

The background of the entire page is white, decorated with numerous circles of various sizes and colors. The colors include light blue, lime green, dark blue, purple, pink, and yellow. The circles are scattered across the page, with some being larger and more prominent than others.

blue book

2020 - 2022

Erasmus Mundus Journalism



Editor's Note



Hello there! Welcome to the Erasmus Mundus Blue Book of 2020–2022! Our cohort is a bit different from previous cohorts in that not only do we launch the start of Mundus 2.0, but we've faced the challenge of moving to a new country in the midst of a global pandemic. Within Blue Book, you'll find out more about who makes up our wonderful diverse cohort, which represents 32 countries, as well as how we've made Aarhus a home. I hope you enjoy and learn as much from these lovely folks as I have (and potentially apply for the program too – which I highly recommend)! Without further ado, I proudly present the Erasmus Mundus Blue Book of 2020–2022! All the best,
Keegan

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Welcome

MJ 2.0 / Welcome Pioneers

This is in many ways a year of first times. A year when we face new, unseen challenges and opportunities – both as coordinators and as students.

Some of these challenges and opportunities are things that we have wished for and worked on for a very long time. For our students, the fact that you are finally here – in Denmark and enrolled in the Mundus Journalism programme – is the result of hard choices, detailed planning, fund raising, and the applications you wrote that got you through the needle's eye. Months, perhaps years of preparation. For us, this is a completely new programme, with new courses, the integration of theory and practice, and a strengthened focus on sharing experiences across the institutions participating, both here in Aarhus and abroad. All these new things are the output of decisions we have made with open eyes and high hopes.

Other challenges are less welcome. Certainly, we did not plan that Mundus Journalism 2.0 should be launched in the shade of a pandemic that closes down countries and cities, restaurants and lecture halls, onsite teaching and social activities. Right now, when governments only seem to tighten restrictions, we can surely appreciate the fact that we were able to welcome our students onsite in early September. However, although the sunny days when the virus was only lurking in the background may seem a very long time ago, we should not forget that this challenge, like many other challenges, also has two sides. One side is the restrictions striking down on our everyday life. Another, and a far more comforting side, is what you can read about on the following pages: The Mundus Students who chose to counter the pandemic and tell us a completely different story. Other studies have had to run virtually, to downsize their intake, or to close down completely. But not Mundus Journalism. We could welcome far more students for this new programme than we had ever dared hoping for.

Thank you for that. This is what makes this programme so wonderful to coordinate.

Morten, Bettina & Inger

COVID-19: How It Has Shaped This Cohort

The year 2020 has unexpectedly been a tough year, and COVID-19 has most certainly left its mark. For most of the cohort, COVID-19 brought an onslaught of challenges from making it difficult to obtain visas, being tested repeatedly for COVID-19, and having to quickly change or adapt to new travel plans. By the time our course started, 11 Mundusians were still in the process of making their way to Aarhus amid COVID-19 travel restrictions. Even a couple months into our first year, there are still Mundusians that must join class via Zoom from their respective home countries. However, all of these obstacles prove the true determination of our cohort and the strides made by everyone to ensure we all are able to participate in Mundus Journalism.



TRAVELING IN TIMES OF COVID-19

When traveling to Aarhus, some trips were certainly longer than others. The map below includes some of the paths Mundusians took when first arriving to Aarhus.

“Since I am from northern Germany, I had the shortest and easiest travel to Aarhus (if we are not regarding the Danes of our cohort for now). I came to Aarhus by car, which only took three hours. I didn’t even have waiting time to cross the border nor did I have to provide documents or a Corona test result to enter Denmark.” – Annika, Germany



“I travelled to Aarhus via Qatar Airways since it was the only airline operating between Manila and Aarhus at that time. The Philippines was considered a high risk country so many airlines cancelled their flights passing through Manila, and would not even let Filipinos transit through their airports.” – Sandra, The Philippines



Amanda <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Dublin, Ireland 2 London, England 3 Århus, Denmark 	Ekaterina <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Kurgan, Russia 2 Yekaterinburg, Russia 3 Moscow, Russia 4 Istanbul, Turkey 5 Copenhagen, Denmark 6 Århus, Denmark 	Keegan <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Lynchburg, VA, USA 2 Washington, D.C., USA 3 Brussels, Belgium 4 Copenhagen, Denmark 5 Århus, Denmark 	Facundo <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Cordoba, Argentina 2 Buenos Aires, Argentina 3 São Paulo, Brazil 4 Madrid, Spain 5 Warsaw, Poland 6 Copenhagen, Denmark 7 Århus, Denmark
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OBSTACLES IN GETTING VISAS

Obviously, Europeans had a lot of advantages in traveling to Aarhus since they did not have to apply for a visa – which was one of the main obstacles for Mundusians in preparation to come here. Due to monthly lockdown phases in several countries, many embassies were closed. It was necessary to fly into bigger cities or even to other countries to get the visa. Many visa deliveries were delayed, flights had to be postponed or rebooked.

“All embassies were closed so it really was a problem for me to apply for a residence permit. I had to wait until the end of June to be able to record my biometrics at the embassy that was still partially open at that time. I got my permit a few days before flying to Copenhagen.”
– Arzia, Indonesia



“The Danish Embassy in the Philippines was closed during the over two month lockdown in the country’s capital, meaning I could not apply for a visa. When the Embassy did open, they were working a limited capacity, meaning there was no guarantee I would get it in time to fly. At the end, I got my visa just three days before my booked departure date.” – Sandra, The Philippines

“It took forever to get my residence permit which as a Kenyan travelling to Denmark for studies, I needed. By forever, I mean nearly 2 months. I received it on 24th August, about a week before orientation started. I had to pack up my life in a week – say bye to friends etc.” – Soila, Kenya



OBSTACLES IN GETTING TESTED

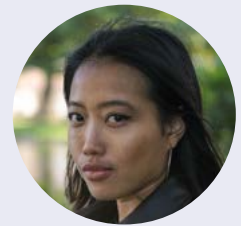
Many of the Mundusians were obliged to take a COVID test 48-72 hours before being able to actually go on their journey only to repeat the COVID test again on arrival.

"I pretty much just got used to the testing drill since it has become such a normal part of our lives."
~Allia, Pakistan



"A requirement for me to fly was to present a negative COVID-19 test that I had taken within 72 hours of flying. This was a problem because the Philippines had a major backlog of Covid tests around August, and it was taking on average a week for people to get their results. In the end, I was able to take the test and get the results within 72 hours by contacting my relative in one of the hospitals conducting tests. However I had to pay a much larger fee for the test." – Sandra, The Philippines

"I took my test in Indonesia and the problems were: 1. THE TEST WAS EXPENSIVE; 2. IT REALLY WAS A PRIVILEGE TO BE ABLE TO TAKE THE TEST FREELY (covered by my work insurance) BECAUSE AGAIN, GO BACK TO NO. 1 IT WAS EXPENSIVE. Well Indonesian testing rates are among the lowest in comparison with its total citizens. What can I say? I cursed enough." – Arzia, Indonesia



However, getting tested in Denmark did not seem easy either, especially for people who did not fly into Copenhagen or did not get to take the test immediately at the airport.

"I had a difficult time trying to take a COVID-19 test once I was in Aarhus. I had to go to three different testing centers before I found one that would give me a test without needing a CPR card." – Keegan, USA



"I was told there that in order to get tested, I need to have a Danish number (which I didn't have at that time) but after a bit of deliberation and debate they tested me for COVID-19." – Kirti, India

"I flew into the airport in Aarhus where there were no testing facilities. I had heard that Aarhus University was no longer requiring Covid tests to start studying but I had forgotten that our course still required them, so I did not take my test until the day the course was meant to start, meaning that I had to wait three days for my results before I could come to lectures." – Aleks, USA & Poland



Mundus 2.0

What makes this year's generation of the Erasmus Mundus in Journalism program special, is the implementation of a set of new features and possibilities compared to previous cohorts. Upon the request and feedback of previous Mundusians, Mundus 2.0 integrates much more practical journalism in the program from day one and adds the appealing possibility of 'doing' journalism, instead of just talking about it.

New courses in the winter semester of the first year in Aarhus include 'The Challenge of Digital Journalism' which is structured around a theoretical and practical part including group assignments and personal projects, and 'Public Opinion and the Media', structured similarly. Students are already quite satisfied by the blend of theory and practice, although as in the case of any new university program, things are not perfect yet.

Another new feature of the program is the construction of the first year's second semester. In addition of being able to choose to study abroad in an overseas university, students at present also have the possibility to opt between an academic elective (Key issues facing contemporary journalism: Challenges and Opportunities) and an individual project placement, or in other words, a 6-week internship anywhere around the world.

Changes also occurred for the second-year specialisation of the program as Mundusians are now welcoming a new partner: Charles University. In contrast with Amsterdam's more political and research-oriented focus, the Czech university situated in Prague offers a practical journalism training under the name 'Totalitarianism & Transition.' This specialisation focuses on democratic transitions of post-totalitarian countries in Central and Eastern Europe by giving a historical background to past and current media challenges in the region. Additional courses include 'Post-Digital Photojournalism,' 'Foreign Correspondence,' 'Audiovisual Journalism of the 21st Century,' and the possibility of going on excursions to public and private news TV broadcasters.

Being the first ones experiencing the changes of the Mundus Journalism program and paving the way for the future of Mundus 2.0 is a very exciting position to be in. We hope that our current experiences will be helpful for you and we can't look forward enough to share with you all our impressions and advice in the future!

DMJX

The Mundus Journalism students are extremely lucky to study simultaneously at two institutions during their stay in Aarhus. For all the practical journalistic work, the Danish School of Media and Journalism (DMJX) takes center stage. Modern and scholarly, this institution offers state-of-the-art facilities to produce digital journalistic content and explore the practical side of theoretical courses, more specifically, media and journalism. Students are offered to take part in a plethora of activities and acclimatise themselves with advanced tools, from 360 degree cameras to MoJo kits, to showcase their creativity and do visual storytelling — much in line with the latest, emerging new trends in global newsrooms. Lectures are student-participation based and encourage group work.

The campus hosts spacious classrooms, multiple auditoriums, well-equipped rooms for voice recording and editing, a library and a canteen. A student-friendly atmosphere and highly qualified teaching staff make it a go-to place for learning and experimenting with acquired knowledge. Students are routinely seen filming/shooting for their projects, studying around in different corners of the building, all while having fun!

The DMJX just recently moved into a new building close to Storcenter Nord and is a walking distance from various student dormitories.



Places to See

BEACHES

There are several amazing beaches that you can go to without leaving the city. In Den Permanente there is even a reserved area for skinny-dipping aka swimming naked (a great way to get to know your fellow Mundusians haha).

"The water may never be at a comfortable temperature if you're not used to it, but if we, The Brazilians (Amanda, Fernanda and Giovana) did it, everyone can do it haha."
-Amanda, Brazil & Italy



WOMEN'S MUSEUM

The Women's Museum, which was founded more than 30 years ago, provides visitors with the opportunity to examine the cultural history between genders and looks at gender policies, equality and sexuality.

"I always think the exhibits are cool (especially the ones on sex education and gender throughout time), and the cafe is a great place to study...you don't have to buy a ticket to get in and it's always quiet." - Molly, USA

AROS

ARoS is one of the largest art museums in Northern Europe. It is most notably known for its rainbow panorama view of Aarhus - a favorite among Mundusians. If you love art, it is highly recommended that you purchase the annual pass for 220 dkk.

"I could get lost for an entire day in the AROS museum. There is just so much to explore. Every exhibition is created with so much love for detail. Also, I really like the different installations in the basement. They are a bit hidden but totally worth exploring!" - Claudia, Germany





KALØ SLOTSRUIN

The ruins of the Kalø Castle are located 20km from the city of Aarhus. You can join a group of friends, get a bus and spend an awesome time doing some picnics or simply exploring the ruins and its surroundings.

"I didn't think about visiting Kalø until Molly brought that up. Did some research about it and voila! It's a part of one of the National Parks in Midtjylland. Nice for trekking, because it has different types of terrain from a hill, beach and the old castle ruins. Perfect to celebrate midsummer."

-Arzia, Indonesia

MOESGAARD

Located just south of Aarhus, the Moesgaard Museum brings the past alive as visitors can learn about the history of mankind through interactive and culturally diverse exhibits.

"The Moesgård museum is full of surprises. It aims to answer the questions: where do we come from and where are we going? There, you can find the oldest mummy in Denmark and get caught between enemies in an ancient battlefield. Besides that, the architecture is beautiful and you can have a picnic on the rooftop." -Fernanda, Brazil



SAMSØ

Samsø is an island located on the east side, around 15km off the Jutland Peninsula. The little island famous for its potato production is also a must-see during summer. Not only the beaches there are incredible, but also ferries from Aarhus are free during the summer.

"Samsø is beautiful! I spent the two most wonderful days there and the biggest tip I can give is to go to the very top point of the island (Issehoved) where you'll get the most astonishing view of the ocean." -Giovana, Brazil

THE BOTANICAL GARDEN

The Botanical Garden is a great green oasis, especially as winter settles in, that is open year long and is free to enjoy.

"The botanical garden is an interesting place to go during the first few weeks. You can see the vegetation of various places in the world in a single space, and it transports you to all continents. I remember crossing the Amazon rainforest and instantly remembering the weeks I spent in Peru. And not just the plants, the weather, the smell. Everything is well recreated!" - Cristina, Spain



DEER PARK

Located in the Thors woods which are part of the larger Marselisborg-Moesgaard forest you find the Deer Park with lovely deers that you can get very close to and even feed them! (Only with apples and carrots). Wild boars live there too but they are not as social as the deers.



MØLLESTIEN

The Møllestien is a hidden little old street in the center of Aarhus. Most of the houses of the street were built in the 18th century. The street itself has existed even longer and is dated to the early middle ages – and even back to the time of the Vikings. It is located next to the Mølleparken and is extremely worth the visit since it feels like traveling in time for a bit.



SKAGEN

Skagen is the northernmost town in Denmark and is largely known for Grenen Beach where the North Sea and Baltic Sea meet in crashing waves. Along the shore, seals bask in the sun. The town is also picturesque with its various yellow houses and seaboats at the port.



"Skagen is a must-see destination if you come to Aarhus. The place where two seas collide, seals sunbathing in the sand (if you are lucky), yellow houses wherever you go and a beautiful connection to arts and painting. Skagen is an ideal day or weekend trip to take a break from hard uni life!" - Maja, Hungary

"Happy seals, big smiles and sand everywhere." - Jil, Germany

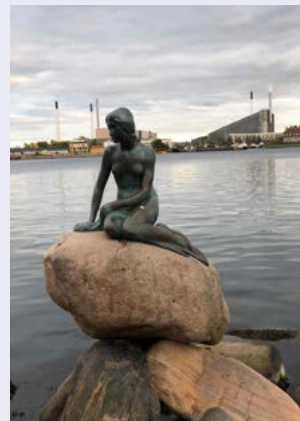


COPENHAGEN

As the capital of Denmark, Copenhagen has a lot to offer as a tourist destination. Some of the popular locations include the Little Mermaid Statue, the Tivoli Gardens, and Nyhavn, the port and canal.

"Copenhagen is definitely a must-see while in Denmark! The city has such a rich history and culture being home to one of the oldest monarchies in the world. It was amazing to see the royal palaces against the backdrop of Danish modern architecture. The city has so much to offer in terms of attractions, it's also an amazing food trip destination, and it's such an easy trip to make – just three hours away from Aarhus!"

- Sandra, The Philipines



Places to Eat

There's nothing like a nice home cooked meal from back home, and when moving to a new country, it may be difficult to find the ingredients needed to make that special dish. As a result, it's totally understandable to feel homesick for that favorite dish. Luckily, Aarhus offers a variety of international restaurants that can help cure that homesickness! To give you an idea, here are some of the popular restaurants among the Mundusians.

AARHUS STREET FOOD (INTERNATIONAL) - NY BANEGÅRDSGADE 46

Aarhus Street Food is a permanent food market located on the territory of the former bus garage. There are dozens of food corners, where you can enjoy all kinds of dishes all over the world. Here you can experience Israeli, Korean, Caribbean, Italian, American cuisines. And the list goes on and on! You can also throw a challenge and try to eat at every stall there during your stay.



AMIR'S (LEBANESE) - ÅBOULEVARDEN 55

This small restaurant located in central Aarhus offers amazing lebanese food for very fair prices (order falafel for sure!). The restaurant is rather small, but it has space inside plus a few tables outside (however, this only makes sense when the sun is actually shining :D). It is also great for take-away.

THE HUMMUS & PITA BAR - RANDERSVEJ 23

Right on Randersvej (one of the Skejbyparken residents' favorite road) you'll find "The Hummus & Pita bar". You can choose between vegetarian and nonvegetarian food - they have a great selection of different pitas, ruller (wraps), salads and burgers (have not tried those yet though). For the pitas and ruller you choose the ingredients - all can also be ordered as a menu.

RESTAURANT KOWLOON (A MIX OF DIFFERENT ASIAN CUISINES) - FREDERIKSGADE 78

Here they have a great variety of Chinese, Thai or Vietnamese food for reasonable prices. I would also suggest to reserve a table in advance if you plan on coming on a weekend or in a bigger group.

VACA (MEXICAN) - MEJLGADE 17

If you fancy Mexican finger food like a burrito or taco, VACA is the place to go.

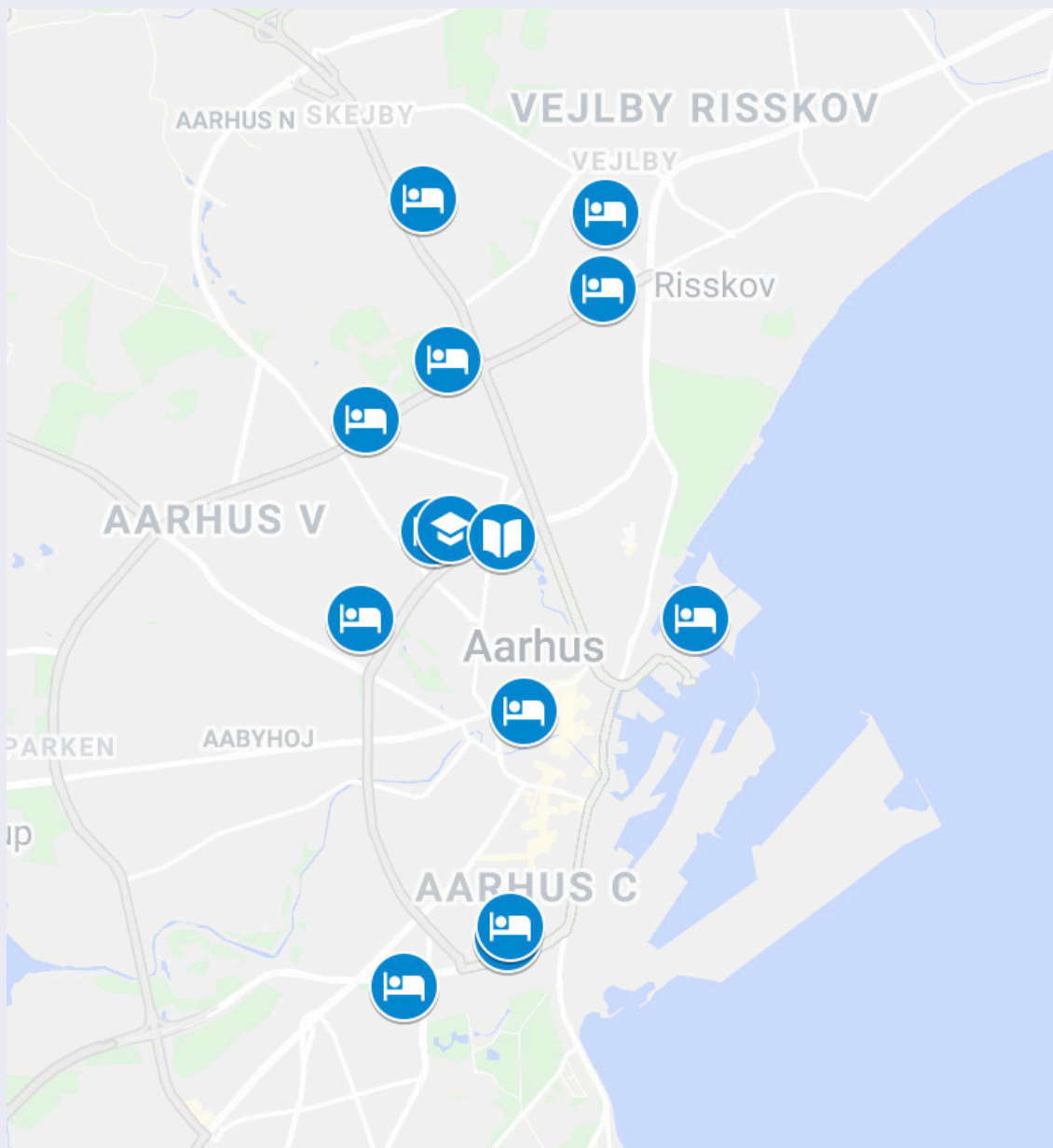
MAMMA'S AARHUS (ITALIAN) - FRUE KIRKEPLADS 1

Mammas is a nice Italian place located in the heart of the city offering all an Italian food lover craves: pizza, pasta e dolci. (I'd personally suggest going here on a date, the atmosphere is really nice and cozy plus the pizzas are great!) It is probably best to reserve a table if you plan on coming in the evening or on weekends.



Housing: Making Aarhus Home

When moving to a new country, it is really important to make that place feel like home. In Aarhus, there are several housing options for students that include dorms, apartments, and shared houses. The map below shows where just some of the housing options used by Mundusians are located in relation to AU campus and DMJX. Every dorm is within a 30 minute bike ride to campus buildings.



DORMS

Dorms can vary by lay out. Some dorms provide a single room with a private bathroom and a shared kitchen. In other cases, dorms include a single room with shared bathroom and kitchen. While dorms tend to be the cheaper housing options, they provide a great chance to meet local Danes or other international students.

“The dorm is named AASKO, but we like to be called ‘The Dalgas Family’ haha. I’m probably tooting my own horn here, but it’s one of the most homiest dorms in my opinion. Even though we are 13 people, the shared bathroom and kitchen are never a problem – well, maybe the kitchen gets a little too crowded sometimes, but we always make it work.” –Giovana, Brazil



“I have a private room with a private bathroom, and I share the kitchen with 12 other people: Fernanda and 11 Danes hahaha. The dorm itself is pretty great! There's a pretty nice yard, which was lovely during the summer. It's very very close to the University and to DMJX, it usually takes around 10 minutes by bike to get to any of them. It's also not too far from Gellerup, where the Bazar Vest is, and that is something I also really like.” – Amanda, Brazil & Italy



SHARED HOUSE

“Our house is a shared house, located just off the outer ring road that goes around Aarhus. The house is 13 people in total – four of us live in the top flat, four in the middle flat and another five in the basement flat. There’s a shared garden too, with a big apple tree. In the top flat, we have a shared kitchen for the four of us, and a shared bathroom. The rooms vary in size, but they’re all light – I got very lucky, and my room has a private balcony coming off it, which I didn’t realise until I arrived!” –Nathalie, England

APARTMENTS

Skelager Kollegiet is a dorm mostly composed of studio apartments, shared apartments with two people or even family apartments. However, I am living in one of the few accommodations where I share the kitchen with three other people, all Danes. I have my own bathroom, a spacious room and the shared kitchen which has all facilities needed. I consider this lay-out a good in-between of living with other people, but not too many, in case you would be overwhelmed by sharing common spaces with 10+ people.” –Maja, Hungary



“The best part about Grundfos is the location. Each side has views of the harbour and from the top floor balcony you can take in the landscape of nearly the entire city. The main attraction is the top floor common room. It has just about everything you need, including kitchen facilities, couches, a foosball table, a TV, speakers and a projector. Just outside of the common room is the aforementioned balcony. All in all, living at Grundfos has been a positive experience, I’d highly recommend it to anyone staying in Aarhus to study.” – Aleks, USA & Poland

NON - AU HOUSING

If housing through AU isn’t your cup of tea, there are also options and ways to find housing through a private owner, just as Aphrodite did with her apartment.

“I found a shared apartment through a simple search on Facebook housing pages and groups. There are three Facebook pages with the same name: Housing in Aarhus. I recommend joining all the Facebook groups you can, relevant to Aarhus, as you never know where the suitable listing will be posted. You can also put a post up yourself. Make sure you write a personal ad or response to a listing. People receive a lot of responses so think about if it was you offering a room, what you would want to read from someone else. Be specific about yourself, your interests and your habits. You don't want to have an unsuitable match, you will be living there for a year. I started looking three months prior to arrival in Aarhus as I wanted to feel settled when I arrived. My process was to be patient with waiting for posts that would be suitable for me and then sending a personalised messaged.” –Aphrodite, Australia & Greece

MAKING MEMORIES

When living with other people, you are bound to not only make memories, but also lasting friendships. From planning group dinners to throwing small parties, living with others provides a great chance to build a support group outside of the program.

“Since we are all from different countries in this dorm, we always have international dinners in which each of us cooks something typical of our country, and sometimes we are even surprised with an Oktoberfest organized by the Germans of our floor, as you can see in the picture below.” –Giovana, Brazil



“We sometimes have dinners together, movie nights or just a late night drink accompanied with weird Danish techno music. The dorm also has a common room where the party committee organised a semester starting beer pong party back in September.” –Maja, Hungary



“Tour des chambres is a madness from my point of view as a south-european person. How everyone organizes their theme, and the dedication invested in the decoration, in the cocktail and the game... Crazy! I also think it's a good way to get to know each other in more intimate spaces such as the rooms.” – Cristina, Spain

“People are usually highly involved in activities. In times of Corona, they were mostly outdoors like forest games. But we also did things like cake baking competitions. There are only a few internationals here but many Danes. Many of them are medical students and therefore staying for a long time. The janitor is super friendly and helpful and two bunnies are living on the lawn.” –Aline, Germany



“One of my most favorite traditions in our floor is a weekly common dinner. Each Thursday two people from the floor cook for everyone, so our small Danish family gather together at 19.00 to enjoy the meal and talk in a nice, cozy atmosphere. Once the meal is ready, the person who cooked rings the bell in the hall, inviting everyone to the kitchen. After the meal, everyone except those who cooked, roll a dice. The four people who get the smallest digits, wash the dishes and clean up the kitchen.” –Altanay, Kazakhstan



The Mundusians

The 2020–2022 Erasmus Mundus cohort consists of 51 students representing 32 countries. The majority of the program consists of women, claiming 45 spots in the program. The remaining six Mundusians are men.

This group of dedicated and talented journalists share why they applied to the Erasmus Mundus program as well as what inspired them to become journalists.

Without further ado, the Erasmus Mundus Journalism 2020–2022 cohort!





Abeerah Mubasher

Age: 25

Nationality: Pakistan

*Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam*

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My bachelors in International Relations and my work experience in communications sparked my interest in this course as an opportunity to bridge my current expertise with the insightful courses and activities included in this course. It is the perfect package for professional development. Journalism for me is work with a purpose and a path that allows me to tell stories about the world.

Fun fact: I am an ambivert (a weird blend of being introvert and extrovert).



Akriti Manandhar

Age: 25

Nationality: Nepal

Mundus Specialization:
Prague

Email: aakumanandhar@gmail.com

I have always been passionate about working in the media industry. My aunt is a journalist, and growing up, learning about her work inspired me to be a journalist as well. I am also very interested in gender issues and feel that I can contribute towards achieving gender equality through my journalism work. In this program, I get to meet people from many different cultures and countries, and I think this would make me a better journalist. I also am interested in learning more about practical aspects of journalism, thus I applied for the Prague specialization!

Fun fact: If I was not a journalist, I'd have probably trained to be a professional dancer.

Aleksander Twarowski

Age: 22

Nationality: American & Polish

Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam

Email: aleksanderward1@gmail.com

I was looking into getting more involved in journalism and politics but also wanted a course that was based in analysis of social context. The Mundus Master covers both, along with a political communication specialisation in Amsterdam that I am really interested in. While being an intern within the journalistic industry, I realised that researching current events and writing about them would be an ideal career path as it would allow me to immerse myself in interesting and important issues in the world.

Fun facts: I have lived in a different house every year for the past 6 years. I have a strangely long tongue that was too big for my mouth when I was a baby. I can cook a Chicago style pizza.





Aline Spantig

Age: 23

Nationality: German

Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam

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Be it the COVID-19 pandemic or the poisoning of the Russian oppositionist Alexei Navalny - these events show that journalism does not stop at the national borders of Germany. These are global issues. I would like to actively contribute to conveying democratic values. To do this, I have to strengthen my international perspective. Through the course, I get direct insights into other media and social systems as well as other cultural perspectives. The different backgrounds of the students shape the discussions in the courses and enrich me intellectually and professionally. I want to make information accessible and enable everybody to actively participate in democracies.

Fun facts: I am German. No fun. Go back to work.

Allia Bukhari

Age: 24

Nationality: Pakistan

**Mundus Specialization:
Prague**

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My extreme fondness and deep interest in news, politics and current affairs have been the biggest motivators in pursuing journalism. I consider myself a news person by all means and have worked extensively for print and TV in Pakistan simultaneously with my studies. Mundus Journalism came at a time when I was looking for new avenues to explore in order to evolve professionally and academically. Clearly, it was the best choice. What a truly phenomenal journey it has been so far! Truly grateful.

Fun fact: I am a passionate traveller and an animal rights activist.





Altynay Rais

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Amsterdam

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When I was a child, I was a big football fan. I used to watch the World Cup, European Championship and the Champions League with my father. Even though I am not a sport journalist now, this was a specific moment in my life, when I decided what my future profession will be. During my bachelor's degree, I spent an exchange semester in Graz (Austria) as an Erasmus student. This short period in Austria was crucial in my life – I became another person, I opened new horizons and realized that my life is not bound just to one place where I was born. So, I set a goal to do my Master's degree through this program, because it gives an opportunity to grow not only academically, but most importantly, as a person and individual. I applied for the specialisation "Politics and Communication," because one of my long-term goals is to be an editor in chief in a news agency.

Fun facts: I changed professions four times before becoming a journalist. I worked as a nanny in London. This is my second Erasmus experience.

Amanda Magnani

Age: 25

Nationality: Brazilian & Italian

Mundus Specialization:

Prague

Email: amanda.o.magnani@gmail.com

I decided to become a journalist because I'm a storyteller, and real life stories have always been the ones I liked the most. As a journalist, I can use tools from many different areas to tell each story the way I believe it will be better told. I applied for Mundus to have this incredible opportunity to meet people from so many different places and get to know their perspectives and worldviews. As to my specialization, I chose to study totalitarianism and transition because in Brazil, this transition was never entirely achieved, and this is even clearer now under Bolsonaro's government.

Fun fact: Last year, I went to Peru to accompany part of an expedition of a Photographer who had won a NatGeo grant. When I was there, we were invited by some locals to dinner, and one of the traditional Peruvian dishes is guinea pig... and I ended up having to eat the guinea pig's head.





Amina McCauley

Age: 25

Nationality: Australian

Mundus Specialization:
Prague

Email: amina.mccauley@gmail.com

I was studying law for a bit and was in a class on international humanitarian law when I realised that I needed to be a communicator, not a lawyer. I chose Prague as a specialization because I think I want to be a foreign correspondent (which is among other courses taught there). Also Prague is a part of the world I know very little about.

Fun facts: I've broken my arm thrice and I really like Indian food.

Andrew Pasquier

Age: 26

Nationality: American

Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam

Email: acpasquier@gmail.com

Democracy and our own sanity are being undermined by the contemporary media technologies and news outlets around the world, and especially in the United States. I decided to pursue the specialization in Amsterdam because it seems especially timely to take a critical look at international media systems through thesis research in the 2nd year of the Mundus program. I am inspired by free-thinking journalists who are willing to do the hard work of holding powerful people accountable to the rest of us.

*Fun Fact: I'm an obsessive about public transportation and maps.
Let me guide you around the city.*





Annika Stricker

Age: 25

Nationality: German

Mundus Specialization:
Prague

Email: annika.stricker@hotmail.de

I hope that the Mundus master's program will prepare me for cultural, political and technological challenges that journalism faces nowadays all around the globe. I especially hope that the practical approach of the Prague specialization will help me to become a professional journalist that can cope with tough, and even dangerous, tasks. I have always been a proponent of equality, and journalists are the ones who are able to make changes. They give people a voice who have been unheard and thus preserve a significant human right: free speech. In my future career, I hope to work within foreign correspondence to be one of the journalists that give other people a voice and bring justice.

Fun facts: In 2013, I was the national vice champion in cheerleading in Colombia. I have been a vegetarian for nine years now. I don't like beer and it is really hard for me to be on time - even though I am German!!

Aphrodite Feros–Fooke

Age: 28

Nationality: Australian/Greek

Mundus Specialization:
Prague

Email: aphroditeff@gmail.com

I applied for the Mundus program as a way to combine my previous careers and skills as well as a means to access a global perspective discussion and networks. For me, journalism is about clear, accurate and honest communication. The ability to be understood can be applied throughout your life and across professions making journalism a valuable foundation for future pathways.

Fun Fact: I like curating art shows in unusual locations.





April Torion

Age: 31

Nationality: Filipino

**Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam**

Email: artorion@ymail.com

I've always loved reading books and newspapers. With them, life becomes clearer, people more human, and the world less complicated. I chose Mundus Journalism, specifically the Politics and Communication track, as it will help me navigate the ever-changing media and political tides of my country.

Fun fact: I'm still working towards putting "fun" in my life. After college, which was 10 years ago for me, I worked multiple jobs to support my family. These include teaching journalism, English and literature; editing a community news site; and writing for various local and national media outlets. Aside from studying journalism, I'm also looking forward to having fun and gaining new life skills, such as learning to cycle and joining a running club.

Arzia Wargadiredja

Age: 27

Nationality: Indonesian

Mundus Specialization:
Prague

Email: arztivany@gmail.com

I grew up in a turbulent time. Indonesia experienced one of its worst economic crises in '98 mainly caused by the reigning oligarchs, affecting the livelihood of my family. I want to have the privilege to look at the matter as a journalist. I have always wanted to go to school abroad and work abroad. The current political sphere in Indonesia isn't that good for a journalist that wants to focus more on freedom of expression and criticizing the leading oligarch. Reporting from outside Indonesia is definitely a privilege, and as someone who comes from a pseudo-democratic country, looking for opportunities and expanding networks abroad is what I am aiming at.

*Fun fact: I have a spirit following me and protecting me all the time. Sounds fun?
Nah. Also, you can't tell whether I'm lying or not.*





Carlotta Roch

Age: 24

Nationality: German

Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam

Email: carlotta.roch@outlook.de

I had not yet found the perfect master's program that would fit my interests best when I talked to a friend who had recently applied to the Mundus program (2019 cohort). The program immediately caught my attention and once I read more about it, it was clear to me that I found the perfect match, especially with the Amsterdam specialisation that will hopefully help me to pursue my future career in foreign affairs. I have always enjoyed writing – my essays in high school were always by far the longest and I have always loved to hear people's stories. After finishing high school I started a journalistic internship to see if the shoe fits – it did, so here we are.

Fun facts: I have a very strong Venezuelan accent when speaking Spanish (I spent ten years of my childhood in that beautiful country), apparently I remind a lot of people of Emma Stone (I can live with that) and I am a massive Taylor Swift fan and have seen her live twice – in Santa Clara, California and Sydney.

Chu Yang

Age: 34

Nationality: Chinese

Mundus Specialization:
Prague

Email: Yangchu211@gmail.com

Journalism has been my ideal profession since high school. I have always found that disclosing the truth and giving voice to the ones who are otherwise silenced is a meaningful thing. I would like to make a career transition from a professional path to an academic one, and researching media control and censorship tactics adopted by authoritarian regimes is my main interest.

Fun fact: Because of posting dissent opinions, I've already lost 10+ social media accounts.





Claudia Bothe

Age: 23

Nationality: German

Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam

Email: bothe.claudia@web.de

I chose the Mundus programme and the specialization in Amsterdam because it allows me to combine my background knowledge in political science with practical journalistic skills. At the same time, the Mundus Master brings together so many people from different cultural and educational backgrounds that it is not only about the courses but also about the other students you learn with and from. To me, journalism is a powerful tool to facilitate social and political change. During my Bachelor's, I sometimes became frustrated seeing that political debates tend to exclude certain parts of our society. As a journalist, I want to contribute to opening up the public debate by giving room to alternative approaches and new ideas. We are facing pressing issues such as climate change and an increasing polarization of societies. These are issues that affect all of us and therefore, everybody needs to be included in the debate. Journalism, I believe, can make that possible.

Fun facts: My favorite food is porridge. I could have it for every meal. Also, if I can't sleep I listen to crime podcasts.

Cristina Gironès Martín

Age: 23

Nationality: Spanish

Mundus Specialization:
Prague

Email: cristinagirones8@gmail.com

I had always been interested in writing and reading. In addition, I also like to explain new things. If you add this to the need to know and understand the world, the best profession is journalism. Also, when I was 8 years old I had a teacher who encouraged me to study at the University, and this was a novelty for me as no one in my family has a university degree. This teacher has studied journalism as well. I chose specialization in Prague to have the tools to communicate in conflict areas, and to know how to re-signify the work of a journalist in Spain, where authoritarianism is returning. I want to open doors for proper work in the media, and I want to learn more about the international environment.

Fun Fact: I grew up on a farm.





Doruntina Baftiu

Age: 23

Nationality: Kosovo

Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam

Email: doruntinabaftiu1@gmail.com

At 18, I wasn't sure why I chose to study journalism at first. But, I knew I had made the right decision after learning more about the role of journalism in society and after getting the opportunity to write about topics I felt passionate about. After studying and working as a journalist, I wanted to gain more knowledge on the academic and theoretical side of this field, which is also the main reason why I chose the Amsterdam specialization. This program is also special in the sense that it gives you the opportunity to learn together with people from different backgrounds.

Fun facts: When I was 13 years old, I was run over by a car twice within six days – the second time just after I had recovered from the injuries I had suffered in the first accident. Those remain my only injuries until today, even though we had a war in my country, Kosovo, during the first couple of years of my life, when I had to flee my home.

Ekaterina Balueva

Age: 23

Nationality: Russian

Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam

Email: ekaterina.balueva.application@gmail.com

I chose the Mundus Journalism master degree because of its international aspect: I get to experience study cultures in two different countries and learn from professors and classmates from various cultural and professional backgrounds. Moreover, the Politics & Communication specialization appealed to me as it helps to better understand current global issues and gain practical skills to communicate them. Also, taking part in field trips in Amsterdam is a great opportunity to learn about the work of NGOs and intergovernmental organizations, crucial for enriching a journalist's work.

Fun facts: As I lived in China for quite some time, I can speak a bit of Mandarin (any Chinese person would disagree with this statement). I used to do hip-hop during high-school. I am unfortunately not so hip and hop anymore.





Emma Tram

Age: 25

Nationality: Danish

*Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam*

Email: emma@mail2tram.dk

As a kid I wanted to be a writer, but was told it was hard to do that for a living, so I decided I would become a journalist – and as I discovered an interest in international politics I stuck with my plan to become a journalist. I’ve decided to apply for the Mundus Programme because I wanted to do a masters degree with an international focus, and I had heard a lot of positive things about the Mundus.

Fun facts: I absolutely love to eat “risengrød” (rice pudding) at all times of the year, even though it’s traditionally a Christmas dish.

Facundo Iglesia

Age: 30

Nationality: Argentinian

Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam

Email: fr.iglesia@gmail.com

Overall, I think I always knew I wanted to become a journalist. When I was less than two years old I always used to sit on my father's lap while he read the newspaper. I think that was the moment when that passion awakened. Now I see journalism as a "weapon" to change reality. As a journalist from my country used to say: "A typewriter can be a pistol or a hand fan, depending on who's using it". I applied for the Mundus Programme because I found myself in a moment of my journalistic career where I felt I couldn't gain new skills on my own. I wanted to improve my writing and overall investigation skills so doing so in a country I did not know sounded like a great plan!

Fun fact: I work in the video game industry. I am a video game writer and designer. Ok, maybe that's not THAT fun.





Fernanda Seavon

Age: 26

Nationality: Brazilian

Mundus Specialization:
Prague

Email: fnovaesb@gmail.com

I carry around a quote in my wallet that reads “You can learn to love everyone once you know their story”. That’s what made me apply for the Mundus Programme and how I feel towards journalism – I believe that it’s a practice of connection. I knew that I wanted to tell inspiring stories so journalism was the next step. If I had to pick one person that inspired me to become a journalist it would be the work of Eliane Brum which has always moved me. I chose Prague as a specialization because it offered photojournalism classes.

Fun facts: I got an international driver’s licence that I have never used. I have two poetry books that I have never read once they got published. I can’t sleep in a completely dark room.

Giovana Faria

Age: 24

Nationality: Brazilian

Mundus Specialization:
Prague

Email: giovana.faria1@outlook.com

Ever since I lived in Portugal for one semester during my Erasmus semester, I knew I wanted more. The Mundus Programme was the best combination of a masters - which I was also pursuing - with the experience abroad. In addition, the topic of the specialization in Prague and the practical approach were crucial to my choice. Thankfully, my family has always been extremely supportive when it comes to my choices and, besides that, by observing my interests they were the ones to open my eyes to journalism.

Fun fact: A fun (and quite shameful) fact about me is that I learned how to properly ride about when I was already a teenager haha. Even so, I used to bike only out of sport so I'm very grateful for Aarhus for turning me into a pro.





Hala Alsadi

Age: 23

Nationality: Yemeni

Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam

Email: hala19947@gmail.com

I studied a different major in my undergraduate, but every pursuit I took part in somehow led me back to the field of media. I applied for politics and communicator specialisation because I am particularly interested in the data journalism course offered at University of Amsterdam. I like bedtime stories. In fact, I feel like I am always walking around and encountering mesmerising, inspiring, and intriguing stories. When I was a kid, I wanted to be a writer, but then I got to know cameras and audio and different tools to better tell stories. This was the hook, and so I decided I want to be part of this industry to make stories of where I come from more visible .

Fun fact: I just learned how to bike a month ago for the first time in my life. I also roller skate!

Hongmei Yang

Age: 22

Nationality: China

Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam

Email: YangHongmay@163.com

I changed my major from airspace technology engineering to journalism in the second year of my college because I decided for myself that I wanted to know more about the world and do more for the public. Also, I have never been abroad in the 22 years of my life so both the course outline and the living experience provided by the Mundus Programme were really appealing. I chose Amsterdam as specialization because in my opinion political communication can go further than just journalism when striving for public interest.

Fun facts: I love sailing and orienteering.





Jacqueline Melcher

Age: 22

Nationality: German

*Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam*

Email: jacquelinemelcher@yahoo.de

I applied for the Mundus programme because I loved the idea of studying abroad and learning about journalism with people from all over the world. I chose to spend my second year in Amsterdam because I'm interested in political journalism and can imagine working in that field after my studies. I realized I wanted to pursue journalism during my first internship at a German newspaper. Talking to interesting people, learning about new topics and writing all day immediately seemed like the ideal job to me.

Fun facts: I was named after Jackie Kennedy. I like learning new languages. As a child, I lived in Tokyo for a few years. My favorite comfort food is anything Italian. & I have a Golden Retriever back home in Germany.

Jil Schütze

Age: 22

Nationality: German

Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam

Email: jil.schuetze@web.de

The program is a unique possibility to meet inspiring journalists from all over the world and learn from each other. My interests in climate change, migration and EU-politics made me choose the Amsterdam specialisation. I am a curious person and I love learning new things and meeting inspiring people. Working as a journalist, this becomes part of my job. I believe that constructive journalism can make a great positive impact on the world.

Fun fact: I spent the last two winters above the arctic circle, teaching people how to make fire in the snow.





Jiyoung Min

Age: 35

Nationality: Korean

Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam

Email: jymin2050@gmail.com

I worked for nine years as a reporter at NTV, which is the first and the largest private broadcasting company in Japan. I covered Korean peninsula issues in politics, military and culture, especially related to North Korea. I applied for the Mundus program because I wanted to study journalism academically and theoretically. Although I did not have a specific motivation when I started out as a journalist, my sense of vocation grew as my career progressed. While it is a very challenging job, it's also rewarding work when you build trust with your own sources and finally write an exclusive article. For me, the most exciting moment was in March 2018 when I published an exclusive article from Helsinki covering North Korea's informal meeting with the U.S. and South Korean officials. I was the first journalist to find out that North Korea was shifting its strategy from a provocative attitude to a relaxation mood at that point.

Fun fact: I saw the Rocket Man (Kim Jong-un) in person!

Julia Natri

Age: 22

*Nationality: French, Swedish &
Finnish*

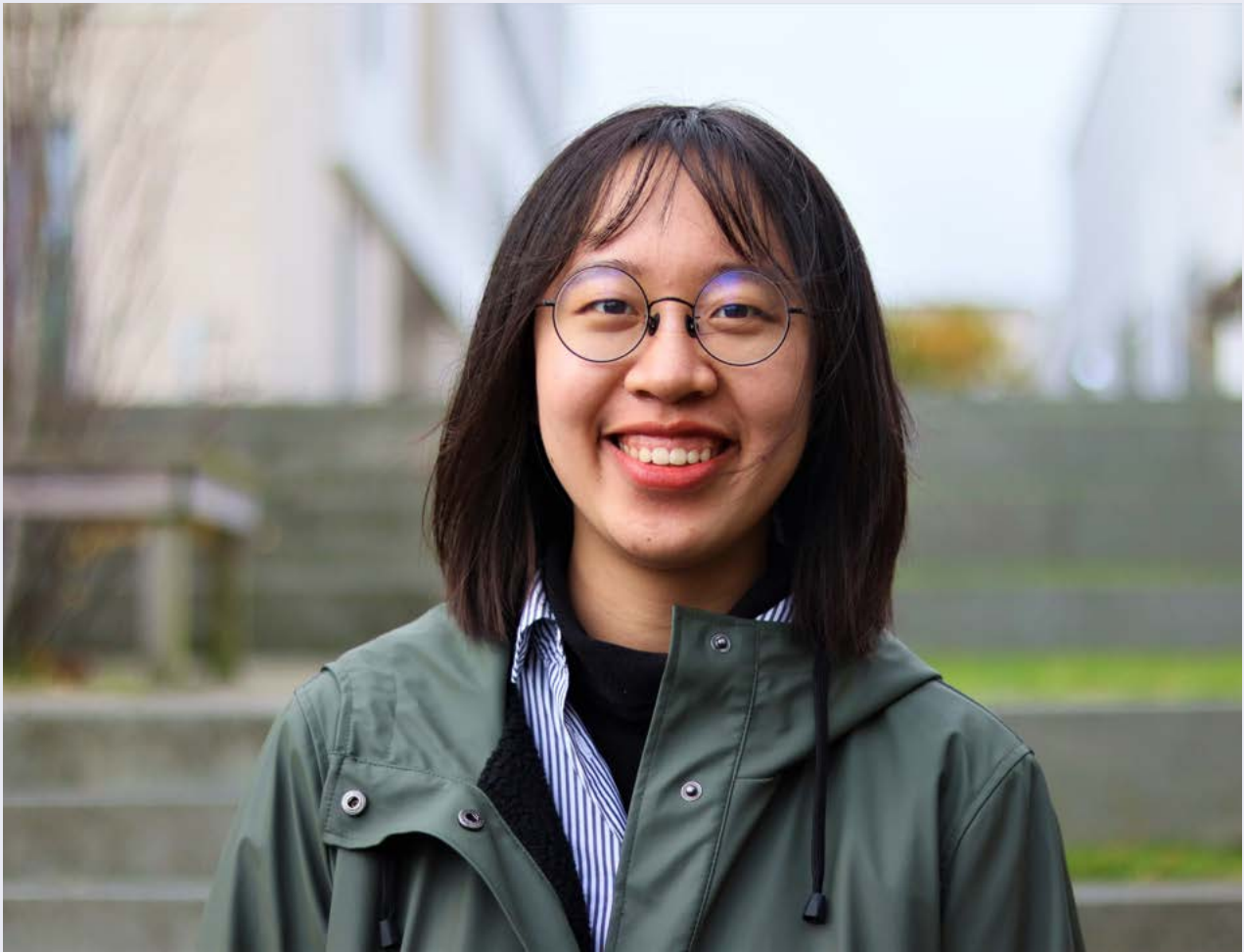
Mundus Specialization: Amsterdam

Email: Jlcnatri@gmail.com

I was inspired to become a journalist when I lived in Peru for a year. For the first time I was out of my very little privileged socio economic bubble of Northern Europe and I realized there was so much that we didn't know about that we could learn from South America. I applied to the programme because Mundus is all about the world and learning from each other. I wanted to be surrounded by the best international journalists and share two years of practice and learning with them!

Fun facts: I go to the toilet at least 15 times a day because I drink pretty much 5 liters every day (coffee, tea, water, beer, whatever). I just love to drink!





Junlin Wang

Age: 22

Nationality: Chinese

*Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam*

Email: estrellawjl@gmail.com

In a country as enormous as China, complexities such as human rights violation or environmental pollution abound. These stories must be told and I want to be one of the storytellers. I applied for the Mundus Programme because I am interested in political journalism and overall the programme and the specialization in Amsterdam offer an international platform to explore the essence of media and politics.

Fun fact: I'm afraid of birds. Unfortunately, there are a lot of birds in the streets of Aarhus. Every time I see them, I detour.

Katrine Lyngsø Knudsen

Age: 25

Nationality: Danish

Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam

Email: Klyngsoek@gmail.com

I never imagined that I could convert my nosiness into a profession until I was interviewed by a journalist myself. I realised some people make a living by asking questions – seemed like a no-brainer! Ever since I've been heart-poundingly addicted to the idea of making an impact. I applied to the Mundus program to meet people from all over the world with a common interest in journalism. I saw a golden chance to learn about the world beyond the boundaries of Denmark, both from my classmates and the curriculum.

Fun facts: I have watched Modern Family four times, but probably none of your favorite movies, nor any of the “classics.” I’m dangerously addicted to (extremely) salty liquorice. I play the same song on repeat over and over again when studying. I’m obsessed with Korean culture, style, history and...well anything Korean. I usually sing out loud while biking.





Keegan Wiggins

Age: 23

Nationality: American

Specialization:
Amsterdam

Email: keeganmwiggins@gmail.com

I've always really wanted to work and live abroad, so I thought that going to grad school abroad would be a great way to put my foot in the door. For my specialization, I really like to cover politics and thought it would be good to learn more about data journalism. The moment I knew journalism was for me was when I met Sheryl WuDunn and Nicholas D. Kristoff about their book, Half the Sky. The book was an investigative journalist piece about women's rights issues from a global perspective. After reading their book and meeting them, I knew that journalism was the path for me.

Fun facts: I got my scuba diving license before my driver's license. I had a straw go into my eye when I was a kid. I've lived in six different states in the U.S. (Tennessee, Missouri, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, North Carolina & Virginia).

Kimberly Nicolaus

Age: 23

Nationality: German

Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam

Email: kimberly.nicolaus@gmail.com

I want to connect with people across borders because it is an eye opener, especially when it comes to journalistic projects. I want to understand the big pictures and report on it, and an international network like the Mundus program is especially helpful in this respect. During my bachelor's, I did a multimedia story about a trans woman, Dana. When she initially married her wife, Stephanie, in 2015, they married as a man and woman. Today, they are still married and in love, but as a woman and a woman. The chance to report about this story and exert influence on social prejudices is what drove me to become a journalist.

Fun Fact: When I go for a run, my face turns red, but not in a cute way, it's more a bright red like the color of a ripe tomato (which doesn't stop me from running). Also, should I ever say 'funny,' I'll mean it. However, people often don't think that I mean it because my facial expression says something else.





Kirti Joshi

Age: 25

Nationality: Indian

*Mundus Specialization:
Prague*

Email: joshikirti99@gmail.com

My experience, be it academic or professional, has been based on what I see in South Asia, so one of the reasons that attracted me to the Mundus program was the international and European aspect. Apart from this, the specialization that I have selected gives equal weight to both theory and practical perspectives, so this was also highly incentivizing for me. For me, journalism encapsulates everything and anything on the face of the earth (or beyond it). Be it science, societies or sarcasm, you can specialize and present it to the audience.

Fun fact: I don't laugh when I don't want to no matter how hard a person tries to make me.

Maja Markus

Age: 22

Nationality: Hungarian

Mundus Specialization:
Prague

Email: markus.maja@live.com

The Mundus program stood out to me because of its mobility and international nature. Also, the many possibilities it offers, such as being able to go on an internship or a semester abroad. I chose Prague as a specialization because I wanted to have a practical approach to journalism during the second year. Journalism was always a field that I was interested in, especially because of its diversity. People usually define journalism only in one way, but I think it is so much more and is constantly evolving. Being able to tell stories, talk with people and somehow shed light on important issues is what motivated me to pursue journalism.

Fun Facts: I have lived most of my life abroad and have always moved from place to place since a young age. Although I am Hungarian, I consider Belgium as my home country since that is the country I've lived in the longest. For a real fun fact, I really enjoy playing piano and guitar!





Molly Kruse

Age: 21

Nationality: American

*Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam*

Email: mollymkruse@gmail.com

I did an exchange in Aarhus during my undergrad and was always looking for a way to come back to this magical city. While coincidentally searching for a journalism master's a few years later, I stumbled on this program. It seemed like a dream come true! Nowadays, we are so wrapped up in the tiny worlds of our phones and it's so easy to live inside our heads. For me, journalism is a way to notice the world around me, engage with real people outside my comfort zone, and preserve important moments in time through writing, photos, videos, etc. It's fulfilling for me.

Fun facts: I love to clean people's rooms for them, and I adore baking. The most daring thing I have ever done was make a snow angel while dressed only in a swimsuit in Denmark, of course.

Muhammad Shahab- ud-Din Makhdoom

Age: 23

Nationality: Pakistani

Mundus Specialization:
Prague

Email: makhdumshahab@gmail.com

My inspiration to pursue journalism can be summarized in a quote from Tom Stoppard: "I believe that if your aim is to change the world, journalism is a more immediate short-term weapon." The Mundus Journalism program gives me the ideal journalism master degree, and in addition, I get to be with students from diverse backgrounds and build my network.

Fun fact: Whenever I am live on TV or make my vlogs, I usually wear a shirt and a coat with no pants.





Nathalie Weatherald

Age: 23

Nationality: British

*Mundus Specialization:
Prague*

Email: nweatherald@gmail.com

I chose the Mundus programme because of its internationalism - in the structure (living in two or more countries), the people and their diverse life experiences and backgrounds, and in the ethos of the programme! I applied for the Prague specialisation because of how historically-oriented it was, and the multimedia approach. I was drawn to the breadth of approaches, mediums and possibilities within the Journalism field, and the opportunities and challenges presented by storytelling in a globalised world.

Fun facts: I love to paint, I went to school in the Canadian Rocky Mountains for a while and I've seen the entirety of Gilmore Girls three times!

Ole Bøgh Ellekrog

Age: 29

Nationality: Danish

Mundus Specialization:
Prague

Email: o.ellekrog@gmail.com

I don't even remember what inspired me to pursue journalism anymore, but I think I followed the news so much that I decided that I may as well make it my job. I had been working as a journalist for a couple of years, but the job had gotten boring and routine, so in order to better be able to find fun jobs, I decided to try to become a better journalist by applying to the Mundus Programme.

Fun fact: My name is not pronounced "Ole." It's "Ole." Obviously.





Puck Wagemaker

Age: 22

Nationality: Dutch

*Mundus Specialization:
Prague*

Email: puckwagemaker@hotmail.com

What attracted me to the Mundus program is that practical and theoretical knowledge are combined. I want to gain academic knowledge, but not be in the books all the time, as a journalist you need to be in the field as well! The program gives us the possibility to do both. As a journalist, my goal is to make international current affairs accessible to the public. I want the audience to know the entire story by telling the story on a low-key level without assuming that they know the background of complex international affairs. I think it's fascinating how a post-totalitarian state faces changes and creates a new identity. It's beyond important to know and understand the history and culture of a country since it largely explains the behavior of the country today. That is why I chose specialization in Prague.

Fun fact: I eat a LOT of grapes! Almost three boxes in a week. A friend of mine wondered one time how much I contribute to the number of grapes that are eaten in the world, since I also drink a lot of wine haha.

Ramsha Jahangir

Age: 27

Nationality: Pakistani

Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam

Email: ramshaa.jay@gmail.com

Being a journalist is not easy. It often doesn't pay well. You're working full-time (quite literally), and your time off means thinking about the next story. I became a journalist because I'm always looking for answers. I guess curiosity inspired me. Now with five years of working as a journalist, I am still looking for answers. This is what continues to drive me. As for the Mundus programme, it's a two-year comprehensive programme that allows you to study in different countries, which also means more exposure and networking. I was initially confused whether I should go for a year-long degree in the UK, but Pakistani Mundusians convinced me otherwise. One, you can continue your stay in Europe after graduation if you find a job. Second, it is a good mix of practical and theoretical understanding of journalism – so you can opt to continue in academia or join the news industry.

Fun Fact: I come up with my best pitches in the shower.





Rosalie Zawalinski

Age: 24

Nationality: German

*Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam*

Email: rosalie.zawa@gmail.com

I can't remember any specific moment that led to my interest in journalism, but I've always been curious about how the world works. Whenever I see a current issue on the news, all I know is that I want to go to its depth and start researching. I hope the Mundus program will enable me to deepen my practical journalistic knowledge and gain new theoretical skills. I chose Amsterdam as my specialization year because it's AMSTERDAM!!! And, also because I'm interested in political journalism.

Fun Fact: Sarcasm and procrastination are one of my many talents.

Roselyne Min

Age: 23

Nationality: Korean

Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam

Email: sentelli5976@gmail.com

Since my childhood I've been always interested in conveying information via digital platforms. During an internship period back in Korea in 2016 - protests against the then president led to impeachment. I'd say this was one of the specific moments that inspired me to pursue journalism as a career. The Mundus program was very appealing to me as I am fond to learn about data journalism and it was missing in my undergraduate program.

Fun fact: I never have both of my ears blocked. For example, I don't use a headset at all and if I use earphones or earbuds, I'd only use one of the pairs.





Sandra Zialcita

Age: 24

Nationality: Filipino

*Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam*

Email: sandrazialcita@gmail.com

I want to be an international news correspondent that supports marginalised communities around the world. I joined the Mundus Journalism programme to develop my journalism skills and gain a global perspective on issues I witnessed in my country. Through the programme, I hope to gain a better understanding of global issues and how my role as a journalist can bring change to the lives of people affected by these. As a journalist and development worker in the Philippines, I witnessed first-hand the realities of poverty in my country. These experiences inspired me to contribute my own efforts to improve the lives of those who have less by bringing their stories to the right audience. I am very passionate about my work, knowing that I could help bring positive change to people's lives.

Fun facts: I love to travel and eat! I always have to end my meal with something sweet and I'm always on the lookout for my next vacation destination!

Selina Oberpriller

Age: 23

Nationality: German

Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam

Email: selina.oberpriller@gmail.com

I realized that I learn the most about life (and about myself) when I spend time with people from very diverse backgrounds. That was what I was looking for when I applied for the program: exchanging ideas and experiences with journalists from all around the world. It might sound naive but the chance to make a difference in the world is what inspires me. My main aim in journalism is to give people a voice who are usually overheard by society. I am also interested in many different topics. Journalism is an ongoing learning process, with every research we get the chance to gain some expertise in a new field.

Fun fact: Mostly running late, doesn't like beer and has no idea about football – still German.





Sofia Kuan

Age: 24

*Nationality: Guatemalan &
Taiwanese*

Mundus Specialization: Amsterdam

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Right before I started my undergrad, I remember thinking, “Is there a career that makes you a professional curious person?” It’s been six years since then, and I am glad I chose to major in journalism. For me, there was not a single moment that defined my choice. It was more the combination of wanting to learn more, connect more, and communicate more that pushed me to pursue a career in storytelling. As for applying to the Mundus program, I’d love to have a long metaphoric answer for this, but the truth is that it seemed like the right next step for me. I had been working for two years, and I felt like I wanted to learn even more about my career. As for my specialization, I believe that political narratives affect us all. In particular, how the media interprets political events. I hope to one day contribute to this beat from an education standpoint.

Fun facts: I was born in Guatemala, but I only lived there for a grand total of four years! Also, my hip joints always crack, but that’s more of a sad fact.

Soila Kenya

Age: 24

Nationality: Kenyan & Nigerian

Mundus Specialization: Prague

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I like writing and that's what got me into journalism initially but since then I just like telling stories of people and places. I'm still not entirely sure what I want to do in terms of career but it will definitely be in the realm of storytelling and communication. I applied for the Mundus Program because I liked the idea of a joint degree and the travel/globalisation aspect as well. The Prague specialization drew me in because it's much more practical. I would also be part of the first group taking the specialization because it's new. That's quite exciting!

Fun facts: My last name is as a result of a typo. I'm quite flat footed so RIP me in heels. I have a YouTube Channel where I talk about fiction books.





Teresa Di Mauro

Age: 23

Nationality: Italian

*Mundus Specialization:
Prague*

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Two years ago, I spent a semester as an Erasmus student in Armenia's capital Yerevan. It was during that experience that I realized I wanted to pursue journalism. Not even after two months I was there, Armenians took the street and started the "Velvet revolution". It was a series of non violent protests that ended up with the resignation of the Prime Minister against whom they protested and then elected the leader of the movement as the Country's new Prime Minister. I covered the event with enthusiasm and suddenly, I realized I loved what I was doing. I applied for the Mundus program because I found the idea of being able to share thoughts, perspectives and experiences with journalists from all over the world fascinating. Concerning the specialization, Prague's program was the one that best matched my previous work experience and study interests.

Fun fact: I am a bread worshipper.

Vania López Díaz

Age: 27

Nationality: Cuban

Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam

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Telling other people's stories and giving them some kind of voice is what most attracted me to journalism from the beginning. I felt stuck in my journalistic role in my country and therefore decided to apply to move on to another stage, improve my abilities and seek for a wider perspective in my profession. A lifetime experience to share with a worldwide community.

Fun facts: I always get lost with new addresses. I tend to easily distract myself and I am much more eloquent in Spanish than I might be in English.





Vittoria Torsello

Age: 22

Nationality: Italian

Mundus Specialization:

Prague

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I think writing has always been a part of me in some way. I don't remember a time when I found myself not interested in writing something, it has always been a constant in my life. I still don't know if I want to pursue journalism in the future, I chose this program to find it out. I chose to apply for the Mundus Program because it presents a constant interweaving of theory and practice that I found stimulating. Moreover, I found engaging how the program is concerned to focus on the current development of media, by stimulating students in re-thinking journalism in new ways. I applied for Prague University for the attention it pays to the study of social and political sciences through a historical analysis that takes the development of post-totalitarian nations as an interesting example.

Fun facts: I'm really good at crashing parties (I have developed some skills I can share!!), but I have also been kicked out so many times :(

Zuowei Zhang

Age: 23

Nationality: Chinese

*Mundus Specialization:
Amsterdam*

Email: sleep2ohourseveryday@gmail.com

I was looking into experiencing a new life in a country which had different ideology, culture and education system from China. Additionally, I am always satisfied when getting knowledge of communication and politics, which would be offered by this programme. I didn't really have any specific reason for choosing the specialization in Amsterdam. However, what really inspired me to pursue journalism was getting in touch with Gabriel García Márquez during high school. I am super inspired by his work as a writer and even more by his journalistic career.

Fun fact: My ability to remember song lyrics from the 90s far exceeds my ability to remember why I unlocked my phone.



Survival Tips

C P R

CPR stands for Det Centrale Personregister, which translates to the Civil Registration System. It is a 10-digit number card, which can be used as personal identification in all Danish national registers. All Danish residents have to have a CPR number. It can be used to take out insurance, book an appointment to your assigned GP, open a Danish bank account and get a Danish phone number.

What do you need to get a CPR number?

- *Confirmed housing contract based in Denmark*
- *Residence permit (for non-EU/EEA citizens)*
- *Photo ID*
- *If you are married, your marriage certificate or a certified copy of it*
- *If you have children, your child/children's birth certificate(s)*
- *If you are divorced, your divorce certificate*
- *If you are a widow/widower, the death certificate of your husband/wife*

You can file all the required documents at Dokk1. The CPR card is usually ready after two weeks following your first appointment at Dokk1.

B A N K I N G

Many of us faced the problem where credit cards issued in our home countries didn't work properly. Therefore, we needed to open new bank accounts in Aarhus. Here are the banking options you can get:

Danish Bank Account:

The most obvious option is to open a bank account in one of the Danish banks (Danske Bank, Jyske Bank, Nordea). Danish bank account is required if you plan to work in Denmark. Also, holding a Danish bank card allows you to use MobilePay, an easy payment system for smartphones developed by Danske Bank. However, in order to obtain Danish credit card you need to have a CPR number, which many of us didn't have upon arrival. So, the whole process of getting a card might take a while to be completed. There are plenty alternatives to Danish bank accounts, online banking, for instance.

Revolut

Revolut is an online bank based in the United Kingdom. The biggest advantage of an online bank is how fast the card can be ready. In order to get an actual card you just need to download an APP on your phone, verify your identity alongside with your residence permit. It is possible to have a digital card for free, however if you want to have a physical one, the fee is 60DKK per month.

N26

N26 has the same concept as Revolut. The only difference is that N26 doesn't work in several countries, so many of us decided to go with Revolut eventually.

BIKING

It is impossible to imagine Aarhus without numerous bikes. Even though it is hard to cycle uphill, Aarhus is still a great place to get everywhere in the city by bike. Many students coming to Aarhus buy second-hand bikes, since it is a lot cheaper than getting a new one. The approximate price is 800DKK

Places to get a cheap bike:

- *Dbn.dk*
- *Facebook groups: Aarhus Buy Cheap, Second Hand Bike Aarhus og Midtjylland*

If you don't want to buy a bike there is always an option to rent one. Swapfiets is a great place for renting a bike. The rent is 170DKK per month for students.



OTHER HELPFUL TIPS

Waterproof clothing is a must!

It is best to buy a raincoat, waterproof pants and some rubber boots, since you can never tell when it is going to rain. The only predictable thing about Aarhus weather is that it is completely unpredictable!

Always lock your bike!

Unfortunately, the infamous Danish trust doesn't count when it comes to stealing bikes. It is better not only just to lock your tires, but also lock your entire bike to something that cannot be moved easily.

Buy your bus tickets!

It can be fun to save some money while ignoring the bus fare (which is 22DKK), however the fee for going without a ticket is 700DKK. So the initial idea of saving money by not buying the tickets can be very expensive, especially for students. You can buy your bus fare using Midttrafik APP.

Places to go for cheap in Aarhus

TOO GOOD TO GO

Another nice possibility to fight food waste is to buy groceries or full meals through the app ToGoodToGo. Restaurants, bakeries and grocery stores offer food they were not able to sell during the day at throwaway prices (because literally otherwise they would just throw it away!). Sushi, bread and pastries or rather a big box stuffed with delicious leftovers of a vegetarian buffet – what’s for dinner?

REUSE

Everything deserves a second chance. At REUSE, you can get second hand goods of any kind. You just moved into your student dorm and still need a small shelf for all your books? Pots for some plants to make your home cozier? Or maybe you are a big music fan and love to collect old CDs? You can find all this at REUSE. Take what you need for free or leave what you are not in need of anymore and help to reduce waste. REUSE is a place where people share. If you are passionate about recycling and re-design you can also join their volunteer group and work on creative workshops and events or help people repair their bikes at the bicycle repair shop.



FOODSHARING AARHUS & FREEFRIDGE AARHUS

If you want to get even more active in fighting food waste, you can also check out Foodsharing and Freefridge Aarhus. These initiatives save food from the trash by partnering up with grocery stores or engaging in dumpster diving (which surprisingly is not necessarily illegal in Denmark). The idea is not only to take action to prevent food waste but also to build strong communities around food and educate and empower people on sustainability and solidarity. That is why they collaborate with various organizations and organize events, such as creative dinners where people come together and create special meals from saved food.

WEFOOD

The average Danish family wastes 20 percent of their groceries. Imagine that: basically every fifth shopping card goes straight to the trash. You can help reduce the food waste and shop at Wefood. Groceries bigger stores cannot sell anymore, because of damaged packaging, wrong labels or the expiry date, are often still eatable. That is why Wefood saves these groceries and sells them for a cheap and fair price. The earnings are donated to people in need: It's a Win-Win-Win with Wefood.

DOMEN & CAFÉ MELLEMFOLK

The best places to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate or a warming chai latte. Not only are the prices cheaper than in most other cafés, the money is used for community projects or donations. Domen and Café Mellemfolk are non-profit venues driven by volunteers. Both places focus on community, diversity and sustainable development. Two unifying oases in Aarhus where everyone is welcome. You can just come by and enjoy the atmosphere or join the many activist groups. It is definitely worth it to check out their events as they are organizing free concerts, meditation classes or interesting lectures as f.e. the Latin American day with topics on social issues in Latin America but also dance performances and typical food stands.

Danish Culture: Do's and Don'ts

- **W**hen on public transport, and especially on the bus, never sit next to a stranger if there is space somewhere else. Danes like to keep their private spaces so it is considered weird.
- **D**anes bike everywhere! Actually, it is the best way to get around Aarhus but make sure to follow the rules. When stopping or turning you have to indicate. Also, always keep to the side of the bike path so that faster cyclists can pass.
- **G**enerally, Danes eat quite early. Whether it is lunch or dinner. So don't be surprised if the lunch buffet at the cafeteria is already cleaned up at 1.30pm.
- **M**any Danes don't use Whatsapp. If they won't give you their number it doesn't mean that they don't like you. They simply don't have Whatsapp. Instead they mostly use Facebook messenger.
- **O**nly a few years ago, exams at Aarhus University looked very different: the digital exam webpage didn't exist yet, so students had to bring their own printer for the exam day so they could print out their answers. Just imagine lines of students entering an auditorium with a big printer under their shoulder, and then going home with it after the exam. This was reality only 5 years ago.
- **D**anes are very informal. It is common practice to address others by their first name, also in academic or professional settings. This means, it is quite normal to call your teachers and professors by their first name.
- **N**ever cross red lights. And in general do not break rules. Danes are rule-followers and the police are very strict. So if you want to avoid a fine of around 700DKK for crossing a red light, just follow the Danes!
- **T**rust is a big thing in Denmark. People will leave things outside and not expect people doing any harm in them or eventually steal their belongings. For example, a Danish woman once left her toddler outside a café while she enjoyed her coffee in New York. But unfortunately for her, it became a court case as what was natural for her in her home country, was considered unlawful in the US.
- **'Hygge'** the word you probably already heard about. No other language has a word that could describe hygge, but the closest it can be defined as is somewhere between cozy and fun. For instance, Danish people will say "let's hygge on Friday!" (Meaning going to a friend's place, watch a movie, get some food, etc.)
- **"Janteloven,"** or the Law of Jante, refers to a social code that is deeply rooted in the nordic culture. This social "law" rests upon the idea of solidarity and equality within society and disapproves of expression of superiority and individuality. Being overly ambitious and bragging about personal success is not well received. Instead, emphasize collective accomplishments and well-being.

HELPFUL DANISH PHRASES

So many weird vowels in the Danish language! Å, Ø, Æ and sometimes they sound the same! One of the most difficult vowels is the soft “d” which actually sounds a bit like an L.

For example: The word “hedder” is actually pronounced “hell-er”

Danish	Pronunciation	English
Hej	Hi	Hello
Farvel	Fah-vel	Goodbye
Ja / Nej	Ya / Nai	Yes / No
Undskyld!	Un-school	Sorry!
Hvad hedder du?	Ved hell-er do?	What's your name?
Mit navn er ...	Meet now-n air ...	My name is...
Hvordan går det?	Vor-den go day?	How are you? How's it going?
Godt, tak!	Got, tack	Good thanks!
Jeg taler ikke dansk.	Yai tai-ler igge dansk.	I don't speak Danish.
Taler du engelsk?	Tai-ler do eng-gelsk?	Do you speak english?
Tak for det! / Mange tak!	Tack for day / mang-ga tack	Thanks for that! / Many thanks!
Selv tak	Sell tack	You're welcome
Tak for <u>snak</u> ken.	Tack for snak-n	Nice talking to you.
Det lyder godt!	Day lilder got	Sounds good!
Vi ses	Ve seis	See you
Skål!	Schol	Cheers!