

Exchange university

Danmarks Tekniske Universitet

Degree programme

Transport and Logistics



Great exchange experience! (despite the pandemic)

Before departure

I applied for exchange studies almost by accident. I attended an exchange workshop to accompany a friend and was drawn in. The application process was made very easy and stress free, adding to why I was interested. I'm originally from Australia, and the opportunity to study and live in Copenhagen was too hard to refuse.

Upon arrival

I arrived a few weeks before courses started. Most orientation events were cancelled (or largely modified) due to Covid-19. I had some friends living in the city already, so didn't interact with the available university orientation.

Financials

I received the Erasmus+ Grant, which was very useful. I found rent to be quite a bit more expensive than in Stockholm. My rent was almost double what I paid in Stockholm through SSSB. I paid 5200 DKK per month for a room in a 4 bedroom apartment near Central Station. From memory, DTU accommodation was roughly 4600 DKK per month, for a room in a 10-person dorm.

In general, Copenhagen is a bit more expensive than Stockholm. However, there are ways to live quite cheap. I used Toogoodtogo quite a lot, which is an app that offers surplus food from restaurants and supermarkets. This app is from Copenhagen and is used by nearly all supermarkets/bakeries/etc. It offers quality food at a really low price. Big recommendation to any prospective exchange student.

Accommodation

I was offered DTU Accommodation, but instead decided to rent a room in an apartment in the city. DTU is about 40 minutes from Copenhagen, and I preferred to get an experience of life in the city. I found the apartment because a friend of mine already lived there and luckily there was a free room at the time I moved.

University and studies

The university campus is quite large, located about 40 minutes from central Copenhagen. Due to Covid-19, classes were largely online throughout the semester. The university still allowed students to study on campus, though lectures were held via Zoom. DTU is structured differently to KTH, in that students generally take 4-5 subjects that last for the entire semester.

Courses

I studied a total of 30 credits over the fall semester. I took the following courses:

42372 Life Cycle Assessment of Products and Systems (10 ECTS credits) – Great course covering all aspects of LCA. The most demanding course I took.

42351 Sustainability in management (5 ECTS credits) – To be honest, this was not the most inspiring course. This course did not require much time through the semester. However, there were some interesting aspects.

42490 Technology, management, organisation and Business models (TEMO) (10 ECTS credits) – Again, not the most inspiring course. This course did not require much time at all.

42879 Decision Support and Strategic Assessment (5 ECTS credits) – Great course covering decision support for transport projects. Very interesting and valuable. Moderate time demand through the semester.

As described, 2 of my courses were valuable and the other 2 were not demanding. However, this meant I had quite some time to explore the city and enjoy other creative projects/socialise with friends.

City and country

Copenhagen is a very liveable city. The summer was particularly great, as restrictions were loosened due to less cases. The city is small enough to be able to cycle most places in less than 20 minutes. The city was still a great place to live, even with the altered conditions due to the pandemic.

Leisure and social activities

Unfortunately, social activities were not encouraged at the university. I did not end up making any connections through university. I did meet other students through groupwork, but this was conducted online which is not very conducive to socialising. I was lucky to have some friends living and working in the city, so my socialising existed outside of university.

Other recommendations and observations

Consider what you want out of the experience. If you want to experience living in Copenhagen, I would really recommend finding a room in the city. Even DTU is only ~40 minutes from the city, it is quite disconnected from Copenhagen. I really enjoyed being able to go most places by bicycle.

However, my experience was different in that most of my studies were conducted online so I only travelled to DTU once a week on average. Public transport is quite expensive, so travelling from the city to DTU every day would add up quite a bit.