



## Aarhus University

**2023-2024**

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
The application process was straightforward, both universities provided clear instructions regarding the necessary submission materials.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Utrecht University offers great support for future Erasmus students, including a meeting prior to an exchange, where students can ask questions and gain insights about the exchange.
academic preparation
I did not undergo any special academic preparation, but I made sure to review the course materials and also consulted some of the topics with professors at Utrecht University to avoid any overlap in the course topics.
language preparation
I believe a university offers a Danish course, but I did not follow it.
finances
Living in Denmark is a bit more expensive compared to the Netherlands (especially the food costs and public transport). The accommodation prices are slightly lower compared to the Netherlands (e.g. 600 EUR for a studio, utilities included).

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I took three courses, each worth 10 ECTS, including Economics and Politics of the EU, Environmental Economics, and the Economics of the Welfare State. I found all three courses to be well-organised and challenging. However, I particularly enjoyed the course Economics and Politics of the EU because it was very well-structured and we discussed the latest, important issues happening in the EU. During the semester, there wasn't much work besides the weekly readings and preparation for the discussions, as all my exams were conducted at the end of the semester. Most written exams are taken on your laptop (using a specific online program where you submit your exam), but there were also oral exams, like defending a seminar paper, which last for about 20 minutes. It should be also noted that some of the courses may overlap in schedule, for example, two of my courses overlapped, so I couldn't attend every lecture for both.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality was high and the courses were challenging. However, the classes in Aarhus are slightly bigger (30-70 students) compared to those at Utrecht University so there is usually less time for a discussion.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad



The support from Aarhus University was good, the replies to e-mails are quick.

transfer of credits

Have not done this yet.

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The university organises an introduction week for international students (1-2 weeks before the beginning of the semester).

accommodation

The accommodation was very easy to find. The university offers a great variety of different accommodations (e.g. a studio, a shared dorm, etc.) which are already equipped, and they send you an offer based on your preferences (you register those once you apply for accommodation).

leisure & culture

Aarhus is a student-friendly city, with lots of nice cafes and museums. There is a free-entrance week to all the museums across Denmark somewhere in September, which I highly recommend! Definitely visit the Moesgaard museum and Aros museum. And try some of their delicious pastries such as Fastelavnsboller or the cinnamon rolls.

suggestions/tips

## CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would definitely recommend Aarhus University to all future exchange students as the quality of education is high and the city is friendly with lots of opportunities to meet new people.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



## 2022-2023

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
The process went smooth when following the steps clearly described in the e-mails received from both universities.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
The website of the UU gives useful tools in preparing. Replies to e-mails could be somewhat quicker, but the responses are usually very helpful.
academic preparation
Since my master program at UU closely fitted the courses in Aarhus I was well prepared academically.
language preparation
Also, the master program at UU was already in English, which was also the language of my courses in Aarhus, so here I was well prepared.
finances
There were some administrative problems at UU, delaying the payout of the Erasmus Grant, this could be improved.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I followed courses in Economics of the Welfare State, Labor Economics and Applied Econometrics. In Aarhus there is a semester system where you get 4 months of lectures and afterwards one month of exams. I found this a good set-up since there is low pressure during the semester and enough time to study during the exam period. At Aarhus University the organisation is very professional, information is provided and questions are answered very quick.
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality at AU is high for the courses I took, as described above.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
Any questions can be asked by e-mail and are answered usually within a day.
transfer of credits
At Aarhus University the credits are also provided in ECTS, I have not yet seen how the grades are recalculated to the Dutch grading system.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
welcome & orientation programme
There is an introduction week at the start of the semester in which many students participate. Additionally, you will be part of a group accompanied by two Danish students and for which several activities are organised. This provides opportunities to meet new people.
accommodation
Finding an accommodation is very easy, also for lower budgets (around €350) and quality of housing is high.



leisure & culture

The city has many good bars and cafes and people play boardgames everywhere. Also, there is the opportunity to go out. The city has several interesting musea. Right outside the city nature starts.

suggestions/tips

## CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

If you want to experience a culture very different then the Dutch culture, Aarhus might not be the place to go. However, the city is very friendly and calm with many students to meet, nature is beautiful, the university is of high quality and amenities are of high standards, providing many of the ingredients for a relaxed exchange period.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



## PREPARATION

exchange application process

The exchange application process was easy. Everything is clearly explained by e-mail.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The counselling and support at Utrecht University was really good. If you had questions, you could easily ask them. There was an information meeting for example. The e-mails were clear and provided steps what to do.

academic preparation

I followed my electives at Aarhus University. So, I did not have to prepare much in advance.

language preparation

They offer various language courses if you are interested. I decided not to take one as I already speak a bit of Norwegian and had one more extra course to follow at Utrecht University, but could be really nice I think! The experiences of my friends there were good.

finances

You should be aware that studying in Denmark is a bit more expensive than in the Netherlands. The food costs a bit more, but you will probably also do some nice trips. But it is definitely worth it!

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I followed the courses Machine Learning, International Economics and Environmental Economics. These were super interesting. I would definitely recommend to follow these courses, especially the machine learning one. Interesting is that two of my final exams were oral. So, then a certain random topic was picked and you had to present this topic also writing down equations on the whiteboard. This was quite a refreshing and new way of examination. Be aware that picking courses is more difficult due to the semester system. The courses you would like to follow might have scheduling conflicts. This was an organisational issue I experienced.

academic quality of education activities

The quality was good. The courses involved a lot of interaction and were challenging.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The support from the university abroad was good.

transfer of credits

Has not been done yet.

## STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome and orientation programme was a lot of fun, here I met most of my friends there!

accommodation

The accommodation is also quite easy to find. They offer you a room and you can either choose to accept or not to accept it. Studenthousing Aarhus or AU Housing are good options.

leisure & culture



Aarhus is a very vibrant city. There were a lot of nice cafés.

suggestions/tips

Go to the Aros museum, Moesgaard museum and Café Mellefolk!

## **CONCLUSIONS**

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes, the city is very nice. A lot is being organized. The course are on a good level. The culture however is quite similar to the Netherlands, so it is maybe not be as exotic as going to Canada or the US for example.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Join the introduction programme :)



**2021-2022**

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
I first participated to all the workshops organised by the school to understand which steps I needed to partake and gain some insights from previous students who had done an exchange previously. Then all the steps were quite clear on the university website. Once the destination was chosen, I had to get my study plan approved by the study advisors, with whom I organised a meeting to make sure I was choosing the right level courses for my study plan. Other than that, all steps were clear on Osiris.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
I contacted the International Office and study advisors before my exchange, both very useful. The International Office provided me all the contacts of previous students who had been on an exchange where I was going and also that of who was going there the same time as me, which was great as I was able to get an overview of housing and tips pre departure, in addition to knowing already somebody there. The study advisors helped me out with my study plan and made sure I was taking the adequate courses for my study path.
academic preparation
Given the fact that I was attending a business school and my programme is Economics and Business Economics, there wasn't much I had to prepare for.
language preparation
The classes were in English, so I did not have to learn any Danish. Additionally, Denmark is very English speaking friendly.
finances
Thankfully, I was provided with the Erasmus grant. I would recommend putting away some money for the exchange, as Denmark was quite expensive, but it will be worth it so that you can live at your fullest once there, without missing out on any enriching experiences.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
I took mostly Business courses as all the Economics courses I had already taken in Utrecht. I took Behavioural Economics, which I would have taken for my minor in Utrecht, so it was nice to not miss out on a minor course while away. Then I took Sustainable production and Consumption, and Human resource management. Only for the latter I had both a tutorial and a lecture. For all the others I only had lectures. The time line I differ from here as, there are no midterms and periods, but rather a full semester at which end there was an exam period (which is before for exchange students). I didn't mind this format especially being on an exchange as it gave a lot of time to partake to other activities as well!
academic quality of education activities
The academic quality high. It was great to go to class as they were all on campus. Professors were all super helpful and provided very interesting lectures. It was really pleasant to go to class.
counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I have not been in contact with the facilities there as for the time being there I did not encounter a situation in which I needed them, so I cannot say much about this.
transfer of credits
I still have to have my credits transferred.



## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

The university organised some orientation activities for exchange students. The first days of academic orientation were help online, but also some social activities were organised which was a great way to meet new people and other students. The orientation also recommended participating to the ESN association activities, which was the core of socialising especially in the beginning.

### accommodation

The University provided some reserved accommodation for exchange students, but given the high demand, I was not able to get a spot. The university then also recommended a housing site for students, but I decided to not take the first offer since it was pretty far from the city and campus. So during the summer I started looking on facebook groups and eventually found a great spot in the city center.

### leisure & culture

Aarhus is full of museums. It also organises a week in which all museums are free for people under 25. The first week in Aarhus a music festival was organised all over the city, day and night, with different genres playing in different locations and different times. Aarhus is a student city, there is almost always something to do, and if not it is full of bars and cafés in which it is super cosy to study or hang out with a friend. Furthermore right next to the city (walking distance) there is both the forest and the beach, so it is always nice to get in touch with nature as well.

### suggestions/tips

I would suggest participating at every activity especially at the beginning. It can be hard but it will be worth it. That way you will be able to meet many new people, who are also in your same position and eager to meet new people as well.

## CONCLUSIONS

### would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would absolutely recommend Aarhus as an exchange destination. It is a student city, so it is very easy to meet new people. There are any museums, coffee places, bars and clubs as well if you are really into socialising it would be a perfect place to be. On the other hand, there is also so much nature around it such as the beach and the forest, so even if you want to have a break from the city there is so much available at walking distance.

### do you have any additional advice or comments?

It is all about the people you surround yourself with. Independently of the place you end up, if you meet a great bunch of people I can guarantee that it will be such a memorable and amazing experience.





**2019-2020**

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
The application progress for applying for Aarhus University is not different from other universities. What Aarhus University and Utrecht University expect from you is to 1) write a motivational letter to explain why Utrecht University and Aarhus University should choose you as their exchange student, 2) attach your transcript of records, and 3) an UU study plan in which you specify which courses you want to do. The second step can be done through email, mail ECU desk and they will send it to you. Part 3 consists of courses you want to do at Aarhus University, these are not set in stone as you have to get approval from Aarhus University. I would recommend to look through the courses but keep in mind that you will get restrictions from AU later on. Furthermore, for part 3 you need signatures from Utrecht University, this can cost some time so take this into account (take a week before the deadline to get the signatures in time) when applying.
counselling & support at Utrecht University
Utrecht University arranges a meeting in which they will tell you what to expect and how to arrange your Erasmus grant. It is really helpful to go there and there is also an opportunity to ask your questions. Furthermore, they will always help you with your questions (ieo.leg@uu.nl)
academic preparation
There is no need for academic preparation. Aarhus University arranges an introduction week in which they will provide you with all the information you need. It is always helpful to read through the course catalogue, but this is not necessary.
language preparation
English is the main language on Aarhus University, so there is no need to learn Danish. If you want to learn to speak the language I recommend you to do an additional language course. There are plenty of companies who provide this and in the introduction week Aarhus University will explain the different ones. They also arrange a gathering with stands where all companies, students associations etc etc are provided. This information will all be sent to you by email.
finances
Denmark is expensive. Comparing it to the Netherlands (Utrecht), all prices are a bit higher so it counts up. Especially alcohol and coffee is expensive. Ofcourse, you can make it as cheap as you want. At the university a coffee is €1, however, if you go to a coffeebar, like La Cabra, it is 50 Danish Crown which is equal to €6,70. But do not stress too much about the money, grocery stores are comparable to Dutch supermarkets and there are lots of cheaper restaurants. Just keep in mind that if you want to make some trips and enjoy Aarhus without worrying about money you should save some money in advance.

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>
study programme (content and organisational issues)
The courses are well arranged and interesting. It is comparable to the way of teaching in Utrecht, only the way of examination is different. In Denmark exams are most of the times oral, this means that you have a conversation about the course literature with your examiner(s). This sounds terrifying and it is, however, it is manageable. It is also possible to have written exams, they vary in duration but they are most of the times longer than those at Utrecht University, this is because you have to take your own laptop which means you have access to all your notes, the course literature and internet. I would recommend to do both types of exams to get the full Aarhus experience. The course catalogue of Aarhus University is very representative and accurate, it also provides the way of examination (oral/written). Read it thoroughly.



academic quality of education activities

Aarhus University has good lecturers and professors. The courses are well set up and very clear.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Aarhus University have a excellent support system. In the first week, the introduction week, two students will lead you in a group through the city and do activities. These two students are your counselors and are available for all question you have during you whole stay. This is very helpful if you want to ask small questions (where can I find this classroom/building, which is a good restaurant, etc etc). For the more compicated questions you can contact the international contact person at Aarhus University. It is one person for all your question which prevents confusion. For me this was a woman and she helped me with all my questions and problems, also they respond to your email really fast.

transfer of credits

I did my exchange outside of my curriculum so I did not need my credits.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

Your stay abroad at Aarhus University starts with an ntroduction week. Make sure you will attend this because they will not only provide you with all the information you need but also organise activities for your 'buddy group' in which you make your first friends. In this introduction week you will get information about the way of teaching, practical information and deadline for submitting forms, about the norms and values of Danish people, the culture and much more. In this week they will also arrange insurance for you and register you as a Danish civilian (so you do not have to do it yourself). Make sure you have all the paperwork they ask you to bring!

accommodation

Aarhus University has a housing department in which they will help you find accommodation. If you apply for this it does not mean you get an accommodation, make sure you apply as soon as possible. I applied too late which caused that I had to find private housing. There are multiple Facebook sites where people rent their rooms, take a look at those if you do not get in the housing of Aarhus University.

leisure & culture

Aarhus is a quet city, it has around 350.000 inhabitants (about the size of Utrecht). People are modest and helpful. Danish people have their own way of living, they are really polite, for example, they wear helmets when biking and if the trafic light is red they will line up in a row. Do not expect Danish people to come to you, they are introvert people, just give them time to get to know you and they will open up.

suggestions/tips

Bring a rain jacket.

**CONCLUSIONS**

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would recommend Aarhus University. First of all, the University is well arranged. They provide you all the documents and information needed and are always ready to help you out. The courses are of high quality and you will definitely learn new skills. Furthermore, Denmark is an interesting and nice country to life in. It is a quet



**Utrecht  
University**

but fun city. It is a fun way to get more academic knowledge while learning other cultures and make new friends.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

In Denmark the weather is comparable to the Netherlands only there is some more rain, wind and the days are shorter. In January it is already dark at 4 o'clock.



## PREPARATION

### exchange application process

The exchange application process went quite smoothly. It is of course a lot of work, which you just have to do. What was nice is that the exchange office of Aarhus University is well organised and I was able to do a lot of preparation very early.

### counselling & support at Utrecht University

I got help from the study advisor with what I had to do in order to get my exchange documents ready in time. That was helpful, because the administrative burden can be high and it is nice that someone can inform you on if you are doing it right and what you still need to do.

### academic preparation

It took some time to figure which courses I wanted, but I was informed quite clearly by the master coordinator which courses I could take.

### language preparation

Did not need a lot of preparation, because my courses abroad were in English. Did take the obligatory Erasmus language test, which just takes some time, but is ok to do. I also took Danish language courses while I was in Denmark, which I liked.

### finances

I was quite happy with the Erasmus compensation for living in Denmark. I think it well makes up for the price difference and possible travel expenditures. If you want to take a lot of trips and go out to a lot of restaurants you may need a bit of additional money.

## STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

### study programme (content and organisational issues)

Once again Aarhus University is very well organised in my opinion. The courses were very interesting and of a significant difficulty level. Also the amount of courses you could choose from was very broad. I am definitely very positive about the study programme for economists at Aarhus University.

### academic quality of education activities

So once more the quality of education at AU is good. Also the level of fellow students was high. Furthermore the way of examination, often orals, made for a good way of learning the course and preparing for the exam. We were namely required to prepare a small talk for 14 sub topics of the course, which made that I had to make sense out of the topics instead of trying to only remember the material.

### counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Did not need a lot of counseling or support, but the international office is well organised and helpful.

### transfer of credits

I have not completed this yet, but I think it should be easy. I knew upfront which course would be eligible for me to take home to Utrecht University. Furthermore in Denmark they also use ECTS, so I expect no difficulties.



## STUDENT LIFE

### welcome & orientation programme

Was quite extensive. We had a full introduction week with activities where we got to know all other exchange students. We were divided in buddy groups during the week, which made that I got to know these people quite good in a short period of time. Furthermore each group had three buddies/mentors/coaches from Denmark who we're very helpful and outgoing. Next to that we were well introduced to the academic part of the exchange. We got information about teaching methods, a tour around the library, and other academic related info. So I quickly got to know, people, the city, and the university.

### accommodation

Arranged via university, which was again very well organised. I had a nice studio. Only thing was that it was a bit far from the city center. And Aarhus is very hilly so biking trips back from the city center were a serious exercise (city center is at sea level and my house at 90 meters above sea level). So you may want to seek a house for yourself (not via the university) if the university offers you a house far from the center.

### leisure & culture

There is a lot to do in Aarhus in terms of leisure. Much activities organised and many places where you can enjoy leisure time in the city center.

In terms of culture the city also has quite some stuff to offer. There are a lot of good restaurants and interesting museums. And there is the possibility to learn Danish, which I did and would recommend.

### suggestions/tips

In general student life in Denmark is really nice, a lot is organised in terms of activities. Only downside you may want to take into mind is that the winters get quite dark (45 min less daylight in the middle of winter than NL). This makes that the activity attendance decreases a bit, as people stay inside a bit more.

## CONCLUSIONS

### would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes would recommend it. The university is of a very good quality, a lot is organised, and the city is nice. Only thing to keep in mind is that the winters get dark and that you should try to get housing a bit near the city.

### do you have any additional advice or comments?

Not related to the destination, but in general: The experience of living in another country was really nice. Both because it's fun and challenging. So even if you don't choose Aarhus as destination, do make sure to go on exchange because it is a very valuable experience that will stick with you for the rest of your life.



**2018-2019**

<b>PREPARATION</b>
exchange application process
<p>I think the exchange application process is quite straightforward. I believe that the most important part of your UU / USE application process is your motivation letter. A decent part of your motivation should be / are the courses you are able to take. Thus some considerable time should be allotted to your study plan. However, do not stress too much importance on the exact courses you want to take but at the kind of courses that Aarhus University offers in general. This is because the exact courses can change and you want to make sure you do not lose your motivation to go on exchange when you are not able to follow that exact course. I think that the financial plan is more something to do for yourself in order for you to realize how much money this decision will cost you. The Aarhus application process is more about (as far as I remember) identifying yourself (e.g. copy of passport), making a final decision on which courses you want to take and to potentially provide you with (relatively cheap) housing. At this stage, you can be quite sure that you are going on exchange to Aarhus University.</p>
counselling & support at Utrecht University
<p>It is important to be proactive when something is not clear about your exchange procedure. The standard / basic support that is provided by USE / UU is quite low, but the people that work there are very knowledgeable and helpful. Previously to this I already did a UU-wide exchange and it felt like this is even more the case for USE / REBO exchanges than for UU ones. Thankfully, this time around I did not need much support but I can understand it can be frustrating for certain things to be unclear. Do not be discouraged by it. By just contacting them you realize that there is a perfectly logical explanation to it. I personally just wish they would address them before / at the beginning of the exchange procedure.</p>
academic preparation
<p>The academic level of Aarhus University and Utrecht University is approximately the same. However, I do think that there are some major academic differences between Aarhus University and Utrecht University. First, Aarhus University works with 2 semesters while USE works with 4 periods. This difference on itself should not require that much adjustment. However, most courses also only have 1 final examination at the end of the semester that counts for 100% of your grade. This is quite different than the USE way of having a mid and/or end term every 4 weeks or so. Thus, for me it felt like I needed a lot more self-discipline to actually keep up with my studies in the case that the exam was "just at the end of January". Furthermore, these examinations can be written or oral. Lastly, Aarhus University has a lot more ungraded activities you have to do in order to take the exam (e.g. presentations, assignments). For some of these activities it is rather clear when you failed / passed them, while for others it is not. I myself did not prepare for this and it worked out fine for me, but I think it is nice to know the major academic differences beforehand and mentally prepare for them.</p>
language preparation
<p>Apart from doing a bit of Duolingo to get the basics down of the Danish language I did not do much to prepare. Having said that, I have not come across one person in my five-month stay in Aarhus that was not able to communicate with me on an understandable level in English. Academically speaking, everyone has a rather high proficiency in English. However, even those students, just like in the Netherlands, prefer to speak their native tongue. So you can get into a situation wherein Danish students simply 'forget' that you are there and start speaking Danish. This is something that also happens in the Netherlands and of which I am guilty of myself, so I do not blame them for that. Just like Dutch students, Danish students think it is really cool that you are able to say a few Danish sentences so I definitely think it is worth getting the basics down. It also makes your daily activities, like grocery shopping, a lot more easier / less awkward wherein by default mode the cashier will</p>



assume you are Danish. Thus, it is very helpful to know, for example, how to say that you do not want the receipt in Danish.

finances

Keep in mind that Denmark is one of those (few) countries that is actually more expensive to live in than the Netherlands. Even though Aarhus University might provide you with housing, it is at best the same price range as in Utrecht. Most likely, it is will be more expensive than in Utrecht. Groceries are also quite expensive even though there are some supermarkets (e.g. Netto and Rema1000) that make it a bit more bearable. I think that going on restaurants on a regular basis is not sustainable in any budget. As far as I am aware, there are no places to eat relatively cheaply (<20eu) apart from some pizzerias.

**STUDY ABROAD PERIOD**

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The courses are well organized. Your schedule, exam prerequisites and exam structure / content is made public quite early on. This gives you sufficient time to organize yourself and know how to take your notes in the most efficient way. Courses can have a closed book exam, open book exam or presentation + Q&A and all will require a different method of taking notes. The courses tend to have a significant Danish component in them due to data availability. This sometimes results in interesting in-class discussions. However, most of the time the classes are structured quite like a one-way street wherein the professor gives his lecture and the students just quietly take their notes. Thus, I felt like there was less interaction going on than at USE. I did enjoy the content of the courses a lot and I personally recommend 'The Economics of the Welfare State'.

academic quality of education activities

Like I mentioned before, I think that the level of Aarhus University and Utrecht University is approximately the same. However, I felt like there were larger differences in the level of difficulty between courses at Aarhus University than Utrecht University. Normally, you should have 2 weeks in which you can still switch courses if you have a viable reason (e.g. UU does not accept them). I would recommend using that time to really find out what the courses are about and whether they give you enough satisfaction, while still being manageable. If you foresee some major problems occurring I would contact UU immediately in order to find out if somethings can be changed.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

I did not request counselling nor support, so I am not entirely sure about this. In general, the academic staff is quite approachable and prefers an informal setting (e.g. use of first names). At the International Office I did experience some inconvenience wherein they did not record my time of arrival. So make sure that you sign in and put your signature somewhere when you pick up your stuff at the International Office.

transfer of credits

My credits are not transferred back, but I have not been back in the Netherlands for a month yet. I did already receive my Transcript of Record almost a week ago, so I guess everything will be fine.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

The welcome & orientation programme is really well organized and has the perfect mix of fun activities and mandatory activities (e.g. CPR-registration, choosing a general practitioner). The fact that they provide support at the mandatory activities is really helpful, because otherwise you would had to do them on your own, which would have surely taken more time. The fun activities help you to bond and socialize with your fellow exchange students while exploring the city. You are mainly being guided by two (Danish) full-time students which also



gives you the opportunity to actually interact with the locals (which is normally the hardest thing to do during an exchange). Given that some things were kept as a surprise for us, I will not spoil it for you in this report. Just know that it is not something that you want to skip.

#### accommodation

Aarhus University provides some housing for exchange students, but they do not have enough accommodation to place all the exchange students. I initially was not placed, but by putting myself on the waiting list I was able to get a room of someone that went back quite early in the exchange period (beginning of September). I ended up in a really nice student complex wherein I lived with 11 other students on 1 floor of which 9 were Danish and 2 were Internationals that were following a full-time study there. If you end up in one of these complexes you definitely do not want to miss out on 'Tour de Chambre'. In case you have to search for accommodation yourself, keep in mind that Aarhus is not flat at all. So make sure that you do not choose a location wherein you have to climb the hill every time you go to BSS.

#### leisure & culture

Aarhus has approximately the same amount of inhabitants as Utrecht. At first glance it may seem that there is not much to do, but that is not necessarily true. There are definitely museums that are worth a visit (e.g. Aros and Den gamle by), nature to walk through (e.g. the deer park) and architecture to admire (e.g. Isbjerget). You definitely do not want to miss the first two parties / International Nights of 'studenterhus', which is the ESN of Aarhus. On Fridays, you preferably want to start at a Friday bar. Der Kuhstall tends to have deals on the other days (e.g. Wednesday 'happy hour'). Bodegean is a nice bar in general and Kupe is a nice club if you do not mind spending more than 50eu on a night. Apart from that Danish tend to have their small get-togethers as that is much cheaper than a bar or club.

#### suggestions/tips

Two things that will surely save you money are buying a bike and a membership at 'studenterhus'. Public transportation is in the same price range as in the Netherlands and given that now you do not have a student public transport card anymore the cost of taking a bus each day will be quite high. Apart from the fact that buying and reselling a bike is cheaper than taking the bus every day, it is also a lot nicer in general. If you are not looking forward to the process of buying and reselling a bike and all the maintenance that comes with it then you can also consider 'Swapfiets'. Simply put, this is a bike rental company that also takes care of all your maintenance issues (e.g. flat tire). With a membership at 'studenterhus' you get a decent amount of discounts on the various trips they organize in the beginning of the semester and you are able to get beer for 20 Danish krone. Have not found a place, apart from Friday bars, that sell them that 'cheap'.

## CONCLUSIONS

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

Yes and no, if you are looking for something really different than the Netherlands then Aarhus is not the city for you. But if you are just looking for a change of scenery and an opportunity to meet a lot of new people, potentially learn a new language and making friendships and experiences that might last you a lifetime then Aarhus is a city as good as any. I do not regret going on exchange to Aarhus and I exactly got out of it what I wanted.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

While being on exchange it is very easy to stay in the 'exchange bubble', which means only interacting with other exchange students. I would advise to also make an active effort to interact with the locals. Also try to experience as much as possible and refrain from going at a certain place the whole time. 4 or 5 months may seem like a decent amount of time, but you'll surely see in December that you haven't done things that you easily could have and would have enjoyed.





**Utrecht  
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