City/Town

1) How big was the city or town?
   The city of Copenhagen has a population of about 1.5 million people. The city is fairly large but very manageable. You can use the public transportation or walk to wherever you need to go.

2) Were there different things to do?
   There is a variety of things to do in Copenhagen; you can be as active or relaxed as you want. There are great history, science, and art museums that are affordable and accessible. The nightlife is hip, trendy, and very active. There are cozy cafes, restaurants, and bars all over Copenhagen that offer a great place to relax and visit with friends. There was never a lack of things to do in Copenhagen.

3) Was it easy to get around?
   One of the major strengths of Copenhagen as a city is its public transportation system. The public trains, buses, and metro system can all be used with the same pass. You can even take a water bus with the same pass. The water bus is a little ferry boat that takes you to the Opera House, Royal Library, past the Royal residence of the Queen, and to the popular street, Nyhavn, via the harbor.

   The trains stop at around 1 am, but the metro runs 24 hours a day and there is a night bus that will take you as far as 45 mins outside the city. Taxis are available but can be pretty pricey, not a bad option during an emergency or if you are traveling with a group.

   The city of Copenhagen is really special. During my semester with DIS I traveled to about ten different countries and multiple European cities. Copenhagen is at the top of my list. It is large enough to have a cosmopolitan atmosphere with cultural and social activities all the time, but small enough to have a unique soul. The people are approachable and friendly.

   During the winter months, the climate can be a little harsh, but because the city has so much to offer and because I was busy learning and having fun, I did not even notice the cold and snow. Don’t let weather be a factor to deter you from experiencing this great city.

Classes

1) How often were the classes?
   I had two classes every week day except Wednesday. The schedule was very much like the schedule at Elon.
2) Were the classes with America, International or Native students?
I had classes mostly with other American students, but in a few of my classes I had students from Canada, China, and Russia. I know of other students in other programs at DIS who took business or literature classes with native Danish students.

3) What kinds of projects or exams did you have in your classes?
Much like a semester at Elon, I had a few papers to write, a midterm exam, and a final exam for each class. Unlike Elon, there was little daily homework, just reading assignments you were responsible to keep up with.

4) Did you have any field trips?
DIS gives you Wednesday off in order to schedule a few field studies for each class. Field studies may take you to museums, Danish organization or cooperation head quarters, or to different environmental sites for research depending on the nature of the course. Students in the medical program have the opportunity to go regularly to the hospital and perform some medical procedures.

5) Were classes taught in English or Native Language?
All my classes were taught in English by Danish professors.

6) How much out of class work did you have?
My work load was similar to the average work load at Elon. It seems like a lot for a study abroad situation, but at the same time the work was interesting and much more practical than some classes I’ve taken in the past.

As far as academics go with DIS there is a lot expected of you. This will not be a semester vacation; but that being said, the work is practical, interesting, and rewarding. After studying ballet for a semester with DIS, I was able to go with DIS to Russia and see a Russian ballet performed. Plus, with DIS you are able to take real courses that fulfill credits here at Elon, so when you come back (with planning) you can still graduate on time.

I still had plenty of fun while I was studying there, maybe even a little too much fun at times. I did not stay in doing work every night, nor did I have to wall myself up in a library. I was able to balance work and a very active social life while I was there still managing to keep up my GPA.

Travel
1) Did you travel with your program?
One major highlight and the reason for me choosing DIS for my semester abroad are their study tours. There are two mandatory study tours DIS will take its students on as part of the program included in the tuition. The first study tour takes the students to interesting historical and cultural sites around Denmark. The second study tour takes the students too a different location in Europe. The study tours are academic in theory, but are extremely
fun and worthwhile. My second study tour was to Vienna, Austria and Budapest, Hungary! Not bad for a “mandatory” field trip.

DIS also offers other optional academic and non-academic Study Tours and Adventure Trips. These tours are to places like, Les Deux Alpes in France for a week long ski trip, Russia, Italy, China, Sweden, the Czech Republic etc. DIS is continuously expending their list of offered trips.

2) Did you travel with other students?
Because Copenhagen is in a good central location I was able to do a lot of travel during my semester. First, I was able to make a few trips to other countries with other DIS students; one weekend trip to Dublin, Ireland, and one weekend trip to Prague, Czech Republic. Then, I took a two week long trip in the summer to England to visit a friend who was studying there. Lastly, because I lived in international housing, one of my block mates from Greece, invited me to take a two week long trip back home with her during the summer. If you save up your money and manage your time you can pack a lot of travel in.

3) Where did you travel/how long?
Northern Denmark- long weekend
Dublin, Ireland- long weekend
Vienna/Budapest – week
Les Deux Alpes France – week
Russia (Moscow/St. Petersberg) – week
Prague- long weekend
England – two weeks (summer)
Greece –two weeks (summer)
Spain – two months (API summer semester program)

Food
1) What was the food like?
The food was good. Copenhagen is not a city known for its culinary excellences, so it was good but don’t travel to Copenhagen just for the food. In Copenhagen, there was a lot of Mediterranean and middle eastern influenced food as well as Danish traditional food. Because I lived in a kollegium, I cooked for myself and did not go out to eat very often.

2) Was the food similar to American food?
Some of the food available in the city is like American food. You can get pretty much all the same things there as you can in America. There is even an American store, where you can by some of your favorite American snacks and staple products.
3) What is a traditional meal like?
A traditional Danish meal is warm meat and potato type cuisine. Open faced sandwiches on rye bread are popular and fresh bakery breads and pastries are everywhere. I did not live with a host family, so I don’t know too much about traditional meals.

4) What food do you miss most from your study abroad experience?
I miss all the different Danish sweets. They know their sweets and make them well. Their candy is good, their ice cream is delicious, and their pastries are like a little bit of heaven! I miss Sawarma, which is a pita bread sandwich with a chicken or lamb meat inside. And I miss fresh baked goods from the Danish 7-11 stores!

Accommodations
1) What type of housing did you stay in (host family/dorms/apartments)?
I stayed in an international kollegium, which is the Danish version of dorms. I had my own room and bathroom, but I shared a kitchen and living room with my block mates.

2) If you stayed in dorms/apartments, did you live with Americans, Internationals or Natives?
I lived with two other Americans, and the rest of the block mates were from either Denmark or other various European, middle eastern, African, or Asian countries.

3) Was the housing located near the University?
My kollegium was located a little outside of Copenhagen and away from the University.

4) How long was your commute to class?
The commute to class was a total of 45 minutes; 25 minute train ride and about 20 minutes divided between wait time and walking time, altogether NOT BAD at all. I stress this because the commute is probably viewed as a negative aspect of living in a Kollegium, but it wasn’t bad at all. The train ride was nice, I got to talk to people, sleep, or read.

Living in the kollegium was one of my favorite things about my semester. My block mates became my family, and the block became my home. I miss that about Denmark probably the most. I had my own space for when I was busy or just wanted to escape for a little, but I had tons of roommates (about 20) to hang out with in the living room and kitchen. It wasn’t crowded and I never felt lonely or overwhelmed. I would suggest the kollegium because you get to see what it is like to live like other young Danish or international university students. My room was gorgeous too; big window, hardwood floors, extra space. I loved it!!
**Recommendations**

1) Is there anything that you wish you knew before you went?
   Financially, I wish I knew how much it would cost to ship things home and pay for overweight baggage! This would have saved me from over packing and prevented me from wasting hundreds of dollars on useless things.

   Also, on a personally level, I wish I knew how much I was going to miss it before I even got there, that way I wouldn’t have taken one minute for granted. Denmark is a place that grows on you. I didn’t realize how much I loved it till March when I went away for the weekend and missed my Danish friends, my kollegium, and Copenhagen.

2) Do you have any packing tips?
   When people tell you to pack as light as you can, they are not kidding. Pack as light as possible. You WILL accumulate a lot of clothes and other things. Paying for overweight baggage or to ship things home is NOT worth it and expensive.

   You can buy everything (even some of the same brands) over there. Their drug stores are far better than ours and you will probably fall in love with their clothes after living there for a while. Also, don’t pack a lot of sloppy sweatshirts and sweatpants. It’s not Elon, Danish students actually dress nice for class. You don’t want to waste the space or embarrass yourself.

3) Any travel recommendations for students who have not traveled before?
   If you are spending the money to study abroad, my strongest recommendation is to seek friends with the Danes and other International students. You can hang out with Americans and other Elon students right here in North Carolina. Don’t waste your time at the American bars, restaurants, or stores- that’s not what you signed up for when you chose to study abroad. Find where the locals go and go there.

   Also, really try to save up as much money as possible before you go. Opportunities, especially travel opportunities, come up all the time, try to have all the options available to you. You want to have the option to decline because of other plans, not because of lack of resources.