



About Denmark

Denmark is a small and lovely country with one of the oldest kingdoms in the World. There are several monuments and castles all around Denmark and many large international companies are also from Denmark including Lego and Maersk. Denmark is a very flat country with only one small mountain. The Danish weather is mild, temperatures vary from approx. -5 to +21 Celsius degrees throughout the year. Denmark is a safe country and people are very trusting of each other. Denmark is known for their good public transport system but also the many bikes that the Danes often ride to school and work.

Basic Country Information

- Population: 5,7 million
- Capital: Copenhagen
- Language: Danish

Why choose Denmark?

Denmark is a great country to experience firsthand as an exchange student, we have a rich culture with many sights to experience and the chance to learn a completely new language. Not to forget the chance to eat a lot of great food and pastries. Exchange students in Denmark will have a chance to make friends for life, be a part of a Danish family and experience firsthand how Danes go about their everyday life. Students in Denmark are often very independent and active with many social activities outside of school.

About the Language

In Denmark, we have many dialects. This is usually not something that affects the ability to learn Danish. However, Danish is a hard language to learn. We encourage students to take online Danish lessons, alongside talking Danish with their friends and host family. There are several language apps that we recommend the students to use prior to arrival.

National Traits

Danes are big on bikes! Danes tend to bike everywhere and find this more efficient than anything else, even though they have a very good public transport system. You will often find a calmness and quietness about Denmark, people enjoy the

silence and nature, and often spend a lot time outdoors, even when it is cold. People are open and straight forward, this means that if you are asked a question you should expect a honest answer. Danes love tradition and use every opportunity they get to celebrate. Whether it is Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries or Easter. Danes enjoy "hygge" a non- translatable word which is a cozy feeling or setting.

Age and other eligibility requirements

- For august arrival, students need to turn at least 16 the calendar year of arrival, if they turn 19 in the calendar year of arrival they are to old.
- For January arrival, students need to turn at least 17 the calendar year of arrival, if they turn 20 in the calendar year of arrival they are to old.

Student who wish to attend the program must have a strong academic background with at least a level C or higher. All students must also be at least on an intermediate level of English with a SLEP-test score of minimum 50 or an ELTiS score of minimum 215 to be accepted on the program. Student must be up for the challenge by being motivated, open-minded and ready to take part in the activities with their host families.

Program start and end dates

- Academic year: Mid-August till end of May
- Semester: Mid-August till before Christmas or Start January till end of May
- Short term program available on request

Application deadline

- August start due April 1st
- January start due October 1st

Application Procedure

Online application system via Zapp including personal letter from student and parents, health report, teacher recommendation, photo album, interview report, signed Explorius rules.

Visa situation

Non-EU students must personally apply for a visa prior to arrival. ISSO will provide a guide and parts of the documentation along with a full placement. Non-EU student must personally hand off their visa application at a local embassy or VFS-office, which is a global service assisting with visa applications.

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Soft Landing Camp

We offer a fall and spring Soft Landing Camp in Copenhagen for all students on the Nordic programs. Soft Landing Camp is not included in the price; however we strongly recommend the camp for all students. The Soft Landing Camp is a great start to a wonderful exchange experience and gives the best preparation for the students before arriving at their host family. The Soft Landing Camp includes orientation/workshop, sightseeing in Copenhagen and fun with other exchange students.

Host Family Information

Host families in Denmark have volunteered to host exchange students and they choose the students based on their description in the application and how well they think a student will fit into their family. The host families are therefore very motivated, and wish to learn a lot about their exchange student and where he/she is coming from.

Our host families are from all walks of life and come in all shapes and sizes in all parts of the country. All families are screened prior to placement, including submitting an online host family application, reference- and background checks and a personal visit with the host family in their home. We place students in single parent homes with or without children living in the host home.

Families in Denmark are usually small, with people valuing a close and stable family life. Danes are known to be very sarcastic, open and very active people. Housework and chores are divided equally among the family members and exchange students should be prepared to help out around the house and are expected to clean their own room and help with dinner and dishes.

School Information

The school system in Denmark places a lot of responsibility in the hands of the students, and as such exchange students in Denmark will have a lot of freedom and independence, while having a relaxed relationship with teachers. Most schools expect the student to take on a full course load with around 7 different subjects, all students will have Danish as a subject and all subjects are taught in Danish. The subjects would vary depending on the line of class that the student is attending e.g. language line, science line, social studies line.

Most students are placed in 11th to 13th grade, however sometimes we also place students in 9th and 10th grade

depending on the students age. The student will normally attend school from 8 AM to 3 PM with a short break at 10 AM and lunch around noon. School runs from August until end May, students will not attend exams and no subjects can be guaranteed.

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Student Support system

In Denmark we offer a great support system for the students. All students will have a local coordinator to support them and their host family. They will also arrange smaller events and gatherings for the student. Often the local coordinators become close with their exchange students throughout the stay because of the close distance. The head office in Denmark will also be in touch with the students throughout the year to support and guide the students. ISSO will provide monthly reports on the student's progress.

Free Time Activities

In Denmark after school activities usually take place outside of the school setting, meaning exchange students will be able to sign up to a number of local clubs and teams and engage with all members of a community in this way.

Most teenagers in Denmark usually take part in some kind of sport or physical activity outside of school hours. The most popular sports in Denmark include soccer, handball and badminton. As Denmark is such an active country, students have very good opportunities to find an activity that suits them. These activities are not limited to sports, for those who like music and theatre there will be organizations outside of school available for the student to join.

Trips offered

Every year there is three to four student trips arranged. Here the students have the possibility to experience some of the larger cities including a trip to Legoland and get to meet and know other exchange students in Denmark. If the students wish to attend other trips, we have a cooperation in the Nordic countries with a company that annually arranges trips in Europe.