

Name of the University: Copenhagen University
Names of the students: Jóhannes Stefánsson
Exchange semester: Fall 2013
Faculty: Faculty of Law

I GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

1. Describe the school and its surroundings – very short
 1. The school is situated in the heart of Copenhagen. Most of the buildings are very old with a lot of stairs. Everything is close by, be it the shopping streets, restaurants or bars.
2. Current faculty divisions and special areas.
 1. The school offers a very wide range of studies, too broad to outline here.
3. Number of students - graduate and undergraduate – number of exchange students
 1. According to the school's webpage, just under 40.000 students study at the school. More than 22.000 are undergraduates and 16.000 are postgraduates.
4. Study structure
 1. The study structure is similar to the Icelandic schools. First, there is a 3 year bachelor's degree and then a 2 year master's degree.

II PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Information before you left

- When did you receive the information package from the University?
 - In time. I recommend reading it very thoroughly. The information is very practical. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO FIND HOUSING EARLY. IN MY VIEW, THIS SHOULD BE YOUR TOP PRIORITY.
- Any difficulties?
 - I underestimated the lack of housing

Visa Procedure and travel experiences

- What problems, if any did you encounter?
 - None at all. You can even travel with your driver's license.
- Does the visa cost anything?
 - N/A
- How did you order your ticket – any problems?
 - Regular online booking with no problems. Stay on the alert for special offers, where you can get tickets in advance for very cheap.

Academic Calendar

- Arrival date – introductory week
- First day of the semester?
- Last day of classes?
- Examination period?
- Any special events?

Reception

- How was the reception at the school?
 - It laid out all the basics necessary. Some student bodies introduced themselves and offered their services.
- Was the administration and faculty well prepared for your arrival?
 - Yes
- Did the school's students participate in the reception of the exchange students?
 - Some did. Mostly those who were heads of ERASMUS or other student bodies dealing with exchange students.

Housing

- Did you have housing at your disposal or did you have to find your own housing?

- Scandinavian students are not offered any housing via the school. I had to find my own housing which proved to be extremely difficult. Some have had luck or have relatives, which can aid in this process. Be early.
- What support did you receive from the school in locating housing?
 - None at all.
- Any special issues or good ideas for prospective students?
 - Check with the KKIK website very early and log in, even if you are not sure if you will apply for the exchange.

Costs

- Describe the most important expenses such as rent, books, food, etc.
 - Rent is generally quite high. The cost of living in Denmark is high compared to Iceland. Many students manage on a very tight budget by being selective about what their money is spent on.

The International Office

- Is there an international office?
 - Yes, in the main building
- Who is responsible for incoming exchange students?
 - The head of the international office.
- How does the international office function?
 - It operates a phone and e-mail service, as well as receiving students in the main building.
- Do you receive all relevant information?
 - I recommend showing up in person. They seem to get a lot of e-mail requests which can take a long time to be answered.

Exchange promotion

- What kind of activity did you take part in to promote exchange to Iceland at your exchange university?
 - None. I was not encouraged to do so.

Social Activities

- How is your relationship with other students?
 - There are a lot of Icelandic people in Copenhagen. Some of them were my friends prior to me going on the exchange. I would say that is both a good and a bad thing, since it did not encourage me to meet the other students as much. On the other hand, I was never alone and could always find someone to meet. Nevertheless I got along very well with some of the other students.
 - One thing to keep in mind is that the exchange students are around 3-4 years younger than the Icelandic exchange students going on a 2nd year masters semester. Most of these students like drinking a lot and partying.
- How is the relationship among the exchange students?
 - Generally very positive. Everyone is there with an open mind which makes for great opportunities to make relationships and get to know a lot of people.
- Is there a student organization, and if so, are the exchange students part of it?
 - Yes, there are a few. Exchange students are encouraged to be a part of it.
- Are there any special activities and gatherings for exchange students?
 - Yes, there are a lot of events, especially in the early part of the semester.
- How do you like it at the school?
 - I liked it very well. The quality of the education is better than what I have come to expect.

Culture and Language

- Do you have any language problems with the faculty or other students?
 - No. My Danish is somewhat good and when I couldn't use it, everyone speaks English.
- How are the possibilities to experience the country and the culture?
 - They are very good. I was lucky enough to have access to a car so I could use some of my free time to go around the country. There are endless events and

things happening in Copenhagen. Keep in mind that Denmark is close to the rest of Europe and flight tickets are relatively cheap.

Cultural and Social Effects from the Exchange Experience

- How do you think the exchange experience will affect you from a cultural and social point of view?
 - It was a very rewarding experience. It gave me insight into cultural and social differences which will help me in becoming a better person and a better employee. What I was most surprised at was how similar people really are from all around the world, when everything is said and done.
- How do you think the exchange experience influences your future career possibilities?
 - It is too soon to tell. I would like to think it will give me an edge.

III ACADEMIC INFORMATION

The Teaching situation

- In which language are the courses taught? Any problems?
 - English. None at all.
- How would you evaluate the level of study in relationship to the level at RU?
 - I would say that the level of study is generally better in KU than at RU.
- Is the teaching primarily practical or theoretical?
 - It depends largely on which courses you select. I would however say that even the theoretical courses have a practical approach.
- Are the professors using cases, group work or lectures (or a mix)?
 - It's different between professors. Overall it is mixed.
- How is the workload compared to that at RU?
 - They have very few assignments and very large final exams. This is good if you are organized but can be bad if you are not.
- How is the relationship between faculty and students?
 - The teachers are very friendly and accessible. Everyone wants you to do well.
- What is the relationship between the students in the classroom?
 - Unfortunately I would say that many of the students are quite tense in the classroom. I think this has to do with cultural differences, but I cannot be sure. Most of the students are relaxed outside of the classroom, so there is some contrast here.

Required Literature

- Is the literature in English?
 - Yes
- How do you estimate the level of the literature?
 - It is well made and professional literature
- Is the literature used for detailed knowledge or a broad overview?
 - This is highly dependent on the course material
- Is exam based on the literature or on the lectures?
 - On both

Exams

- What types of exams were you given?
 - Both oral and written exams
- What knowledge level was required to pass the exams?
 - An "adequate" level is required. Generally, not many people fail. If you have some control over the course material you will most likely pass.

Other

- Do students have easy access to the library and it's resources?
 - Yes. The library is accessible even though it is not open 24/7.
- How is the access to the computers?
 - Most people have laptops, so it is easy to use the computers at the library.
- How is IT used in the teaching or as a distributor of information?

- The school uses an intranet and an e-mail system.

Description of Courses

Please list all the courses you are taking in the form below:

- Name and code of the course
- Prerequisites, if any
- Exam form
- Comments: Relevance, Difficult/easy, Practical/theoretical, Enrolment problems

Example:

*Course name: _____ Prereq. _____ Exam _____ Major at RU _____ Approved as
(Common/elective/extra)*

JJUA14230E European and International Data Protection and Privacy Law
No prereq. Written Exam. Law.

JJUA55037E The Law of Private Equity. No prereq. Oral Exam. Law

JJUA54048E Comparative law and legal traditions. No prereq. Written Exam. Law.

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Please fill in all the courses you have taken

Any other experiences:

Overall the experience was really nice. It showed me how easy it is to move to a foreign country (especially the Nordic ones). It was very rewarding and even if it was hard to be away from friends and family for some time I would do it again in a heartbeat.

Names and e-mails:

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