

# Exchange semester in Copenhagen

*As a city at the waterfront with a rich history, contemporary lifestyle and a healthy balance of relaxedness and aspiration, Copenhagen has this unique quality of life.*

Fig. 1. Sunrise at the harbor



## **Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts / KDAK**

Studying at KDAK means being able to live out your passion for architecture and design. The numerous exhibitions, insights and educational opportunities the city offers in the field of design gives every day almost endless possibilities and knowledge beyond the school project.

In the master program Spatial Design, the focus lies on the relationship between Architecture, Design and People. As a framework for the development of the projects serves the thought of seeing the interior as a starting point for an exploration of the surrounding architecture, contexts and everything that is in our spaces. Structured in phases the semester goal is written in a brief. While the first weeks are group work, it is optional to continue or to work individually afterward. Whereby in all cases the exchange, the cooperation in the studio, and taking responsibility has a very high value. The professional background of the students is very different and includes a wide range of influences from architecture, landscape, object or graphic design. The learning outcomes are strongly connected to knowledge in professional contexts, materiality, processes, sustainability, inclusion, managing, and advanced competences in developing a design proposal. Making use of the extensive workshop infrastructure in timber, metal, textile, ceramics, and others is appreciated and desired as an integral part of the process of designing. The image on the right side shows a working table of a student in the studio where you work and the tutorial with your teacher takes place.

Fig. 2. Library of the Royal Danish Academy  
Fig. 3. Spatial Design Studio



### Accommodation

Living in a student residence was easy to organize and offered shared facilities such as a coffee bar, learning rooms, or a roof terrace. Moreover, having your own space creates a retreat for yourself in between all the new experiences and people you meet. When choosing accommodation, I recommend paying attention to the proximity to the city center and the university next to an affordable price.

Fig. 4. Learning space



### Means of transportation

The location of my accommodation in the district Islands Brygge was very central, which is beneficial for experiencing living in the city. In everyday life I had about 15min by bike to various meeting places in all directions: to the school, the old city center, the beach, the northern and southern harbor. Also, to the airport it is only 15 min by metro. But in general, the fastest way to get around is by bike. Whether it's a borrowed bike from the available rentals *Donkey bike*, *Swapfjets* (long-term rental), etc. or a bought bicycle as I had.

Fig. 5. Copenhagen by bike



### Discovery tours

Working on the project during the week usually gives you the weekend off. Then there is time to visit places inside or outside of Copenhagen. Copenhagen has so much to offer that it takes some time to discover the city. However, during my time I was also able to visit Malmö in Sweden, Helsingør, the Louisiana Art Museum, Odrupgaard and other interesting places. It makes sense to inform yourself early enough to use the time with friends to make such trips.

Fig. 6. Louisiana Art Museum



### Costs

Copenhagen is expensive. Payment is usually made by card. As a tip, always convert the prices to keep an overview. Also keep in mind that some areas are more expensive than others due to tourism, like for example Nyhavn or the main shopping streets.

### Language

In Denmark, people of all generations speak English very well. That means also outside of the university you get ahead with the English language everywhere. Although Danes love to hear their own language, they know that it is difficult to learn. This is partly since the spoken language is very different from the written one.

Fig. 7. Nyhavn

