



Exchange university

DTU

Degree programme

TIDAB Computer engineering

## A Semester of Exploration and Growth: Exchange Studies in Copenhagen

### Before departure

I decided to embark on an exchange semester in Copenhagen to experience life outside my hometown, Stockholm. The academic reputation of the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) and my admiration for Copenhagen as a city influenced my decision. The smooth transition to a Nordic country alleviated many pre-departure concerns, such as language courses and vaccinations, making the move relatively straightforward.

### Upon arrival

Arriving on August 25th, I anticipated a week of settling in before the start of classes. However, an introduction week coincided with my arrival, which I couldn't attend due to not yet being in my designated dormitory. The swift commencement of classes took me by surprise, and soon enough, I found myself fully immersed in my studies.

### Financials

Financially, I received support from CSN and the Erasmus scholarship, which was crucial given the higher cost of living in Copenhagen compared to Stockholm. The exchange rate between the Swedish Krona and Danish Krone posed a challenge, making budgeting essential. To save money, I opted for cooking at home, as dining out proved prohibitively expensive.

### Accommodation

Our accommodation in Copenhagen turned out to be a mixed blessing. Despite its distance from the main campus, it offered a sense of community and a chance to interact with students from diverse disciplines. The modern facilities and a spacious communal kitchen not only provided a comfortable living environment but also became a hub for collaborative studying. Our accommodation was a microcosm of

the university's diversity, fostering friendships beyond the boundaries of our respective courses.

### **University and studies**

DTU's emphasis on a polytechnical education exposed me to a broad spectrum of disciplines. The collaborative atmosphere and diverse student body contributed to a rich learning environment. The intensified schedule of multiple courses simultaneously challenged me to refine my time management skills. The absence of continuous assessment meant a rigorous exam period at the semester's close, underscoring the need for consistent engagement throughout the term.

Moreover, the availability of teaching assistants and post-lecture exercises significantly enhanced the learning experience. Engaging in these practical applications of theoretical knowledge not only reinforced concepts but also provided a real-world perspective on the subjects.

### **Courses**

With four mandatory courses and two elective ones, I chose Programming in C++ and Introduction to Machine Learning based on my interests. Each course included both projects and written exams, providing a well-rounded learning experience that applied theoretical knowledge to practical scenarios.

### **City and country**

My time in Copenhagen was marked by an affinity for the city and a mild cultural shock due to its striking resemblance to Swedish culture. The ease of communication, friendliness of the people, and the overall welcoming atmosphere made me feel at home..

### **Leisure and social activities**

In the rare moments of respite from academic commitments, I found solace in the vibrant social life Copenhagen had to offer. Exploring the city's cultural treasures with my study group not only strengthened our academic bonds but also enriched our overall experience. The city's diverse cultural events and festivals, coupled with its numerous parks and historical sites, made every exploration a captivating adventure.

## **Sustainability**

While public transportation was my preferred mode of commuting, it came with its quirks. The ease with which one could forget to check in or out led to occasional fines, making the system less than perfect. However, these minor inconveniences were a small price to pay for aligning with Copenhagen's commendable commitment to sustainability. The city's overall eco-friendly ethos, from bike-friendly streets to efforts in waste reduction, provided a valuable lesson in incorporating sustainable practices into everyday life.

## **Other recommendations and observations**

To enhance your experience in Copenhagen, especially during the fall semester, I highly recommend immersing yourself in the city's enchanting Christmas markets and light shows. These festive events not only capture the spirit of the season but also offer a unique glimpse into Danish holiday traditions. Additionally, consider joining local clubs or student unions to forge connections beyond the academic realm. These associations can provide a deeper understanding of Danish culture and foster lasting friendships.