

# Navigating Copenhagen (on a Bike)

By EC

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Science › Biological Sciences

Co-operative Education › Local Co-op, Study Abroad › Exchange

Program: Study Abroad › Exchange

University: University of Copenhagen

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark, Europe

Experience Faculty: Science › Biological Sciences

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A positive aspect to being in Denmark when it comes to finances, is how cheap the phone plans

## Accommodation and Living

Similar to Vancouver, Copenhagen has high rent prices and the housing options aren't that great. For the University of Copenhagen, they don't do direct on-campus housing, but there is a system called the "Housing Foundation" that exchange students are automatically signed up for. Personally, I had a rough experience with them. Their webpage didn't work on the day they said the accommodations would be released and I had to stay up a second night in order to browse through the options. There were so many people applying for these dorms, that the only options I had left when I gained access to the portal was the furthest and most expensive one.

It is more difficult to find third party housing as most places have a long waiting list or their websites were in Danish and were hard to navigate. I would say the living situation is based on luck and make sure to keep your expectations low.

## Learning and Adaptation

I took courses strictly in the Faculty of Humanities and the class sizes varied. One was a larger, lecture hall course while the other one was a smaller, classroom-sized course. Both of the lectures were taught on campus and happened once a week. There were field trips throughout the semester that sometimes took us outside of Copenhagen. Most notably, we got to go to Sweden on a bus! In terms of grading for these courses, they solely came from final papers.

## Accomplishments and Challenges

I was extremely overwhelmed when I first arrived in Denmark. I had to run all over Copenhagen trying to get everything sorted out. I didn't have enough cash and I was hesitant in using

everyone in the group is open to conversation and boardgames that the club-runners provide. There is quite a diverse group of individuals meeting up each week.

## Reflection & Tips

### Reflection

I thoroughly enjoyed my study abroad experience. I have grown immensely over the past couple of months and I wouldn't trade this adventure for anything in this world. In the beginning, I held a lot of regret. I had decided on Denmark over Japan for my study abroad destination as a means to leave my comfort zone. The reason of my regret was how hard it was to be in this foreign country without any help. For Japan, I had visited previously, and my parents had lived in Japan before and they spoke Japanese. So, I was extremely stressed when I first arrived in Denmark and regretted choosing a country so vastly different than what I was used to. However, I truly love it here now and I would love to live here in the future.

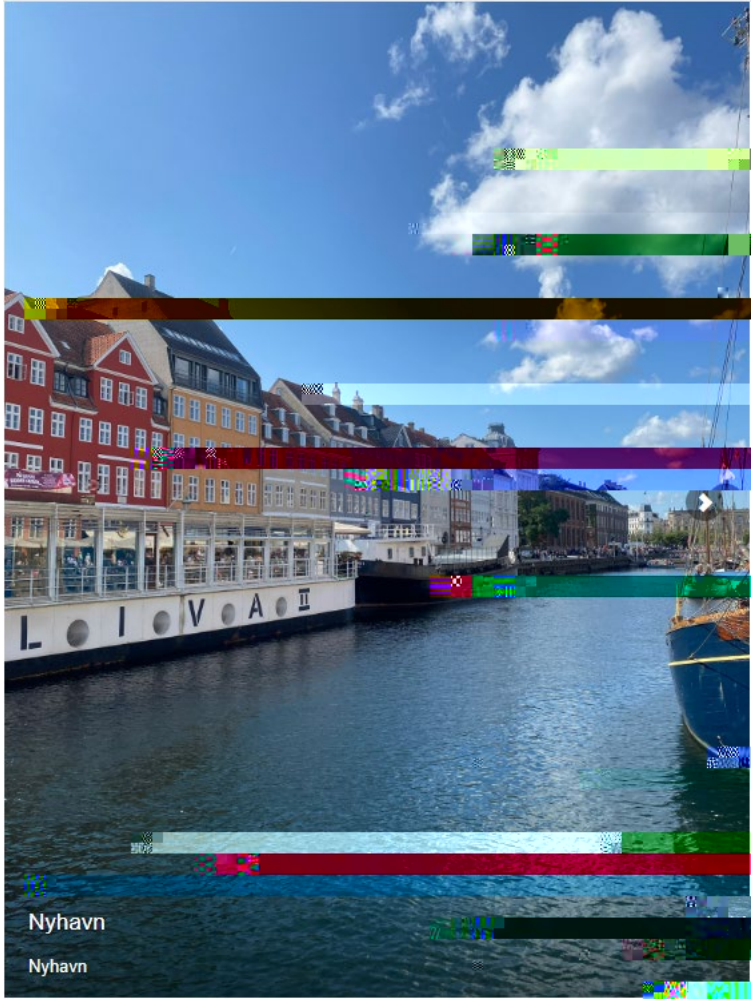
After I got settled in, I felt so safe and happy in Copenhagen. It truly became my home and I know I will think about this experience for the rest of my life.

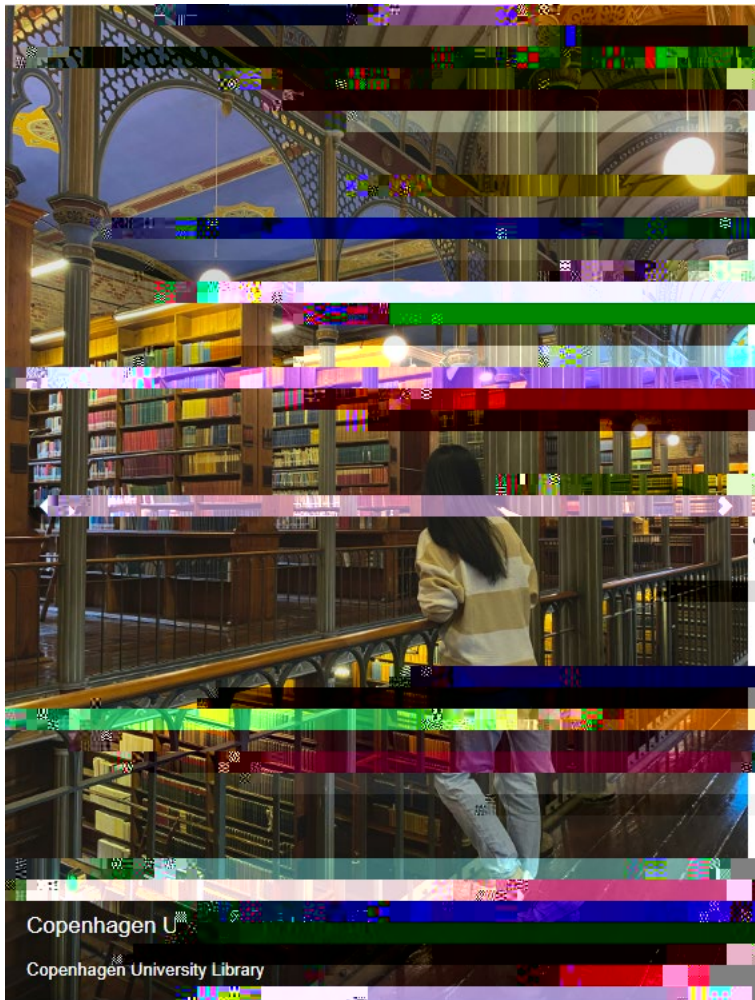
### Most Valuable Aspects of This Experience

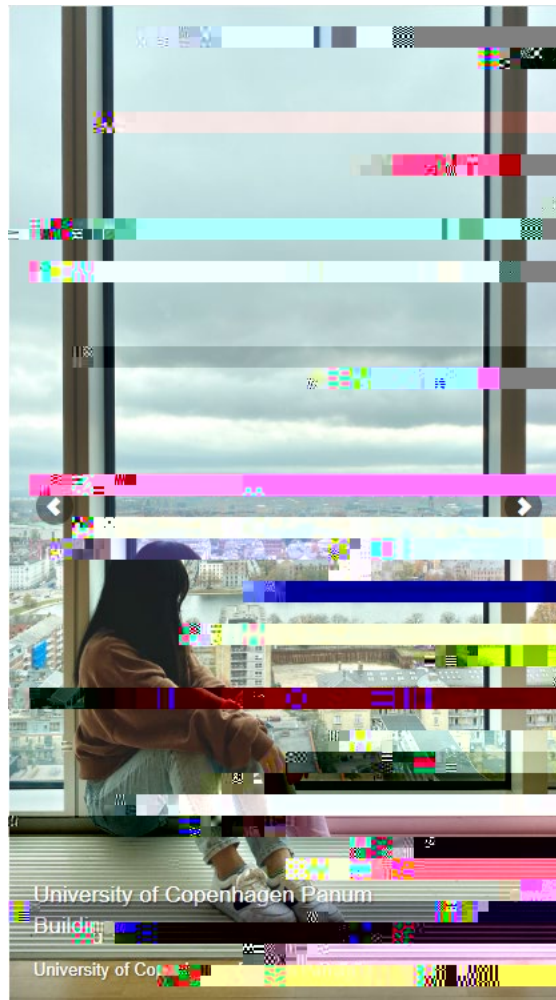
From the calmness of Copenhagen, to the ease of travelling around Europe, it's not hard to see why the quality of life here is so high. I came here knowing nothing and was so scared/stressed. But over the past couple of months, I have learned essential life skills, and most importantly, I learned that I am strong enough to make a home for myself even if I was plopped on the other side of the world.

Furthermore, I gained a new outlook and appreciation of life. The moment hit me when I saw the Northern Lights in Norway; I couldn't believe what I was seeing and how lucky I was to be alive and here.

### Advice for Future Students







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Building

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