Denmark
UCEAP Advising Notes

Objective
This document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA) Adviser to review program specific details that may impact a student's decision to apply for a UCEAP program. The document is not a summary of eligibility requirements, academic, housing, application and other logistical details freely available to students on the UCEAP and BSA website. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website or the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA Adviser for this program.

COVID-19 Information
The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present challenges related to health concerns and international travel. UCEAP has been updating their website's Coronavirus Notice with up-to-date information. Please check this website for the most up to date information about which programs are running in the 2022-23 academic year.

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Study Abroad in Northern Europe | UCEAP Virtual Study Abroad Fair 2021

Berkeley Stories - Jared H, Spring in Copenhagen

Berkeley Stories - Delaney L, Spring in Copenhagen


“3 Minute Travel Guide: Copenhagen, Denmark.” The Californian Abroad.
Visas

US Passport Holders

US passport holders will be provided instructions on how to apply for a residence permit to study in Denmark after being admitted into the program. US passport holders do not need a visa to participate in programs lasting less than 90 days.

Non US Passport Holders

Non-US Citizens may need a visa in addition to a residence permit to study in Denmark.

Aarhus University (Fall, Spring, Year)

Aarhus is a small to medium sized bike-friendly city on the water with a lot to offer. There are several pubs, restaurants and shops in the downtown area. It also includes a beautiful art museum.

Housing

Housing is guaranteed for University of California students studying at Aarhus. All students live in their own room. A variety of options exist and may be a short bus or bike ride from campus. Student must accept their housing offer shortly after they receive it via email.

Academics

Aarhus University offers hundreds of courses in a variety of fields in English including but not limited to arts, business, social sciences, sports medicine, chemistry, and computer science. It is important to click on “Exchange” in the online course catalog (which you can find in the UCEAP Academics section of the website) to see which courses are open to you. Please choose courses that state English only, not Danish + English.

In addition to disciplinary courses, Aarhus offers Scandinavian culture courses for exchange students. It is not possible to take Danish language at Aarhus University but students interested in learning the language can do so at a private center for a fee. Unfortunately, there are no public health courses offered in English at Aarhus University.
Student Life

Aarhus University offers exchange students a buddy. These are Danish students who have committed to assisting your transition to Aarhus. Each department runs its own buddy system and so they may run a bit differently depending on your field of study.

Aarhus University’s International Office hosts Intro Days for all exchange students where they provide assistance with the Danish Registry, share tips on academic culture, teach students about renting and riding bikes, and more.

The Student House is a non-profit organization that provides extracurricular programs for all Aarhus University students, including exchange students. They focus on bridging the gap between business, students and culture in Aarhus. They provide a social welcoming program the first two weeks of each term, and host 2-3 events per week including trips around Denmark, game nights, a weekly international night, a secondhand bazar, language training, and more. The house includes a café, concert venue/cafeteria and bar.

Copenhagen Business School Summer

This is a relatively new program offered by UCEAP. You do not have to major in Business in order to apply for this program so it’s a great choice for all students who want to take business courses.

University of Copenhagen (Fall, Spring, Year)

Program Capacity Constraints

UCEAP has a limited number of placements at Univ. of Copenhagen. There is more capacity for Berkeley students in spring semester than in fall semester. Please contact the Denmark Adviser to indicate your interest in applying and discuss possible back-up options. Because UCEAP has restricted capacity at Univ. of Copenhagen it is not possible to extend from fall to spring.

Housing

There is a sizeable up-front cost for the housing deposit + one month’s rent, currently from $3,000 to $6,000, that is required in May/early June or November/early December, before departure for the program, and before financial aid is disbursed. Students should plan to have a way to pay this such as a loan or credit card.
Students will apply for housing when they fill out the University of Copenhagen application, either in April or October, depending on the term of study. Students living in kollegiums will be required to pay the remaining total housing cost two weeks after the program starts.

The housing market in Copenhagen is extremely tight. You will be assigned a room in a residence hall, a rented room or an apartment, depending on your preference as well as housing availability. Within these options you may live with Danish students, UCEAP students or international students. Students do not always get their first choice of housing, so try to remain as flexible as possible. Your housing may or may not be close to where you take class. The University of Copenhagen is in an urban setting, the classrooms are spread out around the city, and you will travel 20-30 minutes by either bicycle or metro between home & class.

Some students want to wait until they arrive to find housing, maybe by living with a friend or in a hostel for a while. Since housing in Copenhagen is both scarce and expensive and the less expensive housing tends to be far from the city center, be aware that finding inexpensive housing is difficult and may take several weeks. Living outside the city center will mean spending money on traveling longer distances from home to school.

Academics

KU has one database that lists all courses offered for the academic year and is available for the upcoming academic year on May 1st. It is accessible from the Academics tab on the UCEAP program website. The course description for any course will always specify whether the course is going to be taught in Danish or English.

Students are required to take a normal load of 30 ECTS credits each semester in the Danish system. A 4-semester unit course at UCB would be equivalent to a 7.5 ECTS-credit course in Denmark; four 7.5 ECTS courses amount to 30 ECTS credits. Some courses are offered for 10 or 15 ECTS credits, depending on the work involved in the course. Students should plan to take 3 or 4 courses per semester to do the required number of ECTS credits.

Scandinavian Culture courses just for international students are not tied to a faculty and do not require applying to a particular faculty to take one or more of those courses (Danish culture, the Vikings, etc.) The Faculty of Social Science also has courses about Danish Society, such as the Danish Welfare Model, Denmark in the EU, and the Danish Economic System, that you don’t need to be admitted to the Faculty of Social Science to enroll in.

After UCEAP selection, the Univ. of Copenhagen (KU) will ask you to fill out the host university application. In deciding which faculty (department) to apply to, students choose the field of study they have substantial background in. If you apply for more than one faculty or department you will slow down the process of final admittance, because each faculty will have to scrutinize your academic record to make sure you have enough background preparation to take their courses. As an exchange student, once you are admitted to any faculty, if you want to take one or more courses in another faculty you will be able to contact the department and get admittance.
In the Science Faculty courses are taught in block periods. The semester is divided into two 8-week periods; each is called a block. The first 7 weeks of the block are for instruction and the last week is for the final. Students typically enroll in 2 courses per block. Blocks 1 & 2 are in Fall Semester and Blocks 3 & 4 are in Spring Semester.

Undergraduates can take 1st Year Masters level courses. The Danish academic system consists of three years of undergraduate study followed by 2 years of graduate study. Almost all KU faculties, including Science, offer courses in English at the Masters level and courses in Danish at the Bachelor level, although there are some exceptions. Undergraduates can take first-year Masters courses or “400” courses which are similar to upper-division courses at UC Berkeley. The recommendation is to take only one Masters course at a time, and especially if the student is taking science courses, to take only one Masters course per block.

In Denmark the final exam is often the sole determination for your grade in the course. This may seem intimidating, but if you are ever uncertain about what to study or how to prepare just approach your professor. Professors at KU are informal (first-name basis) and very accessible and will be happy to answer any of your questions. A course with 50 students is considered a large course and most have from between 15-30 students. Danish grades are evaluated by the Study Center Coordinator according to a pre-announced grading scale that you will be informed of during the orientation. The grading scale interprets the grade in the Danish system in order to give you a “fair” grade in the UC system. All psychology courses must be taken for P/NP, except for the course “Social Psychological Theory” which can be taken for a letter grade.

Fall Semester Considerations

In the Fall semester, block 2 lasts from the third week in November until the end of January. Because UCB students who need to return to the U.S. for the holiday period and the start of spring semester at UCB would miss the last 3 weeks of the course, including the finals period, it is recommended that students not take Science courses in Block 2, but rather take a semester course that would permit an early final exam. Year or Spring students don’t have worries about Science courses in the 2nd block of the semester because they can remain until the end of the course.

All other KU faculties have semester-long courses, with a few possible exceptions. It’s possible for a student to take one or two semester courses simultaneously with one or two block courses. All instruction for semester courses ends at or by the end of December, sometimes even as early as November. It is possible for a semester course to have a final in January. Students who have January finals should request an early exam from the Exam Coordinator and inform the Instructor.

When choosing courses for fall semester the student should pay close attention to the exam dates listed in the course description. It may be possible to arrange an early exam if the exam format is a final paper but it’s important to check on the course description and with the Exam
Coordinator whether the paper can be handed in electronically or if a printed copy must be handed in personally.

Research

Students can do research in lieu of taking courses. Research can be combined with course work to obtain 30 ECTS credits. To find a research group or a project you’d like to work with you can email the professor of any course you think might be related to your research interests to find out if there are any projects being conducted by Masters, Ph.D. or postdoctoral students that you could work with. The UCEAP Program Coordinator will also be available to refer you to someone in the department to see if it might be possible for you to work with a current research team. The Program Coordinator and the department will help you work out the number of units that the research will count for. Normally a paper is required at the end of the research project.

Student Life

There will be a question on the KU host university application about whether you would like to be assigned a Danish student as a mentor or buddy. If you answer ‘yes’ you will be assigned a mentor group from the faculty you’ve been admitted to. A mentor or buddy may not be available right when you arrive in Denmark for the start of the program because school starts three weeks later for regular KU students. Mentors will assist with your transition and invite you on outings during the semester with your mentor/buddy group.