

Study Abroad Experience Report

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Degree Programme: MSc International Management

Host Institution: Aarhus University

When did you go on your exchange?

MSc International Management Semester 2

Please sum up your overall experience in a couple of sentences:

Really beneficial!

I went to Aarhus University in Denmark and was part of the Business School (BSS). The university is spread out across a large area and has different schools like: Medicine, Computer Science, Communications and the Business School.

The modules that I took were:

- Human resource management
- Marketing Communication
- Innovation Challenge
- Organizing Multinational Organizations

Some of the modules that I took did have a slight overlap in terms of content to what I learnt in the first semester of Msc International Management however, the teaching was extremely different. Some of the classes that I had varied in the way that they were taught. For example, Human Resource Management was an extremely large class and the teaching was based on interactive lectures. Organizing Multinational Organizations comprised of a range of case studies to exemplify the theories we were learning in class. In comparison, Innovation Challenge was a much smaller class and required a lot more of a 'hands-on' approach. Overall, the teaching quality in BSS is extremely good however, I would like to say that the major difference between Loughborough and BSS is that there is a much larger emphasis on reading. This is not something that is recommended or considered extra reading, it is considered a requirement for every class and it crucial to your success.

In addition, there are strong differences between the style of assessment.

At BSS, they have a mixture of take home exams, 4-hour written exams and oral examinations (not as easy as you think). Although different, it was refreshing to experience something different as compared to the standard two-hour exam or an essay that you are used to Loughborough. That being said, it should be taken with strong consideration as you do not have time to adjust to the differences in assessment. Additionally, the grading system is also very different. In Denmark, the grading system is not based on a percentage system like at Loughborough and often the difference in a grading scale can be based on the individual who is grading your assessment also, the difference between one grade and another is large.

The accommodation that was given to me was offered was perfect! It was less than a 5minute walk to BSS campus, it had two small supermarkets and a large shopping mall within walking distance as well as a large amount of bus stops to take you to anywhere in the city. The International Center for Aarhus University, was really helpful in sorting out the accommodation. You have to fill out a form with preferences and they get back to you within a couple of weeks with an offer. I opted for a shared dorm and was living with a mixture of other international students as well as Danish students. You don't have to bring any cutlery or anything like that as it was all provided and shared.

Practical advice – based on your experience, what advice would you give to others preparing to study at this destination? This could include travel tips; advice on cost of living; any dos or don'ts; and anything else you wish you'd known before you went!

Living in Aarhus was amazing and I found that there was always something going on every day of the week. Denmark is an expensive country, so you must be prepared to save beforehand or be cautious of how and what you spend on when you're out there. For

example, I remember having to pay £4 for a toothbrush. I would highly recommend a semester abroad to anyone who is considering it however, it is important to note that it is different from taking a year abroad during your undergrad. The biggest thing I noticed whilst in Aarhus was that majority of the other exchange students were undergraduates and none of their grades for their time at BS counted at all – they just needed to pass. This was at times difficult to keep up with, as you are torn between wanting to experience everything and ensuring that you've done all the reading for the next class. It's all about balance and time management.