

Travel Report - Copenhagen University - Fall 2016

I studied abroad at the University of Copenhagen (“København Universitet” or “KU”) during the Fall Term of my 3L year at UC Hastings. I had an incredible experience, both socially and academically, and would recommend this program to anyone considering it. As a preface, however, I must note that my experience was slightly different from most others who have gone through this program in the past. For a number of reasons, I was a late addition to the Fall 2016 Study Abroad program in Copenhagen, and I did not stay in the typical dormitories reserved for other exchange students.

Copenhagen

I could argue for hours that Copenhagen is the best city on the planet (in the summer). I am biased, however, because my mother is Danish, and I grew up visiting Copenhagen every few years. But even as I grow older, I continue to marvel at this city. First of all, it's beautiful. Look up “Nyhavn” and you'll have a general idea of how the entire city looks and feels. But beyond appearance, the city is beautiful in how flawlessly it works. Denmark is often cited as the “Happiest Country on Earth,” and a lot of that comes from the intricate systems it has in place. Extensive infrastructure improvements to Copenhagen have created a city where everyone bikes everywhere throughout the year. It could be snowing outside but you'll still see mothers and fathers biking their children to school in “Christiania Bikes,” a kind of bike-carriage. The health system is nationalized and efficient. Education is free from kindergarten through graduate school. The state mandates that both mothers *and fathers* are given extensive maternity and paternity leave when they have children. And the people are lovely. The Danes are welcoming, helpful, and 100% fluent in English. In the 9 times I've visited Denmark, I have yet to meet a Dane over the age of 10 that doesn't speak English.

I would highly recommend studying at KU in the fall term, as you will arrive at the end of the summer months when the city is truly alive. The sun rises at 4 a.m. and sets around 11 p.m., and the Danes take full advantage of this light. They leave work at 4 p.m. and head for the harbor/beach on warm days, staying as long as possible because the opposite is true of the winter. In January, the sun rises

around 8:30 a.m. and sets around 3 p.m., and even then, the day is filled with a sort of half-light. The Danes themselves have reacted to this by cultivating a welcoming interior lifestyle for the cold months. Do a Google Image search for “Hygge,” a Danish concept that roughly translates into “coziness,” and you might understand what I mean. This interior, winter lifestyle is enjoyable as well, but it means that exchange students will have little contact with Danish culture outside of restaurants and bars.

Academics

KU requires that students take no more than 35 ECTS (roughly equivalent to 3 courses). The first course I registered for was an intensive two-day Introduction to European Law course roughly explaining how EU law and national laws interact. The course was presented as a helpful introduction to support doctrine learned in other semester-long courses. I think this course would be incredibly helpful for students who have no background in EU law, but anyone who has taken Comparative Law at UC Hastings would be more than prepared already. However, almost every exchange student takes this course, so it acts also as a social introduction to the study abroad program.

I also registered for the following courses: (1) The Law of Private Equity (2) International Commercial Arbitration (3) RoboLaw. Each of these three courses met for two-hour sessions twice each week (usually Monday through Thursday). The Private Equity course covered the standard contracts, provisions, and rights negotiated in private equity and venture capital transactions. I really enjoyed this course for the practical perspective taken by the professors, both of whom practice in the area on a daily basis. This is the exact area of law that I will be entering after graduation from UC Hastings, but even someone aiming for litigation would enjoy this class due to the quality of the professors. My RoboLaw course covered policy considerations that legislatures around the world will need to consider more and more as artificial intelligence (such as driverless cars) enters the marketplace. International Arbitration covered international treaties and cases governing the entry, proceedings, and enforceability of arbitration agreements. Both of these classes were enjoyable insofar as the professors taught them in an engaging and interesting manner.

Evaluation and grading at KU was vastly different from the standard legal examination at UC Hastings and other American law schools. For one of these courses (RoboLaw), I wrote an

approximately 5,000 word policy paper discussing the legal consequences of a future where the vast majority of the world's workforce is displaced by computer automation. For my other two courses (and most others), my examination was a 15-minute in-person oral exam. For these exams, you are scheduled to show up at the classroom at a certain time, and you sit down one-on-one with the professor and discuss a course a randomly chosen topic with the professor. Essentially, I would start discussing the subject matter, and the professor would jump in to ask questions. I personally found this process enjoyable, though many other students find it more stressful than the typical examination process.

Living Arrangements and Social Life

Almost all the exchange students live in KU housing in the center of Copenhagen. The facilities are beautiful and close to museums, shopping, and other popular bars and restaurants in central Copenhagen. Due to the unique circumstances of my late application, I did not live in KU housing. Instead, I found a private 1-Bedroom apartment in the Nørrebro neighborhood, a diverse, popular neighborhood just north of the city center.

I really enjoyed where I lived because I got to step outside of the bubble of central Copenhagen. Most Danes do not live in the center, which is primarily a mix of expats and tourists. As a result, I felt more immersed in Danish culture as it exists for locals rather than tourists. When I studied abroad as an undergraduate, I made the mistake of making friends only with the other exchange students. As a result, I felt as though I didn't experience all that the foreign culture had to offer. I made an extra effort to avoid that trap this time, and KU made it easy to do that by sponsoring events between the exchange students and the rest of the full-time "Jura" (Law) students at the university.

GLOBAL PROGRAMS - TRAVEL REPORT

TO: UC HASTINGS, GLOBAL PROGRAMS
FROM: [REDACTED]
SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY OF COPENHAGEN, FALL 2015
DATE: MARCH 21, 2016
CC:

I. General Information on the City of Copenhagen

Copenhagen's citizens are consistently identified by a variety of surveys conducted 'globally' as being the "happiest" of any major city, worldwide. If you have ever spent a winter in Northern Europe you might wonder if the respondents submitted their answers after downing a few cocktails, to which I would reply, "maybe!" While the typical University of Copenhagen (actually, Copenhagen University, or Københavns Universitet in Danish), or Danish person generally, tends to be more reserved in public towards strangers than your typical Californian, they come alive during the evenings when socializing with friends! The bar/pub life is vibrant throughout the city, but especially so in the Old City Center, where all of KU's law buildings are located. Pubs close very late, some clubs close at 6 a.m., and public drinking is permitted, so be prepared to encounter visibly intoxicated and rowdy young people during the wee hours of most nights; like I said, the night life is lively in Copenhagen. Don't fret, these roving bands of jolly students are usually focused on having fun with their groups, I never had any problems while out.

That said, the Danes are usually a bit stand-offish if you approach them randomly while they're in a group of friends, which can usually be dealt with by being introduced by someone familiar to the group. Lesson? Make friends with some Danes! This may be a bit hard to do in class since the classes offered in English are usually lacking in Danish students. More on how to make more Danish friends in the housing section.

Public transportation in the city is amazing (!) but most students purchase a cheap second-hand bike to take advantage of the equally impressive network of bike lanes and well-developed respect for bicyclists' right of way. Keep in mind that the weather begins to turn around mid-November, with windy conditions and rain making bike riding difficult, if not impossible unless you don't mind arriving at your destination drenched and exhausted. If you do decide to use public transit, considering getting a 'Rejsekort' (Travel Card), which will cut your costs by 50%, or if you anticipate using public transit regularly consider getting a fixed travel plan, which can save you a substantial amount per month.

Cell phone service is ridiculously cheap in Copenhagen, even when making calls home. If you have a smartphone get it unlocked by your carrier BEFORE you arrive in Denmark. This will allow you to swap in a Danish SIM card and take advantage of the savings. I paid approximately \$15 US for 15 hours of talk time and 10 GB of data (pre-paid service, not contract); the talk time included calls to the US and a variety of other countries both in and out of Europe. This way you can call the aforementioned Danish friends while in-country and back home from the same phone, without having to deal with the substantial expense and limited utility (the potentially new Danish friends you meet might not go to the trouble of learning how to dial your American number) of an international plan from your current provider.

II. Housing

The Housing Foundation handles housing for KU, but it is no longer an official department of KU, but a non-profit foundation, as the name implies. Be prepared for some frustration when dealing with this office as they are continually overwhelmed by the large number of incoming students they must place with the insufficient stock of affordable housing available to them. The University itself does not own housing, on-campus or otherwise, as Hastings does. Instead, the

Foundation contracts with private building owners for guaranteed access, year-round. This means that you may be forced to sign a contract, and assume responsibility, for a rental term beyond your stated needs, such as mid-July through the end of January; this is non-negotiable, but not all apartments have the same terms.

On the topic of choice, try to select a building, or Kollegium, that is as close to the old City Center as possible as this is where you will be taking your law classes, as well as where the ‘action’ is! If you decide to stay further out and will take public transit to class, Nørreport Station and Kongens Nyport are the closest Metro stations to the old City Center, so you might want to select a building that is close to either the M1 (best) or M2 lines. I would also advise against selecting an ‘Internationals only’ building as I did, since you will essentially cut off the best opportunities to make Danish friends; you won’t see many Danes in class unless you take classes in Danish. One of the best places to stay is Tietgen Kollegium, good mix of international and Danish students, but it is highly sought and there are only a limited number of spaces so this one is hard to get. Additionally, I heard Collegium Juris, the law school’s unofficial housing, can be filled with large ‘personalities.’ Just one more thing to consider.

III. Academics

If you find yourself wondering if the jet-lag visibly aged you by a couple of years while looking around the room during orientation, your eyes are not necessarily deceiving you. You will be surrounded by undergrads. In Europe, where most of your fellow exchange students will be from, law can be studied at the undergraduate level, so be prepared to take some classes with a few undergrads that are permitted to take masters level courses.

Most classes I took selected what appeared to be a more traditional text-book for the course, not the casebooks we are used to in American law school. The reading can therefore be ‘lighter’

than what you are used to at Hastings. That said, I had one professor that assigned an American casebook that I could have purchased on the cheap (it was slightly dated) here, but which cost me an arm and a leg on shipping and which took forever (3-4 weeks) to arrive since it was shipped from PA. Lesson: try to get the list of books used by the course to see if an American casebook will be assigned before you cross the pond.

Generally, there was a lack of Socratic method but an increase in in-class assignments, such as group work with a presentation component, or individual short papers assigned throughout the semester. Participation was not mandatory, but well received from the professors. Additionally, they appreciated the addition of my common law perspective to the conversations, since American jurisprudence can often diverge from that of Civil Law European nations rather sharply.

On exams, be prepared for the possibility of having to sit for an oral exam, something I never experienced before attending KU. Also, note the end date of your selected courses, since KU not only has semesters, but also 'tracks' within each semester, A and B. Without realizing it, all of the courses I enrolled in took place during track A, leaving me overly burdened the first couple of months of the semester. Luckily for me, the reduced reading-load mentioned above saved me, but those first months were intense. The flip side was that I had one especially intense course end towards the end of October, leaving me with more than ample time to enjoy Copenhagen! And prepare for exams, of course.

Knowing when the final exam takes place is another consideration. Usually, the final exam schedule isn't published until AFTER classes begin, usually sometime mid-semester! This can be nerve-racking, especially if you want to make post-final travel plans. Professors have no control over final exam dates, it is all up to the administration so don't waste your time trying to get

answers from your professors; they have no clue themselves. Copenhagen is truly amazing; you will undoubtedly fall in love. Have a marvelous time, it will be hard not to!

Copenhagen Study Abroad Summary – Fall 2013

I had an amazing semester studying at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark. I took three classes while studying there: European Court of Human Rights (ECHR), Gender and Legal Cultures, and Mediation. What I most enjoyed about classes was the diversity of the student body. There were so many other study abroad students! It was great to meet and interact with other students from all over the world. It was interesting to hear so many diverse perspectives during class discussions.

ECHR was the only class I took that was structured similarly to our classes here at Hastings. Our readings came from a textbook containing case law, which the professor would lecture on. My Gender and Legal Cultures class felt more like a sociology class than a law class. I realize that might not be for everyone, but I really enjoyed it. Each week a different group of students would lead a discussion inspired by the readings on various topics related to gender and the law (for example: same sex marriage, women and Islam, etc.) Our Mediation class was a little strange because the professors would emphasize the need to learn mediation through practice, yet we didn't do any role plays until a two-day training seminar at the end of the semester. All of my teachers would often pose questions to the class, but cold calling was basically nonexistent.

I never felt overwhelmed or stressed by the amount of work assigned during the semester. I think the school actually has a rule that teachers cannot assign more than 500 pages of reading per semester in their courses. There is a greater emphasis on group work there. Teachers will try to incorporate that in their classes in different ways. Two of my classes had an ungraded midterm assignment that was mandatory to complete in order to take the final.

Grades are usually based on one final. Most of my friends had oral exams, but I had two take-home exams and one paper.

As far as housing, another Hastings student and I tried our luck on craigslist and some Danish housing websites before finally getting lucky on Airbnb. I would recommend checking that out. It can be hard finding something available for so many months, but it is possible. We ended up in a beautiful two-bedroom apartment in Østerbro. It's a very clean and family-oriented neighborhood; very safe and quiet in the evenings. It was about a 15-20 minute bike ride from there to school, and I sometimes wished that we lived closer to downtown. When looking for a neighborhood to live in, I would recommend checking out Nørrebro or Vesterbro. Both areas are really young and fun, with lots of good bars and restaurants.

What I did not anticipate was how challenging trying to settle in our first few days, because you pretty much can't do anything (get a Danish phone number, bank account, join a gym, etc.) without a CPR number- which is a Danish ID number. Luckily the international office arranged a day where we could take care of that at school. That made it really convenient.

One of my favorite things about Copenhagen was the bike culture! Getting a bike is essential while living there. Biking is much more convenient and cost-effective than taking public transportation (although it's worth mentioning that public transportation there is very clean and prompt- a welcome change from Muni). I was able to buy a second-hand bike at a local bicycle store and sell it back to the same store when I left.

Copenhagen is a beautiful city that is very manageable to maneuver, especially after living in San Francisco. The people are friendly, though not always especially warm. It takes a while to get close to the Danes. I will note that it is an *extremely* expensive city. It actually

makes San Francisco look reasonable. The cost of living in Copenhagen can potentially be crippling to maintaining an active social life. But an easy way to save money and stay social is to just entertain at home. The Danes seem big on that too, particularly during the colder winter months. My roommate and I would cook almost every meal at home and generally only went out to eat once a week. Netto is a great discount grocery store that we quickly became regulars at.

I am so grateful that I had the opportunity to travel a lot while studying in Copenhagen. Traveling to other places in Europe is easy and cheap. I was able to arrange my schedule so that I had four-day weekends, which allowed for weekend travel. And there was a weeklong break in October that was perfect for a longer trip visiting multiple cities.

Overall, studying in Copenhagen was an amazing experience and I would definitely do it again!

Study Abroad Experience - University of Copenhagen

My study abroad experience at the University of Copenhagen was a great one and I would definitely recommend it to anyone. I was able to travel frequently and study international commercial law in one of the coolest cities in Europe (and I have been to over 20).

The difficulties I ran into with the study abroad experience were all logistical. Denmark makes it difficult to get a Visa and what they call a CPR number (which is equivalent to our social security number). You must apply for your visa in advanced and get biometrics done in Sacramento. This is time consuming and very costly. When you arrive in Denmark, make sure you get your CPR number immediately because you basically cannot do anything without it. This made it difficult as I was without phone/credit card/gym for at least a few weeks because I did not have the number yet. Thus, my first weeks in Denmark were spent figuring out the logistical aspects of living abroad. I recommend signing up for a student mentor as they help pick you up from the airport, take you to where you will live, show you the city and help you get your CPR number.

After this, I was able to settle in and learn the city. I recommend getting a bike ASAP! It is the perfect city to bike in and everyone does it. It also enables you to live anywhere in the city and still get to class easily. The public transportation there is good depending on where you live. There is a train called the S-tog that is clean and efficient and a decent bus system. The metro only has 2 lines but goes from the airport to the city center in about 20 minutes, which is convenient.

I also really loved the location of Denmark in relation to the rest of Europe. I was able to travel frequently because it was easy to access other countries. I also recommend traveling around Denmark and Scandinavia, as they are very beautiful.

One thing I was not aware of prior to going to Copenhagen is how expensive it is! For example, a McDonalds happy meal is around \$15, a beer is around \$13, a hamburger at a restaurant is around \$22. Also, the cost of housing is comparable to San Francisco so be prepared to pay a hefty price for apartment living. Some people opt to live in student housing. I did not live in it myself but heard through friends that it can either be a great or awful experience depending on which dorm you get.

Classes are slightly easier in comparison to the law classes at Hastings; however, be warned that their grading scale is obscure and is much more difficult than the US. All classes are taught in English. You may get some classes with all international students and some with a mix of international and Danish students. Both the Danish students and professors have excellent English and it is very easy to communicate with them.

Overall, the Danes are extremely nice but can be very introverted upon meeting outsiders. However, once they get to know and trust you, they open up and are very fun to be around. In making your decision to study in Copenhagen, keep in mind how expensive it is and how cold it can get but that it is a beautiful and fun city with a very highly rated school.

The University of Copenhagen Study Abroad Experience

Studying at the University of Copenhagen differed in many ways from U.C. Hastings. Firstly, although most of the courses are taught as lectures the final exams are either oral or written. The oral exam consists of studying the majority of the course material and then you are asked questions by a team of evaluators. The oral exams usually last about forty minutes. I did not take any courses with an oral exam, however I heard about them from other students. My exams were all written. Two of the written exams were essays. One of the essays I worked in a group with two other students and we were allowed to choose our own topic. We were required to use some of the course assigned reading in our final essay. Working as a team on an essay was a new experience that I enjoyed. I thought that collaborating with other students helped motivate me to make sure I consistently worked on the assignment and did not procrastinate on it. Also I felt this was more realistic to practicing as an attorney. Often several members of a team will work on a case together. Each of you will do different parts. This is how we approached the essay. The professor was very relaxed about citation style which was a nice departure from American essay writing. We had a general theme, but each of us chose a section to work on within this theme. The grading was also fair because we were graded on the portion of the essay that we wrote.

There were some logistical challenges relating to housing in Copenhagen. The University of Copenhagen staff expected me to know where my assigned housing was located and how to get there. Being from the United States I expected them to be able to easily guide me to where I needed to go. After being a bit insistent, they eventually helped me. Also they have very short

hours for most administrative positions. Planning ahead is crucial when attending the University of Copenhagen.

Separate from the actual educational experience, living in Copenhagen was very inspiring. The most common mode of transportation is a bicycle. I bought a used bicycle for around \$200 and rarely used the public transit. Even when the weather got colder, I would bundle up and ride my bicycle everywhere. Many other international students did the same and we formed a great community. I have close friends from the United Kingdom, Australia, Germany, France, Spain, Austria, and some other European nations. I learned so much from the many small get-togethers and parties we had. Often we would have potlucks where each of us would make a dish that was common in our country. The most unusual thing I took away from spending so much time with people from other countries is how remarkably similar we are. Most students deal with the stress of completing university work and the pressure of finding a job that is both financially and emotionally appealing. Also most people from western nations watched the same television shows and listened to the same music. Perhaps because all of us were outside our national homes, we easily formed bonds and friendships. It also gave me a fresh perspective on world politics. No longer were these other countries faceless entities. Germany, for me, meant Sophie's family. I think living in a nation as large as the United States we forget that when we do something that affects the world community, we are affecting people very similar to ourselves; people with families, jobs, and friends.

Another amazing experience I had was visiting St. Petersburg, Russia with a European student group called Erasmus. We hear many things about Russia and how it is socially behind etc. When we visited what I experienced were friendly people in restaurants and various retail stores. The older generation (40s-50s) seemed not unfriendly, but cautious. It seemed they were

the product of a regime that was oppressive. Once you began speaking to people and they got to know you a bit, they were super friendly and wanted to tell you all about Russian culture. Russia has their own celebrities and history separate from the Euro-American world. However they also incorporate many cultural fixtures from the western world too. Again my take away was that no matter where you go in the world, people want the same basic things. They want to live freely and have a safe place to call home where they can enjoy spending time with their family and friends. I think anyone who is able should spend an extended period of time living outside the United States to gain perspective on what a global economy really means.

Study Abroad Reflection University of Copenhagen

Studying in Copenhagen was an incredible adventure giving me the opportunity to live in another country and to experience a culture that could be consider polar opposite from the United States' culture. When I first arrived in Copenhagen, my expectation of welcoming Danes was shattered. Not to say that Danes are rude but Denmark does not initially embody the friendliness and openness of major cities in the United States. Though there was a wall in the beginning, when I began to understand Danish cultural norms, it was smashed down. Living in the Danish community every day certainly provided a helping hand when it came to my classes at the University of Copenhagen.

At the University, I took three classes-- Introduction to Danish Law, European Court of Human Rights and Crime and Justice. I enjoyed all of my classes but my Introduction to Danish Law was definitely my favorite because it gave me the opportunity to be taught by Danish professors and to compare the Danish culture, mentality and law to those of the United States. We explored many different types of Danish Law like criminal, environmental, contract, property and administrative law to name a few. An amazing amount of Danish laws differed in laws in the United States. For example, Denmark's focus and determination on making sure its citizens have a comfortable and happy life are so apparent in its social welfare laws. Parents receive a total of 52 weeks off from work after they have a child and once their child turns one, the government guarantees them childcare. Additionally, every person has access to free medical care. A couple days after I arrived, even I was given a doctor to go to if I needed

anything. This glimpse into Danish law and reasons behind the laws that they have was absolutely fascinating. Though I could have learned the substance of the class in any classroom, there was nothing like experiences it first hand on a day-to-day basis.

My second class, European Court of Human Rights was the class that was most similar in structure to classes at Hastings. The professor would assign a lot of reading and he would attempt to get through all the assigned material. Though the topics in the class were very interesting and gave European Union perspective and approach on specific issues and rights, I was disappointed that that sort of structure had followed me to another continent. Another disappointment about this class was that it was taught by an American. I felt that he was more focused on demonstrating that he, himself, knew the material and hiding the ball from the students that he skipped discussing a lot of important topics.

My third class was Crime and Justice. Though more of a sociological theory based class, it really centered on crime in the Denmark versus crime in other countries, specifically the United States. Since I want to work in criminal law, this class interested me a lot. The highlight of this class was going on a tour of a closed prison, which would be Denmark's equivalent to San Quentin. There is not one characteristic of the prison that is similar or the same as San Quentin or a prison like it. For example, in Danish prisons the prisoners wear their own clothing and bring their own furniture into their cell, all of the cells have cable TV, the prisoners make their own food everyday and they get to leave the prison during the day to go to work or school. The American prison system does not have any of these qualities. In fact, prisoners experience extremely limited freedom in prison.

Overall, studying abroad was one of the most fulfilling experiences I have had at Hastings. Being able to experience the legal system of Denmark and the daily life of another culture has made me think that I could practice criminal law internally.

Study Abroad Program Summary

My study abroad experience at the University of Copenhagen (KU) was extraordinarily memorable. Though the weather deteriorated quickly toward the end of the semester (happily, I suppose, for my studying!), Copenhagen is a city that will always have my heart.

The thought of mounting a bicycle on the busy streets and crazy hills of San Francisco strikes fear into my heart. The lack of bike lanes is terrifying. Copenhagen, however, does it right. Everyone rides to and from their destination, picking up their groceries and putting them in their bike baskets along the way. It is such a simple difference but one that truly made an impression upon me. KU is right in the center of this "hygge" (Danish for "cozy") town. Every morning I would start my day by riding my bike down Tagensvej (Copenhagen's Van Ness Avenue). On my ride I would pass two lakes and one park. I would cross three bridges and two lakes. I would smell countless bakeries churning out the traditional Danish pastry (of which there are countless varieties and for which there are countless names, but which we Americans hopelessly lump together as "Danish"). I miss these bike rides already; although the classes I took at KU were not so different than those I've taken at Hastings, my methods of transportation to and from certainly were.

At KU, I was enrolled in four classes: European Union Institutions; European Court of Human Rights; International Terrorism and Security Law; and Law and Literature. This wide array of classes was the perfect mix of "survey-type" structural classes, specialist courses, and "left-brain" exercise. While my EU

Institutions and EU Court of Human Rights courses gave me a European's perspective on the EU and the ECHR, my Terrorism course allowed me to dive deeply into a topic that is extremely close to my heart (about which I wrote my journal note!) And Law and Literature, of course, was the "left-brain" exercise; certainly a course that would never be offered at Hastings!

All the courses culminated in an oral exam. Though I had never taken an oral exam before, I have to say it was a refreshing experience. Rather than the mad horserace type of issue-spotting exam we became familiar with during our 1L year, this method tested you more thoroughly on a smaller portion of the class. Going into the exam, we did not know what topic area our exam would focus on; we picked a random number with an associated question when we entered the exam room. To succeed on these exams, you not only have to know a little bit about everything; you actually had to know a lot about everything! I thought it was an ingenious way to examine students, and I would love to see it employed more in the States. I think it more accurately matches the way lawyers perform in the workplace, being specialists rather than generalists.

Of course, this semester was not all work and no play. I was in Europe, land of Easyjet and Ryanair, after all! Some of the more memorable trips I took with a fellow Hastings student, Haley Revak, included St. Petersburg, Russia (by way of Helsinki, Finland); Marrakesh, Morocco; and Kapadokya, Turkey. My absolute favorite trip was one I too with a friend from college. Over fall break, we went to Greece and got stranded on Santorini for *seven days* while every single form of transportation in Greece went on strike. That is one story I will *never* forget!

Student at Københavns Universitet/University of Copenhagen in Denmark
Fall 2011

My exchange experience at the University of Copenhagen has been nothing short of spectacular.

First off, the city of Copenhagen is an absolute delight—it is a privilege to be able to live in such a beautiful, historic, cozy, friendly, interesting, and progressive city. I fall in love with it more every day. Everything you have heard about the high quality of life enjoyed in the Nordic countries is true. There are ancient castles and world-class museums at every turn, picturesque cobbled streets, a superbly efficient transit system, and more culture than you know what to do with. The joy of cruising around the city on my bike, taking it all in, will forever be a wonderful memento of my experience abroad. The only downside is the fact that all this doesn't come cheap. Yes, Copenhagen is an expensive city (a single ride on transit is DKK24, over \$4), so you should be sure to save every penny so that you are able to enjoy all the opportunities that come your way. However, there are ways to save: shop at Lidl or the ubiquitous Netto grocery stores, hit up Tiger (another incredible Swedish invention, a cross between Ikea and the dollar store) for various sundries, get a bike, etc. But it's all worth it.

The KU law campus is located in the absolute center of the city, which is wonderful. Classes are held in historic buildings that you would pay to tour back in the States. And the classes themselves are really interesting. I enjoyed the chance to try subjects I would never have been exposed to back home (EU law, development, human rights, Danish law, etc), and found they really piqued my interest. The final exams are generally oral which is unsettling to some, but it turns out to be more than manageable (even after weeks of being mentally checked out due to traveling, new friends, cultural experiences, etc). One of the most interesting things about the exams is that they are sat in on by an external evaluator (who ultimately determines the grade), but since KU is so prestigious, these censors are retired justices and legal scholars—kind of like having Sandra Day O'Connor review your Con Law exam and determine the mark.

One of the highlights of it all for me has been the travel. I love to travel, and I have appreciated exploring Scandinavia (a bit off the beaten path since most visitors to Europe don't make it up here). The indescribable beauty, history, and uniqueness of getting to know from Iceland all the way over to St. Petersburg has been a real privilege. Plus Copenhagen is well connected to Germany and central/eastern Europe, so there are lots of opportunities to head south. Norwegian has dirt-cheap prices to the Nordic countries, and EasyJet goes everywhere else, so there is really no limit to where you go other than your own lack of funds/organization. For me this was a priority, so I managed to cross Morocco, Turkey, and even the UAE/Oman off my list.

Everyone in the law program is incredibly friendly and eager to make new connections, and you won't lack for social opportunities. But KU is also a large, well-known university so you will meet people from many other fields. There are students from all over (heavily drawn from Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and Germany, although I have friends from

Lichtenstein and Singapore), so the chance for cultural exchange is boundless. One of my favorite pastimes here is lingering dinners with students from all over the world, comparing backgrounds and cultures and policies. It's really enlightening, and you can't help but feel like a citizen of the world after being exposed to so much more of it.

The university administration is quite helpful in coordinating your registration, exams, and housing (a word to the wise: apply for housing and take whatever they give you—its more competitive and expensive to find an apartment in this city than you can imagine!). They'll even set you up with a Danish Mentor to help you get settled and integrated into the society. Plus you can reap the rewards of the civilized Danish Welfare State and get a CPR (basically Social Security number) and full health insurance (including your own doctor!) with ease.

Overall, my time in Copenhagen has truly enriched my life academically, socially, and culturally, and is absolutely a highlight of my law school career. It's a rare opportunity to be able to study abroad in law school; most people who hear this back home respond, "You can go abroad in law school?" Well yes, you can. And it may turn out to be the most valuable contribution you make to both your career and yourself. I have loved my time in Copenhagen and am sorry to see it come to an end. But I know that it's effects will be lasting since I have made some life-long friends, altered the direction of my career, and crystallized my personal values and priorities. I'm sure you can have an equally valuable experience at another program, but you won't have the chance to experience wonderful Copenhagen! :)

I am happy to answer any questions about the University of Copenhagen, Denmark, or studying abroad in general.

Post Travel Report – University of Copenhagen

I am a third-year student, and I studied at the University of Copenhagen, Denmark during the Fall of 2006. My experience in Copenhagen was nothing short of remarkable, and while Copenhagen may not be the most sought after destination, Denmark has much to offer.

More practical information: Copenhagen is expensive but don't let that deter you. During my second week there I decided I wanted a job to defray some of the costs. I bartended at a small Irish pub close to my apartment. Not only did it provide income, but I made some great friends and met many locals who had many questions about San Francisco, California, and the United States (usually relating to politics).

Also, there is no need to purchase travel health insurance, since Denmark has socialized medicine. Once you arrive in Copenhagen, be sure to pick up your student identification card. When you do, you will receive information about registering yourself. You will receive a CPR number, and a doctor near your address will be assigned to you. Do not wait to do this, because it takes a couple of weeks to receive your card.

Housing in Copenhagen can be difficult. Be sure to check your University of Copenhagen e-mail account regularly, because that is where your housing offer is sent, and you have a very limited time to accept it. I lived in Osterbro, which is a nice neighborhood within an easy bus or S-tog ride to classes and the center of town. My rent was 3,000 DKK (the equivalent of \$500), and it was worth it. Be sure to determine what your maximum rent really is when filling out the application for housing.

Lastly, in order to have your transcript sent to U.C. Hastings, you have to complete two evaluation forms. You will receive an e-mail in your University of Copenhagen account towards the end of your stay.

University of Copenhagen, Denmark – Fall 2006

I traveled to Copenhagen, Denmark in Fall 2006. All in all, I had a good time but the program felt too short (I'm sure this would be the same for any program I went on). It was long enough to begin to make good friends but then only to leave one or two months after forming these friendships. Denmark is interesting – the Danes have a reputation for being a bit cold and reclusive and, as a result, most of the friends I made were other international students studying law – some grad students but many undergrads as well (in Europe, students can study law as undergraduates). I also went to Denmark early to take a three week intensive language course in Danish which was good for the fact that I made some initial friendships with other international students outside of the faculty of law – and these were some of the friends I became the closest too. The Danish language is extremely difficult and learning it is almost pointless because everyone in Denmark speaks great English – you really don't need to know much, if any, Danish to get by for 5 months. Some thoughts:

- Travel and visas: you need a visa to study in Denmark. It is recommended that you apply for a visa at least three months in advance. Despite this, my visa application took less than a week – far less than expected. All of my other fellow Hastings students also experienced the same – they all got their visa's very promptly. As for travel from Copenhagen, Copenhagen is not a hub so traveling around Europe is not as cheap as it could have been had I, say, studied in London or Berlin.
- Financial details: Denmark is not on the Euro – it's on the Danish Kroner with an exchange rate of 6 Kroner to 1 dollar. Denmark is expensive but doable. Rents tend to be cheaper, but stuff like beer and food can be astronomical.
- Accommodation and living: My rent was cheap, but a bit outside of the city – in Norrebro. I had my own bedroom but lived with this kind of crazy 40+ yo landlady who was not fun. It was definitely not ideal and a very frustrating experience. When I complained about the heater not working, she told me I should just move out. When I asked her to let me stay until the 18th of the December 3 months before moving out, she said it was fine. One week before I was to move out, she informed me that I had to leave on the 15th. She also threatened to keep all of the security deposit if there was anything wrong with the room's condition – after she had purchased most of the furniture in my room second-hand, so most of the stuff was not in perfect condition to begin with. A bad living situation is the risk you take when you request privately rented accommodation through the International Office at the school.
- Academic details: Classes are easier than Hastings but not easy. Most exams are oral, not written.
- What I wish I knew before I left: that learning Danish is not really that important and extremely difficult, that traveling was not going to be super cheap.
- Photos: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/16913776@N00/>

