

Studium an der UA:	Physik
Jahr des Auslandsaufenthaltes:	2014
Land:	Dänemark
Stadt:	Nakskov
Praktikumseinrichtung:	Nordic Sugar (über IAESTE)
Homepage:	https://www.nordicsugar.com/contact/contact-industry/denmark/

ARRIVAL

I arrived at Denmark on August 12, 2014. I landed in Copenhagen where I was received by an IAESTE member Mr. Phister, who took me to his own residence for my temporary stay before I moved to Nakskov, my final destination. One day later, another IAESTE member arrived from Ecuador. Together with him I travelled to Nakskov. We had to change trains several times but we were finally received by Mrs. Anne Bjorn Nicolaisen, who was a technician in Nordic sugar but was in charge of the wellbeing of all IAESTE trainees in the company. She took us around the whole city and got us registered in local city office and also set up our bank cards and company IDs.

LODGING

The lodging had been arranged by the company itself. It was a student hostel fully furnished with all the necessary amenities and requirements. I was also provided with a bicycle for moving around the city and commuting to the company, which was about 10 minutes away by bike. The room rent was 2900 DKK (388 EUR approx.) which was deducted from our salary directly every month.

INTERNSHIP

The internship was focused on studying the Nitrite degradation in sugar house so as to come up with a complete analysis of all the parameters influencing higher nitrite levels. It involved setting up the whole reactor from the scratch and then reading the effect of ferric ions on the colour and the nitrite levels in the sugar house. The research work specially focused on the skills of chemical engineering and reaction chemistry. It provided valuable experience in the research line related to chemistry and also the in house work culture as such.

LIFE AT THE COMPANY

Nordic Sugar is one of those companies where you are given full freedom to express yourself and gain as much as you like. It has a very healthy international population, which was even boosted by our arrival even. The average age is a bit higher, but then it is always a win-win situation as you get to learn from their year long experience. All the employees were very heart warming and open to adjust with the cultural differences to accommodate us and make us feel more comfortable. The work used to start around 8-8:30 am in the morning and lasted until 4 pm in the evening or sometimes even longer as per the requirement of my project. Around 10 am we used to gather for some coffee and bread after which we used to go for lunch at around 12pm. The food was excellent and the best part was the brunch which was prepared every Friday around 11 am. All this while we were free to have as much free coffee as we wanted and occasionally we could also have cookies with the coffee.

LIFE IN THE CITY

Nakskov city comprises very scenic and beautiful beach side with very lovable people, who are open even if they don't know you then, and who are also never too shy to help you out when you are in need. Even though Nakskov is located in a slightly remote area it is very safe. Life is a little bit slower as there are not many young people around as it becomes really difficult if you are alone. That is why there are other recreational activities provided by the company, like the gym and other sports events so that one doesn't get bored. Also with the consent of the company you are free to take leave and go out of the city and get to know the culture and different cities as such.

LANGUAGE

People in Denmark speak Danish, which, in my opinion, is much more difficult than any other European language as such, but anyhow my mode of communication was in English in the company and also outside it, which made the life relatively simple. But I would definitely like to learn Danish, if I stayed in the country for a longer period in future.

COST OF LIVING

Denmark is more expensive than Germany, so, in a whole, the monthly spending is around 600-800 euros inclusive of the apartment, food and leisure.

CULTURAL SHOCK/CHARACTERISTICS

The biggest cultural shock, or I would say difference, in cultural aspects, for me as an Indian native, was that the people could have families of their own without getting married. This really was something very unrealistic for me; apart from this, everything was perfect. People were really nice and helpful. They never made me feel like an outsider. I felt home and welcome in Denmark.

CLIMATE/WEATHER

It is one of the most abrupt climate I have ever experienced: it can get extremely sunny at one instance and in another, it can just turn into a snow storm but then said that, summer was extremely heart-warming; only winter was little bit depressive as it often rained which made it more difficult to go out in the city. For this reason, I sometimes felt bored and alone.

SUMMARY

To put it in a nutshell, my stay in Denmark was excellent: I met some great people, learnt a lot of new things, expanded my professional horizon, made some cool friends and returned as a much more mature and wiser person. I would definitely love to visit the country again in the near future. Thanks to IAESTE Germany and IAESTE Denmark along with the company Nordic Sugar for giving me such a lifetime opportunity and I wish you guys all the very best to keep up the good work.