



WUR Goes Abroad

1. Student information

Study programme WU	Molecular Life Sciences
Exchange semester (dd/mm/yyyy)	22/01/24 until 26/06/24
Exchange destination: University	Denmarks Technical University (DTU)
Faculty	Chemistry, Biotechnology and Chemical Engineering
Country	Denmark
City	Lyngby

2. Motivation for exchange

a. Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to make meet people and make friends from all over the world and wanted to explore a new country (I had never been to Denmark before). Apart from that, I wanted to experience what it was like to study at another university in an international atmosphere.

b. What is the reason you chose for this country?

I had never been to Denmark before, but heard great things about the country and Copenhagen in particular, so that's why I decided to go there.

c. What is the reason you chose for this university?

Actually, I was admitted to the University of Aarhus, but they were very strict in to courses I could follow. That's why I switched to DTU. The university is flexible and student-friendly (you can follow all the courses you want as long as you have the right pre-knowledge) and it is close to Copenhagen (35 minutes by public transport) which is super nice as the city is full of stuff to do.

3. Accessibility to reach destination

a. Do you have any advice about reaching your exchange destination?

I went by plane, but taking the flibus or going by train is both very doable as well!

4. University and studying

a. Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?

	Course	ECTS	Short description of the contents	Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)	Remarks
1	Advanced protein structure engineering and analysis	5	Learning about protein x-ray crystallography and refining a pdb structure by using that data.	4	The theory was quite difficult, but also very interesting and the teacher is helpful.
2	Polymer Chemistry	5	Different methods for polymerization and calculating its kinetics.	3	The course was quite intense and not very well-structured, but you do learn a lot.
3	Fermentation Technology	5	The different ways and kinetics for fermentation.	4	The course very doable and the exam very straight-forward.
4	Introduction to Medicinal Chemistry	5	The course focussed on drug design, pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics, QSAR.	5	The course was intense, but we learned a lot and it was very satisfactory.
5	Biosynthesis of Natural Products	5	This course focussed on structure elucidation of secondary metabolites and related them to specific biosynthetic gene clusters	5	The teachers were super nice and helpful and the course itself was very interesting!
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b. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses that were taught in English (Yes, No - Explain): Yes. All master courses and some bachelor courses are taught in English and you are free to choose any of them.

c. I had sufficient possibilities to select suitable courses in my field of interest (Yes, No - Explain): Yes.

d. I am satisfied with the level of the courses that I followed (Yes, No - Explain): Yes.

e. I am satisfied, in the end, with the selection of courses I followed (Yes, No - Explain): Yes.

f. What is it like to study there?

I would say the academic level comparable to the WUR. Each course is given once a week (for example Monday afternoon or Tuesday morning) for 13 weeks straight, and after that there is an exam month. Oral exams are very common (2/5 of my exams where oral) and while that sounds scary, it's actually nice because the teachers really guide you through the exam. The grading scale is a bit unusual (-3 to 12) but you get used to it.

g. What is the culture of the university?

The student life at the university is great! It is more integrated on campus, for example, there is a sort of big living room/cafe with football tables, pooling tables and games that's opened every day and is a great place to hang out with friends. Furthermore, there are 5 bars on campus that are opened on Fridays and where a lot of Danes go partying (I would definitely recommend going there).

h. What does the university offer students additionally?

There are several canteens and foodtrucks for lunch. Also, there is a great trust in students, this results in the fact that everybody has 24/7 access to all campus buildings with their card and that you can borrow a lot of stuff at the library (for example projectors for movie nights etc).

5. Housing-traveling-living

a. What are the possibilities for housing?

BDTU offers housing to internationals on campus. The buildings are nice and it really creates an international community, however, it is also expensive (about 960 euros per month). So, for cheaper options I would have a look at Facebook or ask in ESN groupchats (you can find them if you look at their Instagram).

b. What is the culture like?

I did not have any big culture shocks, Danish culture is quite similar to Dutch culture.

c. Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure?

I think most people live on campus so don't have to use public transport to get to university. Denmark is made for biking so I would suggest buying a second handed bike (Facebook or DTU inside and ESN groupchat). For travelling I would get a Rejsekort (like the public transport card in the Netherlands) as it is the cheapest way.

6. Expenses

a. Can you give an indication of your expenses for/during your exchange?

Category	Expenses
Travelling there	150 euro
Visa - if applicable	-
Vaccinations - if applicable	-
Insurances (extra) - if applicable	-
Daytrips/sight-seeing	No clue
Housing costs per month & type of housing/accommodation	960 euro

Grocery costs per month	More than in Wageningen
Public transport costs per month	Around 100 euro
Restaurant/going out for dinner costs per month	No clue.

b. **The price levels were in general [higher; lower; equal] in comparison to in the Netherlands:** Higher, Copenhagen is a quite expensive city.

c. **Additional remarks regarding expenses?**

7. Free time

a. **What are must-sees in the area?**

Reffen is a nice permanent foodtruck festival with amazing food and a chill vibe. The tower of Christiansborg is free to visit and offers nice views over the city. Hillerød has an amazing castle, as well as Helsingør, and it is also worth it to do a day-trip to Malmö or Lund by train, crossing the famous Öresund bridge. For some nature I would recommend going to Møns Klint or walk around in the Deerpark (super close to campus).

b. **What does not appear in a travel guide, but is definitely worth seeing/doing?**

Nature around campus is very beautiful, for example the lake close to Lyngby. Biking around in Copenhagen to explore the other neighbourhoods is an absolute must.

8. Challenges & best moment abroad

a. **Any challenges? How did you deal with them?**

In the beginning I was a bit scared to go to a place where I didn't know anyone, but I shouldn't have worried. During the introduction week, I already met a lot of people (my buddy group of the introduction week stayed active throughout the semester) and in the beginning I joined both ESN and the student organization BEST, where I also met a lot of lovely people. Also doing sports can help you make friends.

I think in total I didn't really feel homesick, but if you ever do feel sad, your friends and family are only one phone-call away.

b. **Best memory?**

I was having a cocktail and games night with my best friends and when we saw there were high chances for Northern lights, we very randomly rented a car and drove to a big nature park with 8 people in one car (including one in the truck), where we saw super beautiful Northern lights. Also, I went to Iceland with an ESN-trip where I met a lot of nice people, while experiencing its beautiful nature. We also saw the Northern lights there 😊. At my dorms, also a lot of parties were organized, which were all super nice.

9. Contact details

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
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