

## Personal Report

### Erhvervsakademie Aarhus, SoSe 2021/22, 1 Semester FB3 – International Finance - Bachelor

#### Language

##### **Which language did you use? How did you communicate with your fellow students?**

The courses were all in English. There was the possibility to take free Danish classes but it turned out I needed to pay an almost 300 EUR deposit (that will only be returned after having passed the module within a given time).

Since I was in the international class, I only spoke English with my classmates.

##### **How well were you able to follow classes linguistically at the partner institution? Did the partner university provide language classes?**

I could very well follow the classes. The university provided language classes during the semester.

#### Accommodation

##### **Did the host university arrange for accommodation? How would you describe the quality of your accommodation?**

Yes, they provided accommodations for students.

##### **How high were your overall monthly costs for accommodation (in Euro)?**

450€

##### **How well was the accommodation situated? How long did it take you on average to reach the partner university (in minutes)?**

I was lucky to be assigned to the closest dorm. I could walk to the university, it took 15 minutes. Otherwise walk for 5- 8 minutes then take the bus for only 1 minute, as it is the next stop.

##### **Which web sites, forums, facebookpages, contacts, etc. can you recommend for looking for accommodation?**

Facebook is a good option (from what I heard). Otherwise there is <https://kollegiekontoret.dk/>  
But I got my accommodation through the university, as I had indicated in my application that I would like to have their assistance

### **Where have you been accommodated (name of dormitory, location, part of town, etc.)?**

I was at Ravensbjerg Kollegiet in Viby J. So outside of Aarhus, 25-30 minutes away from the city centre by bus. Main advantage there is a shopping centre 5 minutes walk away: Kvickly (like Rewe price wise), Fakta (like Penny), Bauhaus, Jysk and more.

DISCLAIMER: for those applying to BAA the website says 11-12 residents but it's actual in total 16 people (rooms) per hallway.

NIGHTLIFE: This dorm has it's own BAR! Good affordable prices in terms of alcohol and soda. Has different events/themes but is only open every Thursday and Saturday.

ROOM: fairly big with a one person bed, desk, office chair and other small furniture. Has a build in closet at the entrance and a private bathroom, just that the shower is only a shower head (+ curtain) attached to the faucet.

LAUNDRY: laundry is free at Ravensbjerg, but there are only 2 machines & one big dryer for 48 people. When doing the laundry be sure to do a timer, as some residents have the habit of taking the clothes out then start theirs.

### **Arrival at the Partner University and Orientation**

#### **Which is the best arrival time?**

It is best(?) to arrive 1 week before the date written in the letter of acceptance. Although, I do have to point out that I arrived the weekend before the date on the letter only to hear that classes will only start the week after. Arriving before was for me okay as I was in contact with other exchange students early, so we took the time to explore Aarhus. But if you don't have contact and you end up alone, maybe arriving too early is not the best (except you're good at having fun on your own).

Depending on the start of your study programme, if you received accommodation, you may not be able to move in immediately and have to find a temporary accommodation.

Plan well also your arrival date for your CPR registration & residence permit (yes even as an EU citizen, you need an EU residence permit), in my case the Aarhus Kommune arranged special dates for internationals to register for both. I should have also gone through the process for NemID but something went wrong.

#### **How did you organize your arrival? Were all important questions answered? What did you have to find out yourself? How fast were you able to get in contact with the domestic students?**

I arrived by train as it was cheaper but the travel takes 9 hours!

Unfortunately, I found the orientation to be very lacking, it was only for a few hours. Maybe it was because we were mixed with the full-time international students, a great part of the information wasn't that relevant for exchange students and other, in my opinion, essential information (how does the ER work, public transport services/apps) were not given.

## **Living Abroad**

**Compared to Frankfurt, how high was the cost of living abroad? What additional expenses did you have during your semester abroad?**

It was about 200% more than the costs in Frankfurt. I can recommend the supermarkets Fakta, Aldi and Netto to lower expenses. Since I went for the SS22, which started in January/February, I had to return to Frankfurt for the WS21/22 exams by taking the train + plane which totalled to 350 EUR. Returning for Easter, was 200 EUR.

**How far were you able to travel with your semester ticket? How were the libraries? Was their use free? Did the university provide computer workplaces/ computer pools? Was Wi-Fi available on-campus? Did the university provide a sports program? Was this free of charge?**

Public transport was a bit expensive: 3€ valid for 2 hours to travel between 2 zones. Or take the 10 trip ticket for 24 EUR. Cheapest possibility is to get a Rejsekort (Chargeable card for public transport) BUT you need a NemID (now MitID?) to order the card. NemID is your personal identification for official services. If possible, get the Rejsekort ASAP and yes I'm aware of the bad reviews but if you can't use your visa card for the apps nor have cash at hand to buy the ticket -> Rejsekort.

There is only one mensa, main dish (changed daily) along with sandwiches and other costing between 2 – 8€.

Library was free. Wi-Fi was available on campus.

Classrooms could be used outside of classes as well as separate study rooms that can be booked for free.

There is no sports program.

## **Studying at the Host University**

**How would you describe the academic standard of classes compared to Frankfurt?**

Less challenging.

**Did you experience any difference in teaching methods/ class structure? Which were the difference regarding your expectations and your experiences at the partner university?**

DISCLAIMER: My exchange was the last year for my study program. So the program "Innovation and Entrepreneurship BA Top-up" is NO longer AVAILABLE!

Teaching was definitely different, way more relaxed. Also regarding the student-teacher relationship, called your teacher by first name was something to get used to. However, some of my expectations regarding the content of the program, were disappointed. The course catalogue showed separated modules, while it is mentioned that the exam will encompass some of them together, the classes were different. What I thought was 5 modules turned out to be 3 modules!

## **Final Remarks**

**What should future exchange students know/ do/ avoid? How would you overall rate your exchange experience? In what ways have you benefitted academically, personally, linguistically for your future career?**

Get some early Danish classes from Germany. While most Danes may know how to speak English and Aarhus being an international city, a lot of things still are ONLY in Danish with no English version provided.

I was able to learn new skills and forge unforgettable freindships.