

1. Where are you studying in Denmark?

I am studying at Aalborg University in Aalborg, Denmark

2. How did you get set up with your particular site? What steps did you have to take to apply?

I was connected with this program through ISEP (International Student Exchange Program). When looking at the brochure from the International Office, I narrowed down locations, first by Europe, then countries with courses taught in English, and last the countries I hadn't been to. From there it was basically a short list between Denmark and the Czech Republic. I chose Denmark because of its reputation for being one of the happiest and safest places in the world.

Applying is quite simple actually. You fill out an ISEP Application, speak with your advisor, look over classes that could potentially earn you credit back at Roanoke, all about year before you are anticipating going. From there, there isn't too much that needs to be done, but if you are trying to study in a country where the classes aren't taught in English, then you need to pass a language proficiency part of the application as well.

(if you want anymore info on the application or why Denmark, let me know.... I could go on for a while)

3. What courses did you take while you were in Denmark?

Fall 2013:

- United States and Global Politics
- Policies of Integration and Diversity
- International Relations Theories and Methods
- History of International Relations 20th and 21st Century
- International Relations Project

Spring 2014:

- Global Politics and Human Rights
- Business and Market
- Media Consumption, Cultural Globalization, and Ethnic Relations
- Cultural Analysis
- Nations and National Identities in an Age of Globalization

4. How is Denmark different from a semester at Roanoke?

Classes here in Aalborg are DEFINITELY different than what I would typically take for a semester at Roanoke. While the course content is very similar, the way they are taught is what changes. Classes are much bigger so more lecture styled, especially last semester. Luckily, this semester I have a few <15 person classes so the topics are more discussion based, like at RC. But everything here is based on ECTS. Which I suppose is their credit system. But there isn't a GPA like there is in the US, which makes course sign ups a bit more confusing. The biggest difference between Aalborg and Roanoke is the PBL system (Problem Based Learning). From this students are put into groups and decide on a specific

problem that they would like to research. They work on this project for about two months and submit it. They then have to attend an oral defense and are graded accordingly. This has been a completely different style of learning, though I still prefer the smaller class sizes and more frequent exams, I do feel as though I am prepared for senior seminar!

5. Could you relate any material that you learned in your public affairs major to your coursework in Denmark?

Definitely! I get so excited when the professor starts talking about a subject in class that I have already been exposed to at RC. It really is an enlightening moment. But also, for the Sociology and Anthropology courses I am taking here for my minor and concentration at RC, the classes seem to be just a bit behind. Our first day of cultural analysis, the professor began discussing the basis of the course and how we would be taught. All of the concepts he was reviewing I had learned about in Chad Morris' Cultural Anthropology 101 class, while the rest of my class remained deer in headlights. It's nice to know that what you're learning at Roanoke can be used in other parts of the world, even in different languages.

6. Would you recommend studying abroad to other students, if so why?

Absolutely. While I was home over Christmas break, I did a presentation for the Youth Goodwill Ambassador Corps of Denmark (a program I am a part of here in DK) about reasons to live, study, and work in Denmark. Even if a student isn't interested in studying in Denmark, there is somewhere in the world that might create a spark. Studying abroad is such an amazing experience that I think that everyone should enjoy. Especially through the direct exchange program, it becomes much more affordable than trying to travel the world on your own.

7. Do you see yourself returning to Denmark after Roanoke, if so why?

I have actually been thinking about this question a lot recently. The courses I have been taking here are all through the masters program, so it could be a possibility to come back over here for graduate school. I definitely love the town and the people, so I would come back in some capacity regardless.

8. What makes Denmark so different from the U.S.?

This is a tough one. There are quite a few things that makes Denmark distinctly different from the US. First, everything is much safer here, everywhere you go. While Salem is a fairly safe town, the entire United States cannot say the same. Universal healthcare is nice, but because it works very well here. The language barrier has been somewhat of an issue, but I have been taking Danish lessons, so tensions in the grocery store have eased up. Most importantly*, everyone here is attractive. Although, this could just be my bias coming from America... all the other Europeans here are just "eh... they're ok" towards the Danes... I suppose it's all perspective.