fax: +45-3528-2664
Email: wlo@kvl.dk

UW-MADISON INFORMATION
International Academic Programs (IAP)
University of Wisconsin-Madison
250 Bascom Hall, 500 Lincoln Drive
Madison, WI 53706
Tel: 608-265-6329, Fax: 608-262-6998
Web: www.studyabroad.wisc.edu
EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION
In case of an emergency, call the main IAP number (608) 265-6329 between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday; after-hours or on weekends call the IAP staff on call at (608) 516 9440.

U.S. EMBASSY REGISTRATION
All program participants who are U.S. citizens must register at the U.S. Embassy before departure as this will help in case of a lost passport or other mishap. You can register on-line at https://travelregistration.state.gov. If you are not a U.S. citizen, register at your home country’s embassy or consulate.
United States Embassy
Dag Hammarskjölds Allé 24
2100 Copenhagen 0
Denmark
+45 33 41 71 00
+45 35 43 02 23 fax
www.usembassy.dk

Program Dates

Fall Semester 2010
Pre-semester Danish language course: 9 – 31 August
Block 1: 30 August - 12 November 2010
   No teaching or exams: 30 August - 3 September 2010
   No teaching or exams: 8-12 November 2010
Block 2: 15 November 2010 - 28 January 2011
   No teaching or exams: 27 December - 7 January

Spring Semester 2011
Block 3: 31 January - 8 April 2011
   No teaching or exams: 28 February - 4 March 2011
Block 4: 11 April - 1 July 2011
   No teaching or exams: 18-22 April 2011
   No teaching or exams: 27 June - 1 July 2011

**Note: The Faculty of Life Sciences might have slightly different academic dates.
Preparation before Leaving

IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS

Passport: A passport is needed to travel to Denmark and to obtain your residence permit. Apply immediately for a passport if you do not already have one. Passport information and application forms can be found on the U.S. State Department website http://travel.state.gov/passport/. If you already have your passport, make sure it will be valid for at least 6 months beyond the length of your stay abroad.

Student Permit: A student permit is required for study in Denmark. Student permit applications must be completed before you leave for Denmark, as processing can take 2 to 3 months. The permit also allows you to work for 15 hours a week if you choose to do so while in Denmark. You will not be able to apply for a student permit until you receive a form called “Application for a residence and work permit for students” and a letter of admission from the International Office at the University of Copenhagen. U.S. citizens should apply for a student permit with the Consulate General of Denmark in New York www.gknewyorkum.dk/en/ immediately after receiving the above materials from Denmark. To apply for the student permit, please confirm the materials you will need to send to the consulate at: http://www.gknewyorkum.dk/en/menu/PassportVisa/Studentpermit/

HANDLING MONEY ABROAD

The Danish currency is the krone, with 1 krone equaling 100 øre. As of 2/12/2010, the exchange rate was $1 USD to 5.46 DKK (Denmark Kroner). You should bring some money with you in cash for incidental purchases as well as for bus and train fares. It is possible to convert almost any currency into Danish Kroner at the Copenhagen Airport or at the Central Station when you arrive.

Banks: Many students use traveler’s checks to open a bank account in Copenhagen. If you open an account at some full-service banks, they may allow you to cash a personal U.S. check without waiting for it to clear; however, others may require up to three or four weeks before you can access the money. Consult with the International Office at the University of Copenhagen for recommended banks.

Once you have opened an account, the easiest and most economical way to receive money from home is through a bank transfer. Transfers take three to four days on average and the fee is determined or set. Danish banks are generally open weekdays from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., except for Thursdays when they close at 6:00 p.m. Banks are closed on Saturdays.

Travelers Checks: You may convert a wide range of currencies and travelers’ checks in Denmark but you will have to pay a fee whenever you cash a traveler’s check, so you may want to bring checks in larger denominations.

ATM/Debit Cards: Cash machines are available throughout Copenhagen and Europe. Bring a U.S. ATM card with an international 4 digit pin number to access your account overseas. Check with your bank prior to departure to make sure you will be able to access your funds from abroad with an ATM card.
It may be a better option for you to open a bank account with a Danish bank and get a Dankort. Dankort is a debit card that is accepted everywhere except perhaps in very small shops that only take cash. To open an account and get a debit card, you must remember to bring your CPR number. It is also a good idea to bring copies of your passport, your Letter of Admission and your housing contract, as you may be asked for these documents.

**Credit Cards:** While well-known international credit cards are widely accepted in Denmark, they may be inconvenient to use for everyday shopping. Visa and Master Card are the most commonly accepted credit cards. With a Visa card, it is possible to draw Danish currency from red cash dispensers ("kontanten") which are found all over Copenhagen and operate 24 hours a day.

**PACKING**

Packing light is a good idea as most items you will need will be available for purchase in Denmark. Because of the weather inconsistencies, it is recommended that you bring a warm coat, raincoat and umbrella and waterproof shoes. Bike riding is a common form of transportation in Denmark and if you plan to rent/buy a bike, you should bring a bike lock. You should also bring sheets and a blanket or duvet for your bed, as these can be expensive in Denmark.

**Clothing:** Students at the University of Copenhagen are generally casually dressed; however it is a good idea to bring one or two dressy outfits for formal occasions. Clothing and shoes are generally expensive to buy in Denmark. Bringing enough clothes to layer is also a good idea.

**ELECTRONICS**

Denmark runs on 220V (volts), 50Hz (cycles) AC and uses the “europlug” with two round pins. If you plan on bringing any appliances from the United States, keep in mind that they will require adapters/converters which you should purchase before departure. It may be more convenient and less expensive to purchase appliances in Denmark rather than purchasing the necessary converter/adapters in the United States.

**Travel and Arrival**

The International Office advises all exchange students to arrive a few days prior to the beginning of their Danish Language course or the semester start. This will give you time to settle in and to get acquainted with the city before starting classes. If you feel lost, or just want to inquire about the easiest way to get to where you are going, please do not hesitate to ask for assistance and directions. Practically everyone speaks English!

**Arriving by plane:** If you arrive by plane, you will arrive in Copenhagen International Airport Kastrup, which is located 8 kilometers south of the city centre on the island of Amager. You can get from the airport to the city by train, bus or taxi. It is easy to get from the airport to the city centre by train. The train ride from the airport to Copenhagen Central Station (Hovedbanegården) takes about 15 minutes. Before getting on the train, you need to purchase a ticket at the ticket stand (DSB) located in the airport terminal.

From the Central Station you may decide to continue on the train or get a bus or taxi depending on where you are going to stay. If you are going to live in the southern part of Copenhagen (area code 2300) it may be more convenient to get a bus from the airport, as you do not need to get all the way to the city centre. Bus number 250S runs from the airport.
Note that in taxis in Denmark, the meter will start at a certain fixed rate and run as you drive. It is usually not possible to negotiate with the driver regarding the price of the fare. Be aware that tipping is only customary in Denmark when service has been particularly good. Taxi fares include service charges and therefore you are usually not expected to tip.

**Arriving by train:** Copenhagen has three large train stations and a number of smaller stations. Copenhagen Central Station (Hovedbanegården) is located in the western part of the city centre. Nørreport is located in the northern part of the city centre, while Østerport is located east of the city centre. From either of the stations it is easy to get to your destination by public transport or taxi. Tickets for the Metro and S-trains are purchased on the platform or in the train terminal, while bus tickets can be purchased on the bus. You use the same ticket for both buses and trains.

**Registering at the local civil registration office:** After you have arrived in Copenhagen, you are required to register with the local civil registration office (“Folkeregistret”). The International Office at the University of Copenhagen will refer you to your local registration office. Before going, you must have your student permit and a permanent address in Denmark.

Once registered, the civil registration office will provide you with a personal identity number, called a CPR number, as well as a Health Insurance Card. Your CPR number is used to officially register that you are living in Denmark, but you will also find that banks, libraries, phone companies, sports associations, etc., ask for your CPR number in order to open an account or get a membership.
The Academic Program

THE UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN

The University of Copenhagen was founded in 1479 and is Denmark's first university. With almost 33,000 students and more than 6,000 employees, the University of Copenhagen is the largest institution of research and education in Denmark. The purpose of the university – to quote the University Statute— is to "conduct research and provide further education to the highest academic level." The university has six faculties:

- Humanities [www.hum.ku.dk/english/](http://www.hum.ku.dk/english/)
- Theology [www.teol.ku.dk/english/](http://www.teol.ku.dk/english/)
- Social Sciences [www.samf.ku.dk/english/](http://www.samf.ku.dk/english/)
- Law [www.jur.ku.dk/english/](http://www.jur.ku.dk/english/)
- Science [www.nat.ku.dk/english/](http://www.nat.ku.dk/english/)
- Health Sciences [www.sund.ku.dk/Engelsk/](http://www.sund.ku.dk/Engelsk/)

The university buildings are spread out across the capital with three campus areas; however, all within a short distance from the heart of Copenhagen. As an exchange student, you will be admitted to the University of Copenhagen as a guest student (not a degree-seeker).

University Of Copenhagen [www.du.dk](http://www.du.dk)

University of Copenhagen International Office [www.ku.dk/international/](http://www.ku.dk/international/)

THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM

This is an academic exchange program, so there will be no Resident Director. Your primary contact will be the International Office at the University of Copenhagen which assists international students with academic concerns as well as arranges the following activities for exchange students:

- In connection with the three-week intensive Danish Language Course, the International Office hosts an Orientation Week with social events such as guided tours of Copenhagen, a dinner and a picnic or trip to a museum.
- An orientation meeting where International Office staff explain practical and academic matters, as well as information about social events taking place during orientation week and the semester. Students will also be provided with information and/or academic guidance on course selection. The orientation meeting is mandatory for all UW-Madison participants.
- In addition, the International Office provides exchange students with a range of support and counseling services, and ensures that you have access to services and information that will help make your stay a rich and academically rewarding experience.
**Mentor Program**: The University of Copenhagen offers a mentoring program that pairs international students with Danish students. A mentor is not an academic tutor but a Danish student who, on a voluntary basis, agrees to help international students through their first few days in Denmark. Your mentor will typically study the same subject as you or attend the same Faculty. In general, the mentor will help students with practical matters such as registration with the Danish authorities, advising you on where to shop and introducing you to the university (including a tour). The extent of the relationship beyond this is determined individually. You **must** indicate in your University of Copenhagen application that you would like to be assigned a mentor.

**COURSE INFORMATION**

**Courses**: Many courses offered at the University of Copenhagen are taught in Danish. However, each semester a number of courses are offered in English. The International Office publishes a Guide to Courses in English at the end of each semester. This guide will be available when you arrive. You can also find the guide at [http://www.ku.dk/international/](http://www.ku.dk/international/) approximately two months before your semester begins. In addition, most of the courses in the English Department (Faculty of Humanities) are also taught in English.

The Faculty of Humanities also offers a course in Danish Culture for foreign students each fall semester. This course is open to all exchange and guest students, and consists of a weekly lecture on a specific area of Danish culture. Various university professors are invited to give lectures on their own area of specialization.

**Faculty of Life Sciences courses**: The Faculty of Life Sciences offers around 175 courses in English at BSc and MSc level. A variety of courses in agricultural and life sciences, including food science and human nutrition, horticulture, forestry, landscape architecture and management, agricultural development, parasitology, biotechnology, agricultural economics, and veterinary medicine are available. Roughly half of all courses and 5 degree programs are offered in English.

Classes are arranged in a block structure. Each block is nine weeks long and is concluded with exams. If you want to spend one semester abroad, you will be there for two blocks. The Faculty of Life Sciences has a “modular” class schedule. Each day is broken into 80- minute blocks, running from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Courses are scheduled during two blocks per week. Each course is typically four 35-minute lectures per week; thus, two lectures are held during each 80-minute block period, with a 10-minute break in between. You may also be required to do practice exercises with your professors in the afternoon.

**Danish Language Courses**: One of the best ways to integrate into Danish society is to be proficient in the language. There is a three-week pre-semester Danish language course for exchange students offered every August and January. This program, which is coordinated by the Department of Nordic Philology, is sponsored by the International Office at the University of Copenhagen. This course is free of charge for UW-Madison exchange students, who will earn academic credit for the course. If your Danish language skills are higher, you still have the option of participating in this course.

After an initial interview, participating students are divided into groups at a variety of levels ranging from beginners to very advanced. Students work in small groups with the four disciplines of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Emphasis varies according to level. The three-week pre-semester course makes a total of 66 contact teaching hours, representing 8 ECTS credits or 4 UW credits. The course is very intensive, so students are requested to attend the course from the beginning and will not be admitted into classes after the first Wednesday that the course is held.
Arrangements for additional Danish study throughout the academic year can be made as well. During the semester, the Institute for Nordic Philology offers a course in written Danish for advanced students. They also advise and help foreign students to choose appropriate classes in Danish language at the "Studieskolen," an institution affiliated to the University and specializing in foreign and second language teaching.

**Registration:** There is no general registration for courses prior to the actual start of the semester. However, at some faculties you must register for courses before the beginning of the semester. This applies to courses at the Law Faculty and some courses at the Faculty of Humanities.

**Classroom Culture**
The majority of courses require group projects. This forces you to cooperate and compromise in group situations. Grades are typically comprised of a group project and a written or oral examination, each worth 50% of your grade. One examination, however, can make up the entire grade for the course.

Classroom culture is generally very relaxed. Professors are often called by their first names and attire is casual; baseball caps are even acceptable to wear to class. Danish students are very accepting of foreign students in the classes.

**Equivalents and Course Equivalent Request Form (CERF):** Each course you take abroad must be assigned a UW-Madison "equivalent" course in order for your grades and credits to be recorded on your UW-Madison transcript. In order to establish UW-Madison course equivalents for your study abroad courses, you will submit a Course Equivalent Requests through your My Study Abroad account. Detailed information on the UW course equivalent process that you will use through your My Study Abroad account is available in the IAP Study Abroad Handbook.

**CREDITS**

**Conversions:** The University of Copenhagen uses the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). A full study load for one year is equals 60 ECTS credits and a full study load for one semester equals 30 ECTS credits. The undergraduate and graduate courses offered at the University of Copenhagen can be worth anywhere between 2 and 30 ECTS credits each depending on the workload and the exam. Courses at the Faculty of Humanities and the Faculty of Theology are typically worth 15 ECTS each, whereas courses at the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Social Science typically are worth 10 ECTS credits each. Information about credits for individual courses will be listed in the University of Copenhagen course catalogue.

The University of Copenhagen International Office refers to the ECTS credit system when planning academic programs with exchange students. Before planning your course schedule in Copenhagen, students should inquire about the nature and the level of the courses. Graduate courses are more demanding than undergraduate courses, but can be worth the same amount of credits.

The credit conversion scale is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECTS Credits</th>
<th>UW-Madison Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 or 5.5</td>
<td>3</td>
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Limits and Load: UW-Madison students studying abroad in Copenhagen are expected to take 30 ECTS credit each semester. Remember that the three-week pre-semester language course (worth 4 UW credits) counts in the total number of semester credits.

Please note that it will not be possible to earn more than 15 ECTS from Danish language courses per semester. Students may enroll in as many Danish language courses as they wish, but the number of ECTS points earned will be limited to 15 ECTS each semester, including credits for pre-semester courses. This does not affect the course in Written Danish for Advanced Students and the course in Danish Phonetics and Pronunciation offered by the Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics. Nor does it affect the eight-week intensive language programme (ILP).

PASS/FAIL/DROP/AUDIT
Please refer to the IAP Study Abroad Handbook for academic policies.

GRADES AND GRADE CONVERSIONS
Courses at the University of Copenhagen are graded using either a number scale or on a pass/fail basis. For courses graded as pass/fail, the University of Copenhagen provides an evaluation of a student’s performance using one of the following four distinctions: Excellent, Good, Satisfactory, or Unsatisfactory. The only exception to this grading scale is the Danish Culture Course, which includes a participation component that is graded only on a pass/fail basis with no evaluation.

For Danish Language Courses, students will only receive pass/fail on their official Copenhagen Transcript of Records, along with an evaluation of their performance on the student’s Certificate of Participation. Performances in the Danish language courses are evaluated according to the standard scale of unsatisfactory, satisfactory, good or excellent.

Credit for Danish language courses is determined by the Department of Scandinavian Studies at UW-Madison. In order to receive UW-Madison course credit, students must request to receive a number grade (preferred) or pass/fail grade with a written evaluation for courses taken at the University of Copenhagen. The course outline for each course states whether number grades or a pass/fail basis is used. Students need to fill in the “End of the Year Status Report” for the University of Copenhagen International Office enabling the staff to issue a transcript to UW-Madison. The staff needs to know the title of the course, name of the instructor, and number of credits.

In cooperation with the Department of Scandinavian Studies, IAP has established the following scale for transferring grades from the University of Copenhagen to UW-Madison:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Copenhagen</th>
<th>UW-Madison</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
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<td>F</td>
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<tr>
<td>-3</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Absent</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Excellent | A |
| Good      | B |
| Satisfactory | C |
| Unsatisfactory | D |
Living Abroad

DENMARK

Denmark is a small nation of approximately 5.1 million inhabitants. It is also the world’s oldest kingdom, comprising Denmark, the Faroe Islands and Greenland. Except for a short border with Germany, it is almost completely surrounded by the sea.

Denmark is a low-lying country, with gently rolling hills, an abundance of lakes and fjords, and the sea is never far away. Its climate is relatively temperate. In the summer, the temperature will probably not rise above 75 degrees Fahrenheit, and days will be much longer—an average of 17 hours of daylight from May to early August. In the winter, average temperatures are not usually far below 32 degrees, although the wind chill may be much colder. You can expect rain and there may be snow in the winter. Days will be shorter in the wintertime; in December, daylight may only last from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Denmark has always seen the comings and goings of its inhabitants. 350,000 Danes have emigrated to the U.S.—most before World War I. During the last twenty years, guest workers and refugees have been accepted in larger numbers, though they still account for less than 3 percent of the population. From an ethnic, linguistic, religious and cultural point of view, Denmark is still relatively homogeneous. The Danish State Church (Evangelical-Lutheran) is comprised of over 90 percent of the Danish population, though a much smaller percentage actually go to church regularly. Other religious denominations have a constitutional right to establish themselves and practice their faith. The University of Copenhagen will be supplying you with some practical tips for living in Denmark, which will include the addresses for various churches, temples and synagogues.

Women are likely to feel comfortable living and traveling alone or with others. Denmark has a progressive history, with women being elected to their parliament as early as 1918. There are active organizations for women, progressive welfare policies and a majority of married women and mothers work. Similarly, gay men and lesbians have legal protection against discrimination and Danish society is generally tolerant. Since 1989, it has been legally possible for same-sex couples to become "registered partners,” which is recognized by the state and allows for the same community property and inheritance rights as married spouses.

Official Travel Guide to Denmark www.visitdenmark.com

COPENHAGEN

Copenhagen—the capital of Denmark—was officially founded in 1167. The small fishing village, as it was then, prospered and developed into København—‘port of tradesmen.' Today Copenhagen is the commercial, cultural and administrative centre of Denmark, and the greater city area has a population of 1.7 million. Although busy and noisy as any large city, Copenhagen continues to captivate visitors because it has managed to maintain some of its original charm. Compared to many other cosmopolitan cities, it is considered a safe city.
Copenhagen has a rich cultural life and is home to a wide range of interesting museums and attracts international performers and artists to festivals, concerts and other events throughout the year. Some of the more notable are the National Museum, the Christiansborg Palace, the Royal Arsenal Museum, the Stock Exchange Building, and the Museum of Theatrical History. Copenhagen also houses the Royal Theater as well as many small experimental theaters. Copenhagen’s cafés, bars and restaurants, many of them half submerged in cellars or located in picturesque historical buildings, range from traditional to trendy and serve everything from hot Thai curries to traditional Danish frikadeller (meat balls).

Just outside the city centre, you find the areas of Østerbro, Vesterbro, Nørrebro, Frederiksberg and Amager. Østerbro is one of the well-off areas of Copenhagen. Buildings as well as cafes, restaurants and shops are often of a more classical style than what you find in other areas. Vesterbro and Nørrebro used to be working class areas, but over the past decade both areas have turned into trendy hot spots influenced by people of many different ethnic origins, and they are very popular areas for shopping and going out. Though you may not notice it, Frederiksberg is actually an independent municipality surrounded by Copenhagen. It offers good shopping facilities, places for going out as well as Frederiksberg Have – a beautiful park loved by all Copenhageners. Amager is in fact an island linked to the rest of Copenhagen by bridges. Still, it is as close to the city centre as the other areas, and in addition to that, it has its own beach, which is a popular destination in the summer.

Copenhagen is small compared to other cities around the world, so even if you are not going to live in one of the areas mentioned above, you will never be far away from the city centre, from the University or from where things are happening!

**HOUSING**

Danish universities do not generally own student housing facilities. Danish students typically live at home, in private flats, or in one of the housing facilities available for young people in the Greater Copenhagen area. Accommodation for international students is therefore organized through public and private housing companies. The University of Copenhagen International Office assists exchange students in finding accommodation in Copenhagen during their studies.

In order to receive assistance, you must indicate on your admissions application that you are applying for housing. All housing applicants will be offered housing according to their period of study, which is including or excluding the Pre-semester Language Courses. As a general rule, the period of study that you have applied for is binding. If you choose not to accept your housing offer, or you do not respond to the housing offer within the deadline stated in the offer, the International Office will not be able to guarantee another offer.

If you are admitted to the University and have applied for housing, the International Office will send a housing offer to your University e-mail account. It is therefore very important that you check your e-mail regularly. Due to the large number of applicants and the difficult housing situation in Copenhagen, you may receive a housing offer from the Accommodations Office as late as one month before the beginning of your studies. If you have not heard from the International Office two weeks prior to your arrival, please contact the Housing Coordinators at int-housing@adm.ku.dk.
Students are housed in either a residence hall ("Kollegium") or in private accommodation such as a rented room or a shared flat. The rooms offered in residence halls are a combination of single rooms and twin rooms. Twin rooms are shared with another student of the same gender and preferably the same age. Kollegium housing is relatively inexpensive, but in high demand; therefore it is not possible to find a room in a Kollegium for every exchange student. However, the accommodation officer at the International Office will assist you in finding private accommodations. The rooms assigned by the International Office are all furnished rooms with access to kitchen, toilet and bathing facilities. You will need to provide your own bedding in student housing. Bedding is generally provided in rented private rooms, but check before leaving home without it. Sleeping bags are useful, both as a comforter at home and for travel.

The typical monthly rent in Copenhagen varies from DKK 2,200 to 3,400 per person. Students living in a private home should expect to follow the house rules determined by the landlord. We strongly recommend that the landlord and the tenant agree upon any house rules immediately after arrival in order to avoid any misunderstandings during the tenancy. Likewise, it is always a good idea to ask the landlord to write down the house rules. Be aware that you have to pay a security deposit of one or two months rent which will be refunded on departure if no damage has been done to the room.

It is seldom possible to move into your room on the first day of your period of residence because of cleaning and room repairs. Double occupancy of single rooms is not allowed and may lead to eviction. Please be sure to give notice of your moving date four weeks before the first or the fifteenth of the month following your planned departure date. Failure to do so could result in being billed for extra rent.

If you live in a Kollegium, it is essential to ensure a pleasant and comfortable environment where everyone can live and study. It is important to respect your neighbors and to keep noise to a minimum level; likewise, it is necessary for everyone to take part in the shared responsibilities at the residence. There are no meal plans in the residence halls; students generally prepare their own meals or eat at area restaurants. Each faculty has one or more canteens (cafeterias) where you can buy food.

**STUDENT LIFE**

Copenhagen is characterized by the large number of young people living and studying in the city. The many students make Copenhagen a very young and bustling city, and you will find a rich and varied nightlife. At the International Office, you can find information about Copenhagen and its cultural and social life. Talking to Danish students is an excellent way to find out where to go as well.

The University of Copenhagen welcomes more than 1,000 international students each year, and there is a range of social events taking place during the semesters. It will be easy for you to meet and socialize with other international students. The Student House (Studenterhuset) is located in the centre of Copenhagen, and functions as a natural place for students from different faculties to meet, study and have a good time. During the week the Student House puts on a range of activities such as debates, quiz-night, gay-day, live music and an International Café (see below). Furthermore, the house is home to a number of activity groups with interests such as poetry reading, music, environmental issues, photography and dancing. As a student enrolled in the University of Copenhagen, you are automatically a member of the Student House, allowing you among other things to join the activity groups and obtain various discounts on drinks, photocopies, etc.
An established tradition of the Student House is the “International Café,” organized by the International Association, a group of volunteer students. Offered every Wednesday evening during the semester, International Café nights have become an important social centre for all international students. Here students can meet Danish as well as international students, have a drink and debate or joke in numerous languages. In addition to International Café nights, the International Association also organizes excursions around Denmark as well as parties, films and lectures. There is a minimal membership fee.

If you want to experience Danish student-life, the "Fredags-bar" is a must. They take place at almost every institute and department at the university on Friday afternoons. Be aware that some institutes have "Torsdags-bar" (Thursday afternoon) instead. Some of the larger "Fredags-bars" are to be found at the following institutes: Geography, Medicine/Odontology, Biology - "Biobar", Political Science, Psychology and Law. In the Faculty of Humanities, Café Mødestedet (The Meeting Point) is also a popular place where students from all areas of studies in the Faculty meet. The cafe is open Monday to Friday.

If you are interested in doing sports while you are studying at the University of Copenhagen, we encourage you to make use of the University's Sports Association (Universitetets Studenter-Gymnastik/USG). It is cheap compared to joining other clubs and it is a good way to socialize with Danish and other international students in an informal way. USG has approximately 4,000 members, and the programme is designed to provide you with a range of sporting opportunities. Most members exercise on an informal basis once a week, but you can also join more competitive teams that practice for tournaments. The programme includes activities as diverse as ski-gymnastics, water polo, handball, fencing, ballet, squash, indoor soccer, rock climbing and yoga. USG makes use of facilities around Copenhagen. The main office where you sign up for activities is located in the Institute of Physical Education and Sports Science.

While you are living in Copenhagen, we also encourage you to make an effort to meet the Danes. Danes are very informal and liberal in their way of life, but do have a reputation of being quite reserved, and in the beginning they may seem difficult to get into contact with. Danes often fulfill their social need in a narrow circle consisting of family, colleagues, and close friends. The home is a central concept in the life of a Dane, and the Danes put a lot of effort and money into making their homes comfortable and hyggeleg (cosy)—hygge (cosiness) is a keyword in the Danish way of life focusing on enjoying the simple things in life.

However, if you show an interest in getting to know the Danes, their culture and their language you will get a positive response. Try to speak a bit of Danish to them even if you only know a few phrases. Most Danes will be happy to help you and will also be happy to speak English with you. Invite your Danish mentor along to things you like to do, participate in the Student House activities, check out the Friday-bar in your department or join a sports team. There are many ways to meet the Danes.

SHOPPING

On the main shopping pedestrian street Strøget and in the small surrounding streets in the historic city center, you will find major international retail names as well as shops with more “student-friendly” prices, all within walking-distance from each other. Most shops accept the major international credit cards, but if you shop outside the city centre and in some of the smaller shops, you may only be able to pay in cash or with Dankort (a debit card used by many Danes).

You may also choose to explore your local neighbourhood. While each of the residential areas surrounding the city centre has distinct styles, some stand out as particularly interesting:
**Vesterbro:** If you want to spot the latest trends in Copenhagen and, indeed, Scandinavia, this is not a bad place to start. Vesterbro used to be known as Copenhagen’s worker’s quarter, but in the last few years a genuine transformation has occurred in the area to the west of the Central Station. Main shopping streets are Istedgade and Vesterbrogade where you find the latest in cool street wear, as well as small designer shops with clothes and handicrafts.

**Nørrebro:** Like Vesterbro, Nørrebro has become a trendy area for shopping and going out. The south end of Nørrebrogade and the smaller side streets in that area such as Elmegade and Blågaardsgade are particularly interesting with shops run by local designers. If you are looking to buy second-hand furniture for your room, Ravnsborggade is the place to go. The street is lined with places where you can get a bargain.

For everyday shopping of groceries, the cheapest places to go are Netto, Fakta and Aldi, which you will find all over Copenhagen. The shops are not known for their service but they are popular with the Danes because prices are low, and the large turnover in the shops ensures fresh products. To buy more exotic spices and specialities, look for the little Turkish, Pakistani and other ethnic shops all of which add their special flavour to shopping in Copenhagen.

**TRANSPORTATION**

The city has a well-developed public transportation system but cycling is usually the most popular, quickest and cheapest way to get around. There is an extensive network of cycling paths throughout Copenhagen. Many students choose to buy a cheap used bike when they arrive in Copenhagen, which can usually be purchased for around DKK 500. Danish motorists are generally used to bikes but be considerate and don’t take any chances. Never ride on sidewalks.

Bike theft does occur in Copenhagen, so it is important to have a certified lock. All bikes must have two reflectors on each wheel as well as a reflector on the front and back of the bike. Bikes must also have lights on after sunset. Failure to comply with either of these regulations will result in a fine. In addition, be aware that biking while intoxicated is prosecuted the same as a DWI.

Copenhagen also has an extensive network of train and bus routes. When you buy a ticket, it is valid for both the trains and buses. If you travel by train or bus every day, it may be cheaper and easier to buy a train pass that you have to renew every month. You can do this at any train station; bring a photo or have one taken there.

**SAFETY**

In case of an emergency such as fire, a traffic accident or acute health problems, call 112. Remember to provide as many details as possible:

- Where are you?
- What has happened?
- How many are injured and what is their condition?
- What telephone number are you calling from?
- Etc.
Prevention of Crime and Assault: Even though Copenhagen is a safe city, it is a big city and a capital, and crime does occur here too. We therefore urge you to pay attention and respond to your instinct, if something is not right – use your common sense, as you would do in any other big city. Assaults often occur when people are intoxicated or agitated. It is important to keep one's head clear, and not lose one's temper. If possible, pull away from the situation. The following precautions may help to get you out of a possible violent situation:

- Do not show you are afraid
- Do not lose your temper
- Use a kind, but assertive voice
- Apologize if you have been a part of the episode
- Avoid further discussion
- Do not answer back
- Quietly leave the spot if possible
- If there are others present let them in on what is happening
- If all fails then run to safety

Theft/Robbery: In the unlucky event of theft or robbery, you should contact the police immediately. The more details you are able to provide, the more the police have to work with in the effort to solve the crime. For phone numbers of the Police Stations, please refer to “Important Addresses”.

Violent Incidences: Violent incidences are rare. However, if you have been exposed to physical violence, you should contact the police immediately. The case will be a police matter but you may also want to contact the International Office as well for assistance. Remember that it is possible to bring another person to the station to report the crime. This person will be allowed to sit in on all questioning and can therefore be of great support. Please note that if you bring another person to report the crime this person will be bound to professional confidentiality.

In Case of Sexual Assault: It is very unlikely that you should be exposed to a sexual assault. However, in the event that this occurs, it is possible to receive both medical and psychological counselling at the local rape centre or hospital. It is very important to go to the nearest rape centre (or hospital) to be examined, if you have been subject to a sex crime. Do not clean yourself up/wash before going. Remember that it is not a shame, and not something you need to hide. It is not your fault, and it does help to talk about it.

Rigshospitalet has a Center for Rape Victims. The center is open 24 hours a day, and you can contact a nurse by telephone at 35 45 50 32. You do not need an appointment, but it may be a good idea to contact the center before going there, so they know you are coming and can advise you on what to do and what to bring. Remember that the center will help you irrespective of whether you want to report the assault to the police or not.

HEALTH

Medical facilities in Copenhagen are generally good and the University of Copenhagen operates a student health care clinic. With the Danish Health Insurance you can see a doctor without charge. When you receive your Health Insurance Card, a medical doctor (general practitioner) will be assigned to you and his/her contact information will be printed on your card if you need to make an appointment. Remember to bring your Danish Health Insurance Card when you go to see the doctor. If you have a medical history, it is always a good idea to bring accurate and complete physical and mental health information for your healthcare provider.
If you need medical assistance outside of your doctor's opening hours, please call the emergency medical service. If you live in the municipality of Copenhagen, Frederiksberg or on Amager, the telephone number is 70 13 00 41. If you live in the Amt of Copenhagen, call 44 53 44 00. If you are injured and need sudden and urgent medical care in a hospital, you can seek help at an emergency room (“skadestue”). When entering the emergency room, be sure to pick a number to reserve your place.

If you need to see a dentist, you are free to choose any dentist and call to make an appointment. Be aware that dental treatment is not free of charge in Denmark. You will find a list of dentists in the yellow pages under “tandlæger.” In case of an emergency outside office hours, you can visit the emergency dental service.

**Insurance:** International students staying for more than three months are covered by the Danish Health Security Act. However, this insurance does not cover costs of medical evacuation back to the student's home country, emergency repatriation, or personal liability. Students from Non-European Union/Nordic countries staying for more than three months should apply for a Health Insurance Card (“sygesikringsbevis”) upon arrival. The certificate is valid six weeks after you have registered with the local registration office.

**COMMUNICATION**

**Telephone:** When making calls, keep in mind time zone differences [www.timeanddate.com/worldclock](http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock). To make an international call to the United States, dial the access code for the country from which you are calling plus the United States country code (always “1”) followed by the appropriate U.S. area code and local number. To call internationally from the United States, dial “011”, the country code, city access code (if necessary) and the phone number. Country and city codes can be found online [www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html](http://www.timeanddate.com/worldclock/dialing.html). Some of above steps can vary if you are using a calling card.

All telephone numbers in Denmark have eight numbers. There are no area codes in the country; all eight numbers must be dialed, even when making calls within the same city. When you call from any phone in Denmark, there is a charge for each call and for each minute of each call (2kr for one minute and 25 seconds). Many Danish students have cell phones; so you may wish to consider purchasing an inexpensive cell phone with pre-paid cards to use during your stay in Denmark.

Some former students recommend having a U.S. calling card (AT&T, Sprint, etc.) to be able to obtain cheaper rates than are available through direct dialing. Pre-paid calling cards are also available at “tobacco-and-magazine” shops and may offer the least expensive rates.

**Mail:** Post offices are generally open from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm on weekdays and between 9:30 am and Noon on Saturdays. A telegram or fax can be sent from any post office.

**Email:** When you are admitted to the University of Copenhagen, you will be assigned a university email account. All Faculties at the University provide access to computers, printers and scanners. It is usually free of charge to use these facilities, although you may be required to pay a deposit for a key or an admission card. Also, some computers centers may charge for printing.

**Skype**
Skype is a free, downloadable software application that allows users to make live video and voice calls over the internet. Skype users can also add money to their account and can then use the service to call land lines and cell phones internationally at very low rates. Additionally, Skype also provides an instant messaging function as well as file sharing.

To create a Skype account, users must download the application from www.skype.com and create a user name and password. Once the application is installed onto their computer, they can search for friends either by first and last name or using their friends’ Skype usernames. Once a friend is added to a users contact list, they will be able to see whether that person is available to chat. If two users both have web-enabled video cameras for their computers, they will be able to chat face to face. For users without a web cam, a microphone is all that’s required for calls to another computer.

**WEBSITES OF INTEREST**

International Academic Programs (IAP) at UW-Madison:
www.studyabroad.wisc.edu

University of Copenhagen
http://studies.ku.dk/

General Orientation Information:
www.worldwide.edu/travel_planner/index.html
(includes topics such as culture shock, international travel, etc.)

U.S. State Department:
travel.state.gov

U.S. State Department Students Abroad site:
http://www.studentsabroad.state.gov/

Center for Disease Control:
www.cdc.gov/travel/

Current Exchange Rates:
www.x-rates.com

International Learning Community “Norden” at UW-Madison:
http://www.housing.wisc.edu/ILC/

The Copenhagen Post (newspaper in English):
http://www.cphpost.dk/

Denmark Tourism :
http://www.visitdenmark.com/siteforside.htm
Student Testimonials

The quotes below are comments from past participants; they reflect various students’ experiences and are included to provide different perspectives. IAP does not endorse any specific view expressed in this section.

HANDLING MONEY ABROAD

Be prepared for a more expensive society. The added taxes there make things sometimes seem ridiculously expensive. It takes some time to get used to their reasoning behind the added expense.

I brought about $500 in Danish money. Do yourself a favor and change your money once you get there, the rate is so much better there.

I would probably open an account in Denmark. Many local stores where you do all of your shopping do not take regular credit cards but a local debit card called “Dankort” is accepted. It is much more convenient than running to an ATM all the time.

My biggest suggestion is not to put all of your money in one account. Get a Visa, a MasterCard, a check card, and some traveler’s checks.

It is wise to open a bank account, so you won’t get charged $2 every time you withdraw from the ATM. I would suggest the Danske Bank, Nordea, or Jyske Bank. They are all over Copenhagen and have good service.

I wish I had set a tighter budget, especially in the beginning. Everything was so new and fun, and I wanted to buy everything and go out to every restaurant in Copenhagen. Just be careful to spread it out throughout your entire stay.

I chose to work at a small, Italian restaurant and it ended up to be one of my best experiences abroad. Not many students do this, but it can help with extra expenses, such as travelling. You are only allowed to work 15 hours/week as a student, but this was more than enough. If this is something you think you might do, check into getting a work permit before you head over there. It’s a hassle waiting in the immigration office once you are there.

PACKING

Danes tend to dress up, so bring a few nice sweaters and plenty of different layers. Danes usually wear a few outfits, so don’t feel bad about wearing the same few sweaters all the time. Also, remember to pack some nice casual boots.

Bring warm clothes. Although they have a temperate climate, its a chilly one due to the lack of sun in the beginning of the semester. Dressing in layers allows for a cozy block against the wind. Remember Denmark is an isthmus and Copenhagen is on an island, therefore its surrounded by water...and wind. That said, it gets beautiful with its long days (in the summer, the sun doesn’t go down until around 11pm...), so pack a swimsuit as well. Bring clothes for a full year-- because hopefully you’ll make it down to southern Europe and enjoy their warm climate.
Get all of your power adapters in the US before you leave. Although you can find them in Copenhagen, they are definitely more expensive and the one thing that you’ll want to do when you first arrive is contact any family/friends from home to let them know you arrived safely. This is hard to do when you have no power for your computer.

Remember to pack a small, compact sleeping bag and a small alarm clock that you can use when you travel.

Think about things that will make you happy when you get homesick...a good book from home or pictures are always easy to pack and will make you feel more at home when that time comes.

Bring a pillow and small blanket if you can fit them in your luggage-- it’ll be more comfortable when you crash after your long flight over there.

Make sure to bring a travel backpack or smaller suit case with you for mini trips around Europe while you’re abroad. You’ll be happy not to have huge luggage with you while in hostels or on small jets. Danish people dress very upscale. Cut off jeans and t-shirts don’t cut it unless you are at the beach.

I wish I had brought more pictures of my life in Wisconsin to share with Danes.

COURSES
I would recommend taking literature and humanities classes while in Copenhagen. Take full advantage of the rich history of Denmark and their strong background in arts.

Much of the academic work in European countries, Denmark included, expects the student to learn independently. Because of this, they do not have weekly assignments nor do they have midterms. Rather, grades are often based on one exam or one paper at the end of the semester. Be prepared for this and seek out meetings with your instructors if you have questions pertaining to student expectations.

There is no grade inflation in Copenhagen! Work hard if you want to earn As and Bs.

All exams came at the end of the term so the homework load isn’t all that large. Be prepared to work hard at the end of the term.

Take the Danish language course! You don’t learn a lot of Danish, but it helped me adjust to Denmark and my new lifestyle before the actual semester started. Plus you meet tons of International students who are in the same situation as you are, so you feel less overwhelmed.

I found the pre-semester course to be structured very well because the main aim of the course is to help me, as an international student, feel comfortable communicating. For example, we learned how to explain who we are, where we are from, our course of study, and basic tasks like ordering food. Most people that I have spoken with met their closest friends during that course.
**HOUSING**

Copenhagen University’s international office was wonderful with finding accommodation for us students. I had a conflict with location a few weeks into the program and I found a girl that had the opposite problem as I had-- as her classes were on the north side of the city and mine were on the south. The international office helped us with switching our housing contracts and were very responsive to any questions I had.

I lived in an extremely nice dorm with my own bedroom and bathroom, and a kitchen and common area that I shared with 10 danes and another exchange student. Living with danes allowed me to really get to know them and learn more about their culture, hear their stories, and share their experiences.

Housing can be expensive, but its capped at a certain amount so as not to be too ridiculous. If money is not a particular concern, select the full range of what you’re willing to pay to allow for the greatest accommodation. Housing options range from living with a landlord to living in dorms.

Living in dorms is a lot different than living in dorms in Madison. Every student gets their own room and often, own bathroom. Often, there is a shared kitchen space which is great for meeting people and sharing meals.

In particular, just spending time in the dorms was awesome. I had people from several different countries on my floor and had a lot of great times with the Danes.

The University of Copenhagen has an arrangement with Studieskolen, a school paid for by the public. The housing offer that the University of Copenhagen gave me is in the municipality of Frederiksberg. Frederiksberg does not pay tuition to Studieskolen, so I was informed that I will have to pay 2000kr (about $350) to take a Danish language course during the semester. If I lived in the municipality of Copenhagen however, it would be paid for.

*My dormitory has been excellent. Although I would prefer to be in the city center, Signalhuset is huge and there are over 100 international students. The building is made up four bedroom apartments, which makes the atmosphere very social.*

**STUDENT LIFE**

Copenhagen University is really involved with their students. Although the university is not situated on a campus, as we think of it, all of the programs are very close because they build social events for the students to go to. These social events are usually located somewhere within the campus buildings and usually is once a month on a Friday. Even international students are invited to join.

The international office plans many events in the beginning of the semester for international students to meet each other and get a feel for the city-- take advantage of these. Most are free and well worth your time. The friends you make in the beginning will most likely build close relationships throughout the semester.
One of the most important buildings to know is the Studenterhuset, which is located in the center of the city by the Round Tower. The studenterhuset is a coffee shop turned bar on the weekends and offers discounts with your Copenhagen University ID. Although Danes sometimes go, most of the cafe/bar is full of students from all over the world. A great place to just talk and catch up. Wednesday nights are international nights...a must go. By the end of the semester, I walked in there knowing almost half of the people in there..It became similar to a family gathering. A lot of fun!

Talk with everyone that you can-- the young, the old. Participate in activities that the Danes are involved with. Live the life of an international traveler-- soak it up. Help them with any questions they have. I taught English to an older male when I was there-- it was all a balance act, I learned a lot and they learned from me.

I would suggest trying to hang out with Danes, as well as other international students, as much as possible. You should spread yourself among many friends of all nations so you can broaden your horizons in all angles. Don't limit yourself to a selected crowd.

Danes are generally reserved. You have to make most of the effort in starting a friendship. Don't get discouraged...just be persistent and friendly.

The Danes are warm, inviting, and so very intellectual once you get to know them! Take chances. Visit a Danish family for Easter brunch or just a typical Smorrebrod (open sandwiches) lunch if you get the chance. They are proud of their country and would love to share a little of it with you.

TRANSPORTATION

Start off your stay with a month pass on the trains (I believe they were the equivalent of about 60 dollars/month), but once you are a little familiar with the city-- get a bike!! Experience the streets of Copenhagen the way the Danes do and travel on two wheels. Most of your friends will probably have one too. Students often sell them for cheap. I think I paid about 200 kroner for mine and they are cheap, but allow for easy travel around the city.

Biking is a huge part of life in Denmark. I spent most of my spare time riding around on my bike in Copenhagen and getting lost (don't use a map, it's the only way you learn where you are going)!

Use the cheap train/bus system and go explore Denmark. There is more than just Copenhagen to see.

TRAVEL

TRAVEL, TRAVEL, TRAVEL. Take full advantage of the new friends you meet and the fabulous locations at your fingertips. Europe is SO easy to navigate around and cheap plane and train tickets are everywhere.

When planning your flights to and from Denmark/US-- contact STA travel. They are student friendly and will work with you to find the best flights that meet your needs. I had to change my home bound flight while I was in Denmark and they have an office in the city center and had a fabulous group of friendly workers. Good choice, by far.
Anywhere you can plan for a weekend, go! Experience the world and soak it all up. Who knows when you will get the chance to come back and be as free as you are now.

As Copenhagen is on an island, traveling by plane is generally the best option. There are some decently cheap flights out there if you look around.

Some of these websites may be of use to you: http://www.cimber.com/ -- used to be Sterling, but they must have recently changed companies. They should still offer good deals though. Just search all of the small flight companies. Often, they are cheaper and more time friendly than taking the trains around Europe.

Must see places are a day trip across the sound to Malmo and then take the train to Lund. Great town! Also see the "Louisiana" modern art museum and Zealand on the north coast.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Copenhagen is a very safe city, and I felt very comfortable biking home by myself at any time. That being said, it's always best to use caution.

Copenhagen was very safe! But, keep in mind, you are in a foreign country. Just be smart. Watch your things, but definitely don't be paranoid about getting your things stolen or being jumped. For the most part, Danes are friendly and willing to help you whenever you are lost or need help.

Once you arrive, you will go and register with the city and receive a number comparable to a social security number. After doing this, you will be covered with health insurance while in the city which is very nice-- given their socialist society, they cover you while you're there. One of my friends dropped a glass dish on her foot and ended up having to receive stitches in a local hospital and she walked out of there paying only for her antibiotics--nothing for the visit itself which is very nice when you're in a foreign country. One of the most difficult thing to do is be sick/hurt away from home-- they really seem to accept you as a temporary "citizen" and take care of you.