

Erfahrungsbericht zum Aufenthalt im Ausland – Erasmus+ Studium

Name der Verfasser*in	
Studiengang, Fakultät, Fachsemester	Renewable Energy Systems (Process Engineering), Semester 3
E-Mail-Adresse	
Land & Gasthochschule	Dänemark, Syddansk Universitet (SDU)
Zeitraum Aufenthalt (inklusive Jahresangabe)	Wintersemester 2021/22

Vorbereitung:

The application process was not too complicated. Be aware that the application has to be submitted roughly 8 months prior to the exchange period. Master students have to deal with the issue of application immediately after their start at the HAW.

As far as I know, there are no visa, language certificates or others required. Moving from Hamburg is a no brainer as there is a railway connection which arrives after four hours direct at the train station of Odense.

If you want to finance your stay at SDU, you could consider to apply for the Danish “SU” a monthly allowance from the government to support students. It is free for Danish citizens. For internationals, Denmark offers that allowance program for working students. If you can find an employment with 15 hours / week, it is very likely that you can receive the students allowance. Double check the facts about that, but it might really be worth a thought.



Figure 1: Odense is a cute city
<https://blog.dk-ferien.de/insidertipps-reiseberichte/odense/>

Fachliche Organisation

The lectures in bio-chemical engineering fit quite good to the process engineering background of my studies in Hamburg. Especially courses with Prof. Wenzel are awesome (“Sustainable engineering” & “Climate Change”), they draw a wide picture without lacking to many details. The program at SDU gives the opportunity to invest a bit to biology related courses. Biotechnology is such an incredible promising field, taking courses can be definitely recommended! I tried my best in the lecture “advanced biotechnology” but as a newcomer to biology I came in trouble quite fast. The exam turned out to be quite easy tho. There are basic courses available as well, which would be maybe the better option.

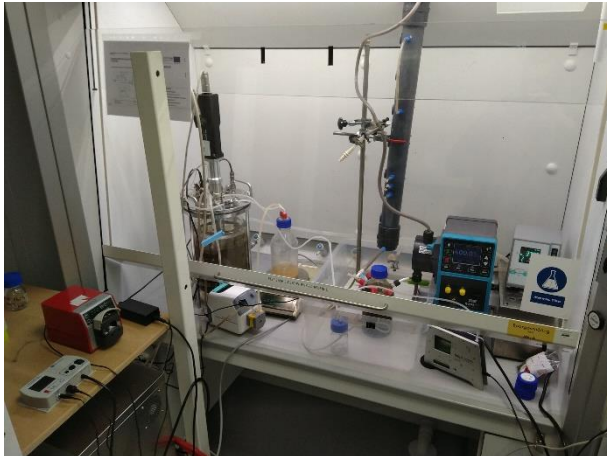


Figure 2: Fumehood of the research group

Own photograph

I would like to highlight my research activities in the group “sustainable bioprocess”. Especially as a master student this gave me the option to get use of my theoretical studies. Either as a small project as a preparation for the master thesis as I did (15 CP-> recognised as “Projectwork” at HAW), or the master thesis itself, this is definitely a recommendation. The SDU offers these research cooperation since the year 2021, you will find more details during the application process.

The library offers a large number of available working places and is opened 24

hours at 7 days of the week. The student service is advanced, accessing information through their digital services is easy going. There are group working rooms available for collaborative work – which is a very pronounced way to carry out assignments.

Denmark emphasises oral examination and long time exams. Many of my fellow students had to write a report in 48 hours, all equipment allowed. This is definitely a new experience.

Unterkunft

The accommodation office of the SDU offers relatively cheap apartments for exchange students. Be aware of the application deadlines, but there is a lot room for individual requirements if there is a need. Odense is not too big, so that nearly everything is accessible by bicycle (by the way, the biking infrastructure is awesome). The area of “Birkeparken” does not have the best reputation, but it is for sure an experience. I personally paid 360€ for a room (13m²) in a shared flat which seems to be a cheaper deal. Prices go up to roughly 500€.

Alltag und Freizeit

There is a number of sport clubs and facilities at the university, most of the clubs have international students in mind. Practice is often carried out bilingual. I participated in volleyball, ultimate frisbee and hockey courses. There are a couple of beach volleyball courts around the city which are worth a visit. If you are into disc golf, there is a court not far from the city center. Climbing / ice skating -> there is plenty of stuff to do.

Odense coffee culture is great, often they offer you to borrow board games or even “outdoor games” to play in their rooms. Sauna turned out to be one of my favorite activities in Odense. There is a public (free entrance) swimming pool in the city center with a large sauna facility and a considerably cold pool. Going to the sauna just gives a new option for gathering next to the “hygge drinking” which can become quite wasted.

The health care is provided by the Danish health authority. Make sure to show up at the specific dates for registration. You will be handed over a “yellow card” which makes life a lot easier. There is no need to sign another private insurance for that time.

Personal resumé:

Erasmus is definitely worth it! You will definitely profit from your experience life long. The city is maybe not the deal breaker, it is more the type of people you spent time with. The events from the ESN (Erasmus student network) made this process way more convenient! The university offers funding for a number of student projects – friends of me “founded” a discussions group and received money for their expenses. Same counts for new years parties and so on. Do not hesitate to take that opportunity!

- My academical expectations have been overshoot, although I might think that the level of difficulty is a bit lower
- Private life, the oversupply of possible friendships during an Erasmus experience is crazy (and can be exhausting)

Hints:

- Joining a research group is definitely worth it
- There is a Danish course offered by a local language school, cooperation with SDU possible
- Take your own bike with you -> it is cheaper then renting and not to complicated from Hamburg
- Join the ESN events to find people
- Rent a Sommer house and enjoy life!
- Apply for the buddy programm!



Figure 3: Volleyball court next to the university