

**Exchange university**

Danmarks Tekniske Universitet

Degree programme

Computer Engineering

Exchange Studies at DTU: A Swedish Engineer's Danish Adventure

Before departure

I decided to go for exchange studies, drawn by the chance to learn in a new way. My friends and I chose the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) because it is well-known and practical for us. Getting ready was easy - no new language, no shots, no visa stress. Still, we felt excited. Going from Sweden to Denmark was easy and that made us hopeful for what was coming.

Upon arrival

We reached Copenhagen two weeks before our classes started. The city felt welcoming. We stayed in an Airbnb in the capital. That was our home for a while. We saw the city's nightlife, ate Danish food, and visited the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art. We skipped the official welcome week but ended up going to the gym and beach, enjoying the friendly vibe of the city.

Financials

We didn't have scholarships, only Erasmus funds, and Denmark was more expensive than Sweden. Food and rent, which was 10,000 kr a month, took up a lot of our budget. We learned to save money by cooking, shopping at cheaper stores, and staying home to study instead of traveling too much.

Accommodation

Finding a place for the four of us was hard, but DTU helped us get student apartments in Ballerup. It was an hour from the Lyngby campus where the lectures were held, but we had what we needed, nature was close, and a peaceful lake made up for being far from the city center and university.

University and studies

At DTU in Lyngby, the course selection was extensive, which was both impressive and challenging. We were enrolled in six courses simultaneously, a step up from our usual course load at KTH, and certainly demanding. To manage our time better, we attended lectures online, avoiding the commute and thus saving time. Unlike at KTH, we had the opportunity to take master-level classes, as these specialized subjects were not offered at the bachelor level back home. The medium of instruction for our courses was in English. Our weekends weren't entirely consumed by studies; however, some of them were dedicated to catching up on coursework and preparing for the upcoming week.

Courses

The courses at DTU were challenging but rewarding. Cyber Defence and Machine Learning stretched our understanding and skills, making the hard work worthwhile. The courses content were about as hard as at KTH but the open text book exams were more forgiving which eased the pressure a bit, allowing us to immerse ourselves in learning rather than just chasing grades.

The courses in Operating Systems and Embedded Systems were particularly impactful, combining deep expertise with a practical approach. The Statistics course, with its hands-on R programming, taught us valuable data analysis skills that we found both challenging and beneficial. These courses, with their blend of theory and application, were the highlights of our academic experience at DTU.

City and country

Denmark's cultural landscape was strikingly similar to Sweden's, which made the transition smooth. The Danes' relaxed nature and friendliness mirrored the Swedish demeanor I was familiar with, fostering an immediate sense of belonging. Adapting to local customs and lifestyle was effortless; there were no moments of culture shock to speak of. I found comfort in the shared Nordic values and social norms, which allowed me to quickly feel at home.

Leisure and social activities

Our free time at DTU was often spent at the university's gyms in Ballerup and Lyngby. The facilities were well-equipped and offered a decent variety of equipment, which was a plus given the modest fee. Hitting the gym provided a necessary break from the books, a chance to clear our heads. It was also a spot where we ran into other students outside of the academic

setting, offering some resemblance of a social scene during a demanding schedule.

Sustainability

Travel by train between Sweden and Denmark was economical and generally ran on schedule, making the cross-border commute less of a hassle. DTU's ethos on sustainability isn't just talk; their course offerings and institutional values reflect a strong commitment to renewable energy. It's a theme that's hard to miss when you're picking classes or attending their events. This focus is one of DTU's draws, pulling in students from various countries who are keen on shaping a greener future. It's practical, aligns with the global push towards sustainability, and frankly, it's a smart niche for a university to carve out in today's climate-conscious landscape.

Other recommendations and observations

If you're heading to Denmark as an exchange student, take the time to dive into the cultural scene. The Louisiana Museum is worth a visit for its art and stunning seaside views. Copenhagen's shopping scene is diverse – from high-end boutiques to quirky local shops, there's a bit of everything. Christiania is an experience unto itself – a different beat from the rest of the city and a glimpse into an alternative community lifestyle.