



Denmark bike trip



International student weekend trip

Hvordan går det Lincoln? (How are you doing Lincoln?) Hope everyone is safe and life is starting to return to normal after the quakes. It was great to see the graduation photos, looks like it was an epic time!

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Matt and I'm a fourth year VAPM student. Yes, I know what you are thinking, Valuation is a three year degree!.... However, rather than finish my degree last year, I made the fantastic decision to go on an international exchange!

An international exchange is an amazing opportunity for all undergraduate students, yet so few take advantage of it. It involves taking your degree to another country for either one semester or a whole year. I made the decision to go to Denmark and hang with the mighty Vikings for a semester.

Denmark appealed to me as it was central in Europe and they offered scholarships paid by Copenhagen University. Copenhagen has two universities. We can go on exchange to either, both of which have courses taught in English. I decided to leave for Denmark in January so that I would be studying in winter and then I would be able to travel in June, in their summer. In winter there can be snow and temperatures as low as minus 20 degrees.

After finishing travelling through South East Asia at the start of the year, I was a little nervous that I would arrive in Denmark knowing no-one and unable to speak Danish. However I was soon relaxed after being welcomed by my lovely Danish 'First Contact', Maria. She picked me up from the airport, dropped me at my accommodation and then invited me to the University bar where I was introduced to over 20 of her friends and had a raging night! Since then I have made a great group of friends through sport, university classes, Danish culture courses and a weekend trip put on by the First

contacts, living in my building and travelling.

Denmark holds a number of honours including: having the happiest people in the world, the second most laziest people in the world (which I don't understand), it is nearly the least corrupt and most trusting and is also one of the most expensive places to purchase a Big Mac (lookup Bigmac Index). It is much like New Zealand in terms of the drinking culture and the number of citizens (6 million). Living costs I believe are similar to NZ with vegetables, milk, cereal and bread being cheaper but meat, cheese and junk food slightly more expensive.

Most students share or live alone in an apartment with a joint kitchenette and bathroom. I live in a large apartment close to the city centre. It has a large party/games room with a large roof balcony for soaking up the sun. It can be quite costly for rent but not if you share a room, making it nearly the same for a flat in Christchurch.

Copenhagen University is much larger than Lincoln with around 37,000 students and 4 campuses. The campus I belong to is called LIFE and is much like our own campus apart from the fact that this campus was here 350 years before Europeans began populating NZ. Classes I have are much smaller than Lincoln, more interactive and you seem to meet a lot more people. I think this is because most of the classes are made up of international students in the same boat of knowing very few people.

There's fantastic public transport in Copenhagen which is affordable, arrives regularly and runs perfectly on time which many people use. Biking is also popular and I bike absolutely everywhere. It's only 15 minutes by bike to uni and 20 minutes to the clubs and pubs.

There's heaps to do and I have recently started salsa dancing and I

am playing rugby for the other university in Copenhagen. I wanted to try handball or floorball which are big games here, but the season had just ended. The Naked and Famous recently came to Copenhagen and saw them rocking at Christiania, an alternative village.

Student bars are great! You meet people quickly and beers are around \$2.50 a pint for top European beers! No wonder there is the saying: "Drink like a Dane!!!! I recently brought 30 Carlsberg for \$20NZD at the local supermarket. Other beers were even as cheap as 25c for a drinkable beer!

I am planning to do a heap of travel throughout Europe. So far I have been to Dublin for St Patrick's Day and travelled from the top to bottom of Ireland and a little bit in Berlin, Prague and Sweden.

Europe is a great base to travel from. Every country varies greatly from the next, with cuisine, sights and fascinating history, yet it is relatively easy to travel between them. There is heaps on in Denmark. They host one of the most highly rated festivals in the world, the Roskilde Festival. However the line-up isn't so great this year so I also plan to go to Rock Werchter (www.rockwerchter.de) and Hurricane festival (www.Hurricane.de).

I'm also hoping to do a week long bike trip around Denmark on the many bike tracks to see Legoland, castles, Viking forts and national parks. Mates and family in the UK have offered to host me so I will be able to see a lot for cheap. My last exam is in June, after which I plan to buy a van with some uni mates. With them and strangers met through online noticeboard gumtree.com we'll do a 5-month road trip starting at the Festival of San Fermin (*running of the bulls*) and finishing after Oktoberfest. We are looking for more people - if you are interested flick me an email!

International student weekend trip



Beer delivery at Uni



Hvordan går >> det Lincoln?

Here are my top 10 reasons....Why YOU should go on exchange:

1. **Travel** - Amazing opportunity to get in some travel before going straight into a job.
2. **STAND OUT!** - Great to show on your CV that you are bit more worldly than other applicants.
3. **No extra time to graduate** - Unlike myself, you may not need to extend the time of your degree. VAPM is one of the most prescribed degrees at Lincoln so it can make it harder to plan. Some courses can be credited to compulsory papers back home or else electives can be done overseas as I have done. Summer School is also an option to catch up if you can't credit back to compulsory papers.
4. **No international fees!!** - Did you know that international students that come to Lincoln who aren't from NZ or from partner universities have to pay over 5 times what you pay for the same courses? When overseas you pay Lincoln the fees for your courses and not the large international fees of other countries.
5. **Inexpensive** - Living costs may be similar to NZ and student loans for living and studying can still be used overseas. There are also two scholarships available. Flights may be one of the extra expenses compared to what you would normally be paying if you stayed at home. (Check out Airasia.com as I just booked my flights home for \$700NZD from France to Christchurch!)
6. **New Country** - Of course you get to experience living in another country and get to experience others on the way there or back.
7. **Languages, Food and Culture** - Have the possibility to learn not only the local language and culture through free courses put on by some universities but also the languages of the many foreign students you will meet. We take turns cooking in my apartment so you experience cuisine from around the world.
8. **New Courses** - Study courses you would not be able to at Lincoln. There are some great Universities to choose from - some in the top 15 rated in the world and in countries such as the US, UK, Canada, Sweden, Norway and Denmark.
9. **Friends and Contacts** - Make lifelong friends and contacts in your field. You are in the same boat as many foreign students all wanting to meet new people and have a great time and it has to be one of the best ways to do this..
10. **Mix it up!** Sometimes it is great for a bit of a change - you can even take a few easier papers which allow you more time to see the sights and meet new people.



Copenhagen's Little Mermaid



Bikes at Denmark's Labour Day

If you are interested in finding out more about this marvellous opportunity go and see the lovely Susan Steer at Student Services or email her on Susan.Steer@lincoln.ac.nz. If you want to know more about Denmark, flick me an email on Matt.Bowie@lincolnuni.ac.nz