

November, 2021

in it together

bluebook

# MUNDUS

**Erasmus Mundus Master's in  
Journalism, Media and Globalisation**

**Acknowledgments**

Thank you to the Erasmus Mundus Cohort  
and Consortium

2021.

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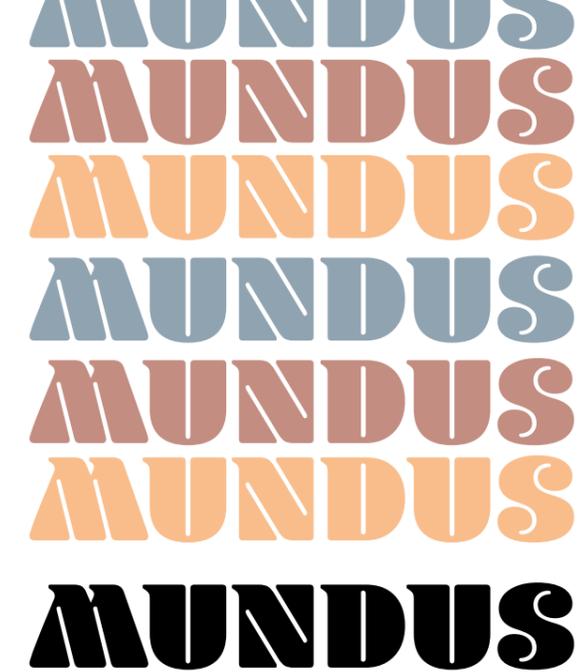
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## WELCOME

### Editor's Note

Hi there and welcome to the Blue Book of the Erasmus Mundus Journalism Cohort of 2021-23.

We consider our cohort somewhat special, not because we are 62 students from 30 countries - that is a normal diversity for the Mundus Journalism program. But we started forming strong connections just after we got our admission letters - connections that only grew stronger when we all arrived in Aarhus. Read in this magazine how this bond was formed and which struggles some of us had to overcome to come here in the midst of a pandemic. Also you will get some tips for planning your arrival and of course what to do once in Aarhus. And if

you want to get an audible impression of our cohort, listen to the favourite songs from our home countries on Spotify!

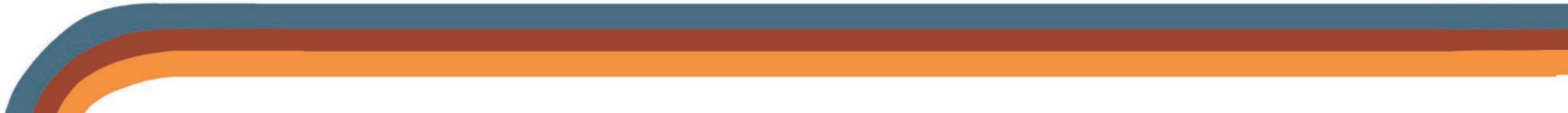
Please feel free to reach out to any of the students whose insights and experiences you might be interested in. Everybody will be more than happy to support you in the application process or in the weeks and months leading up to your arrival in Aarhus.

Because we're in it together!



Scan to listen to our favourite songs!

Rebecca Herber



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# Tips for planning your arrival

By Rebecca Herber



**Y**ou got the admission offer for the Mundus program! Congratulations!! Now there is a lot to sort out: housing, the official enrollment, visa issues, maybe funding.. And of course, planning your arrival and booking flights or trains.

If you have the chance, try to come as early as at least one, maybe two

or even more weeks prior to course start. Then you can get settled in in peace and get to know the city without having to worry about classes and schedules. Also, you will have the opportunity to get to know your fellow students and form a connection with them beforehand. But, as a non-EU student, beware of rules regarding your visa: there might be a time limit for you to move to Aarhus before the course starts.

As soon as you arrive you will probably want to meet up with everyone who is already around - and also after classes start. Here are some recommendations of cool places with enough space for 60 to 80 people, so everyone can join!

**Aarhus Street Food:** Located close to the central station, at Aarhus Street Food you will find enough space for your whole class inside and outside of the food hall. With over 30 different restaurants and bars, there is something for everyone. From Thai food, to Caribbean cuisine and traditional Danish meals, they really have it all. Seating is casual and informal, so grab a group of friends and head down for some delicious international eats! Also, if you long for the traditional food from your country, you might find some here. Or at least a Danish version of it, with less spices.



**Botanical Garden:** If the weather is still nice (which it still should be in August, another reason to arrive early), a picnic in the park with some games like Spikeball or the Danish game Kubb is always a great way to meet up and get to know each other in a casual setting. The park around the Botanical Garden is the perfect location for this.

**Studenterhus:** Located near the University building, Studenterhus is a location for students run by student volunteers. Whether you're looking for a cheap spot to grab a drink, or a quiet area to have a coffee and study, Studenterhus has what

you need. Also, it offers enough space for your whole cohort. Consider getting a membership or becoming a volunteer, as you receive significant discounts on both hot and cold beverages. They also organize events and trips especially for international students.

Another big benefit of arriving early is Aarhus festuge - which roughly translates to Aarhus festival. For one week the whole city is buzzing, on every corner you will find another event: concerts, workshops, talks, art exhibitions, installations, drinks and food, and a lot more.

This year's theme couldn't have been more fitting for our cohort - we were "In it together" right from the start as some of us already got in touch shortly after our admission offers via a WhatsApp group. We supported each other along the way when it came to smaller or bigger struggles regarding visa, housing, or the difficult situation with planning to move to a foreign country in the midst of a pandemic.

If you can't arrive super early, but still don't want to miss the festival, don't worry. In 2022, the festival will take place from 26th of August to 4th of September, so not too long before your classes start around September 1st.



Another advantage of arriving early is a bit more boring than a festival, but super important. You can get your CPR registration (civil registration number and residence permit for non-EU students) out of your way before the course starts. Every international student will have to deal with this, it is an annoying step of bureaucracy, but you will benefit from it: you will also receive free healthcare with it.

# Clashing and learning from Danish culture

By Mar Segura

It does not matter whether your home country is a few hundred kilometres away, or tens of thousands of kilometres: most Mundusians have experienced culture shock when moving to Denmark. Many of us did not know much about Denmark before we moved here, or even if we did, it is difficult to know the little things that make up our daily lives beforehand. But after a couple of culture shocks, we have learned more about what life is like in our new country.

We have gathered some of the culture shocks experienced by Mundusians in our cohort, to pass on our new learnings and perhaps warn future Mundusians about what to expect in Denmark.

**What has shocked you about life in Denmark?**

**Enno from Germany:** "Self check-out in the canteen. I feel like it would never work in any other European country."

Denmark is the country with the highest level of trust in the world, and trust shapes many aspects of Danish society. That often means that no one checks whether you pay or not. This is the case in the university canteen, but also in supermarkets or

museums. However, don't be tempted to leave without paying! Sometimes there are video surveillance cameras, and we also do not want to ruin this beautiful aspect of Danish culture.

**Laeticia from South Korea:** "You can look inside people's houses from the street, people keep their curtains open and you can see them sitting on the couch, playing games, partying or whatever."

If you come to live in Denmark, don't expect to have thick curtains, let alone blinds. The importance of having natural light might be part of the explanation, but Danes do not mind people peering into their private lives. There is also a cultural explanation to this: keeping their private life in plain sight means they are not doing anything that they are ashamed for the whole world to see.

**Maria from Spain and Luxembourg:** "My flatmates called me out for crossing as a pedestrian when the traffic light was red. They even told me that I could be fined for it"

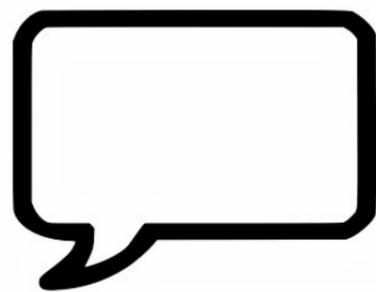
Danish trust does not detract from the fact that they also have a rigid sense of rules and legality. Traffic rules are very important here, and more than one or two Mundusians have been fined for not respecting them. Knowing them will also

help you avoid being run over by a bicycle.

**Rida from Pakistan:** "On my first day in Denmark, I spent quite some time trying to figure out where to get drinking water. I finally asked one of my roommates and she told me they just drink water from the tap. I was so shocked - if you did that in Pakistan you would surely get diarrhea!"

In Denmark you will probably spend a lot of money on almost everything, but there is one thing you will save on: water. Unlike in many countries, the water here is clean and safe to drink, so there is no need to buy bottled water!





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# ...of stalking and detective work: How the Mundus Journalism Whatsapp group was born!

By Luckson Sikananu

It was a fairly mundane day on the 1st of March 2021, but for anyone that had applied for the Mundus Journalism programme, this was D-Day, or the finalee if you like. And me, like hundreds of other young people across the world, waited until I received that long-awaited email. I got into the programme!

This came at the right time. For most of us in the 2021 cohort, the previous year was supposed to be a memorable one; some of us got our first 'real' jobs, or were getting out of college into the real world, while some were planning to travel across the world. All these came to a halt due to COVID-19. The global pandemic upended many aspects of our lives, but one that really hit the most was the loss of the in-person connections we had with our families and friends.

One of the (few) silver linings of COVID-19 is that it showed us the importance of human connections and that we have very similar experiences regardless of ethnicity, geography, gender or taste in wine. It was with this that I set out on a mission to find (daringly, I'd say) people I would share the next two years of my life with. In this context, I'd like to think of myself as the "one ring to find them all..." from Lord of the Rings.

**"I'd like to think of myself as the "one ring to find them all..." from Lord of the Rings."**

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First, I created alerts on all major social media platforms - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn for any posts that included the keywords: Erasmus Mundus, Journalism, Aarhus, 2021, scholarship. The result was slightly underwhelming to start, but as days and weeks went by, the momentum built up. For posts that did not appear on my meticulously curated radar, I had to manually search for them, and when found, this meant gathering the courage to DM the 'found' person to ask if they would like to join the group.

By the end of the first week of March, the Mundus group had grown from a population of 1 to 7. Week three, the group had grown to 21 people. To further grow our little WhatsApp community, I sought help from Bettina to send out a memo to everyone informing them of the group.

By mid-April, the Mundus group was alive and active with over 25 members. Not a day passed without the group being filled with countless messages that ranged from questions about the Mundus programme to The Office memes, as well as exchanging titbits of the media landscapes in our corners of the world to sharing Netflix recommendations and Spotify playlists.

Almost two months later, members of the group met for the first time...

on Zoom, of course. This meeting was the first of several that came after. In so many ways, the familiarity and closeness we had with each other only grew; despite not having met these perfect strangers miles away from me, I felt like I knew them, like we had known each other for a long time.

I don't know how the group has helped specific individuals from the cohort, but I for one was able to have people I would consider good friends even before I left for Aarhus. And when my father died, days before my flight to Denmark, the group came through... Some individuals went an extra mile in being a shoulder to lean on in my darkest hour.

This is exactly what I envisioned the group to be, a place where we could all 'break the ice' before physically meeting in Aarhus. But most importantly a place we could all call home, a place where we could help one another because we were all in it together.

# Students call on authorities to enter Denmark

## From local leaders to the Prime Minister, we appealed to everyone for help

By *Ronald Rodrigues*

**L**et's write to the Prime Minister and every possible person in power who can help us... literally that is how helpless many of us were before the start of the Erasmus Mundus Master degree programme in 2021. It was almost mid-July and our programme was set to begin from September 1st with regular offline classes. While the majority of students were already packing their bags and preparing to move to Aarhus, students coming from Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, India, Russia and Zambia could not even book their tickets - they were on the red list of countries created by Denmark's government due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the Danish color system of border control, the "red list" had the toughest demands to permit the entrance of foreigners, as the development of the pandemic in those countries was considered to pose a greater risk for Denmark. In this case, even having a residence permit to study in the country was not considered a worthy purpose for entry despite full vaccination, quarantine or Covid-19 negative test results.

The mobilizations began in June, when students from Brazil started searching for people who were also unable to enter Denmark due to Covid related restrictions. According to one of our fellow classmates,

Yohanna Pinheiro, from Fortaleza (Brazil), they then found groups of students that were barred from other countries in Europe on social media.

"We contacted them via WhatsApp and we joined a new movement called Frente Ampla de Estudantes (Students United Front), a union of students from Brazil who were unable to travel to France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Belgium and Denmark for education, research and employment due to Covid restrictions." This, according to her, was inspired by the successful movement started by Brazilian students who were going to the USA in the previous year. By the end of June, they had written letters

to a number of authorities in Brazil and Denmark, including the External Relations, Health and Higher Education and Science Ministries, Parliaments and Embassies in both countries. The idea was to explain the situation and request study to be considered as a worthy purpose to allow entrance to Denmark.

"We wrote to health authorities, local media organisations, student movements both in Brazil and Denmark. We tried every possible attempt and reached out to every person in power. We even tagged local leaders on social media posts in order to get their attention".

Eric Raupp, a fellow student from Porto-Alegre (Brazil) highlighted that the students collectively wrote letters and sent them via email to 170 members of the Folketing, the Danish Parliament.

"The President of the Danish Parliament made our letter public on the parliament website. Also, we started a campaign on change.org called 'Help Brazilians enter Denmark to study and work', which got 708 signatures". They've got some replies but, while some leaders sympathised with the situation, they could not be of much help.

Meanwhile, students from other countries in the red list also started to mobilize. As a student from Mumbai (India), I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, and the Prime Minister of Denmark, Mette Frederiksen, amid a large number of authorities and politicians. Ana Maria Ocampo Cuesta, from Bogotá (Colombia), wrote to the Colombian ambassador in Copenhagen and Luckson Arthur Sika, from Lusaka (Zambia), to the Embassy of Zambia in Stockholm enquiring about how to appeal to the Danish government. The problem was not the spread of Covid-19 cases as numbers were falling in India and elsewhere, but the public image of countries like India and Brazil created in Europe concerning the spread of the pandemic.

**"The 'red list' had the toughest demands to permit the entrance of foreigners."**

On July 17, Brazil was first to be removed from the red list by Denmark, but plenty of countries, also the home countries of several of our classmates, remained. They still had to face tremendous uncertainties a few weeks before course start. We then united forces. As a cohort, we drafted a letter to send to all government authorities in Denmark, programme coordinators and also the media. We got a few replies, but nothing definitive. Finally, on August 14, two weeks before the course start,

Denmark removed all countries off the red list. After months of numerous letters to several authorities right from local leaders to the Prime Ministers of different countries, use of all possible journalistic connections, series of emails, messages and conversations with political connections and sources, all of us made it to Aarhus. We recall it as one hell of a nightmare, but finally it was worth it.

### Visa intricacies

Luis Orlando León Carpio, a fellow student from Trinidad, Cuba had to spend over a month in Moscow, Russia, because it was the only feasible way to process his visa and residence permit. "Denmark does not have a diplomatic relations office in Cuba, so they do not process long-term visas and residence permits for citizens in Cuba", he explained.

According to him, the Danish authorities suggest Cuban citizens to go either to Mexico or to the USA because those are the closest places where they have diplomatic relations offices. However, that is beyond Cuban citizens' reach because they also need a visa to enter those countries, which Luis says is extremely difficult and exorbitantly expensive.

"I had to go to Russia because I could enter without a visa and stay for 90 days, but it was expensive. I flew from Trinidad, Cuba, to Moscow on July 12, booked an appointment in the Danish Embassy in Moscow and got my visa and residence permit on September 1st. I stayed in Russia for 52 days at my own expense and arrived in Copenhagen on September 3rd. My greatest fear was facing a visa rejection because then I would either be stuck in Russia or forced to return to Cuba and pursue the programme online at least for the first year." Fortunately, Luis also made it and we could all celebrate it together!



# A party inside a bubble

By Ana María Ocampo Cuesta

**F**ive minutes before midnight all the lights went off at Studenterhus. That night of the 31st of August, as international students - including the new Mundus Journalism cohort - were welcomed to a new semester, Aarhus was celebrating the entrance into a new phase in the process of enjoying life after Covid.

As the countdown to midnight came to an end, the celebration quickly transformed into a farewell party to all the remaining restrictions from the previous months of lockdown. The city would officially welcome back students in schools and universities, diners in restaurants, dancers in bars and nightclubs, and visitors in large venues.

With over 70% of the country's population already vaccinated, health officials determined that the pandemic was "under control" and no longer a "critical threat to society".

Before arriving in Denmark, I could not leave my house in Colombia without double checking that my facemask was correctly placed. Daily routines, like taking my dog to the park or going to the supermarket were surrounded by a sense of insecurity, of fear of getting in contact with others. Meeting with friends and family was a very high risk I was not comfortable taking. Life outside my house was a maze of danger and a lottery I was too afraid to even dare to play.

But then, as if that was just a bad dream, I landed in a place where I have even been asked to not wear a mask. A place where I am able to plan social gatherings and enjoy cultural activities without considering social distancing. These past months have been enough time to prove that, yes, humans are animals of habits. It has also been a time to experience some kind of normalcy that we can all hope to get back to. But as much as we may be enjoying the freedom of a safe country such as Denmark, knowing that the pandemic is far from being over back at home leaves a bittersweet after-taste.

News from across the Atlantic Ocean show a not so optimistic landscape, where the still high levels of contagion and the slow vaccination rates

become the background for deepened poverty, insecurity and economic crisis. And the end of it all seems always a little more distant. But in the midst of the different ways our governments and health officials handled the pandemic, as well as how our societies responded to restrictions, there must be something positive we can take out and learn from.

Maybe it could be the sense of trust in the institutions, or perhaps the sense of social responsibility deeply ingrained in Danish society. What we know for sure is that the benefits from 'reopening' the world go beyond just the economic relief.

For now, we hope that the party inside this bubble will not be over anytime soon, and that many more of our countries get to experience this same level of freedom and recovered normalcy.

# Where to go in Aarhus

By Amelia Mola-Schmidt

**D**on't be fooled by the population size here in Aarhus. This Danish city may be small, but it's brimming with things to do. Aarhus boasts a fantastic roster of bars, coffee shops, and restaurants. We've gone through and handpicked a few that we love and recommend.

## Drinks/Cafés

### Le Coq

If you ever find yourself down in the city centre on a warm fall day, consider stopping by Le Coq. This cozy bar offers a relaxed atmosphere and is a great place to kick back with friends to enjoy a shot of Chartreuse or a good beer. When the weather is suitable, you can grab a drink and sit outside at one of the many benches and soak in the sunshine. Le Coq offers a shot of Chartreuse and a bottle of beer together for just 50 DKK.



### Erlings

If you're ever in the mood for a groovy vibe, head on down to Erlings. This bar offers a great selection of craft beer, oh and did we mention they have live jazz on Thursdays? This spot is slightly more expensive, but if you have an occasion to celebrate, Erlings is the place to head down to.

### El Loco

Another fun bar in the heart of the city centre that you'll be sure to have a good time at, while not breaking the bank. This Mexican themed bar offers a bottle of beer and a tequila shot for 50 DKK, not to mention a fun environment with some great Latin music. Seating is quite tight so get there early if you're heading down with a group.

### Super 8.000

Whether you're in the mood for coffees or beers, Super 8,000 is a great spot to check out. They offer reasonably priced drinks, and boast a cozy environment where you can really get your "hygge" on with your friends. Stop by on a Friday night for some drinks and play a card game and listen to their perfectly curated playlists.



### Shen Mao

If you're a fan of ping pong and hip-hop, this is the bar for you! Grab a partner and some paddles to duel it out on the ping-pong table - loser buys drinks! But don't worry - you won't break the bank, this place offers a great selection of beverages at a super reasonable price. This spot is right in the heart of downtown along the canal, so stop in on your next bar crawl.

## Food

### Frankies

If you're looking for delicious pizza that doesn't break the bank, stop by Frankies in Mejlgade. They offer a great selection of different pizzas with a variety of toppings, and great vegetarian options. If the weather permits, sit outside on their adorable patio with your crew. They also offer a great deal, 25 DKK for a cappuccino to go, which is quite reasonable in a city where other coffee shops charge 35-40 DKK for hot coffee drinks.

### Bazaar Vest

Whether you need to get some groceries, or want to eat some delicious and flavourful food, Bazaar Vest has everything you might need. From delicious and fresh produce that is hard to find in regular grocery stores, to tasty Shawarma and Kebab places to eat, this spot has it all. Head down and speak with some of the super knowledgeable and friendly staff who know so much about the food they serve and sell.

### Pho C&P

You've probably heard about the rainy weather here in Aarhus, and while it can be a drag, it presents a great opportunity to head down to places like Pho C&P for a delicious hot bowl of Pho. With delicious spring rolls, seafood, meat, and veggie options, there is something for everyone on the menu here.



# What is it like to be a vegetarian in Aarhus?

By Sofia Ferreira

A little over two years ago, I eliminated all kinds of meat from my diet. Fish, chicken, seafood... from one day to another, from the taste to the environmental impact of consuming it, eating meat no longer made sense to my lifestyle.

Even though our culture and cuisine are still very much based on meat consumption, being a vegetarian in Brazil never required sudden changes in my routine. Especially in the past five years, our market has opened up significantly to more sustainable alternatives to embrace vegetarianism and veganism, and plant-based meals can be easily found everywhere nowadays.

Regardless of which part of the world you come from, if you hear about Denmark, the first reference that pops into your head is probably related to the country's commitment to sustainability. Danish culture prioritizes the environment and nature in all spheres, and from social conventions to consumption habits, everything is about being eco-friendly. For these and other reasons, you can imagine that, as a vegetarian, before moving to the country, my feeling was that I would arrive in a vegan Disneyland. Well, not really.

If we think about the quality of production of these vegetables, for example, my expectations were not so frustrated - Denmark has an ambitious goal of becoming the first country in the world with 100% organic agriculture. But when it comes to finding fast and practical meals for days when you're drowning in university assignments and too lazy to cook, the options available in grocery shops are curiously limited. The same goes for small businesses.

But one thing to always have in mind before getting upset about not finding a delicious green sandwich in your local cafeteria is to ask for non-meaty options, even if they are not on the menu. Although most places don't have a wide range of varieties, the Danes are commonly open to prepare a special snack for you - just be very clear on what you can or cannot eat.

If you are willing to spend a little more money on a tasty plate, the city has specific vegetarian and vegan cuisine restaurants, especially downtown. Some to pin on your map are Green Neighbour, Café Fika, Greenilicious and Grød. Aarhus Streetfood is also a great and more accessible option - there, you'll find more than 30 restaurants from different nationalities, spices, and unique recipes. Last but not least, for the classic night-out snack or when strolling by the city center, many restaurants specialized in shawarma and kebab can offer good falafel-based meals.

Hummus, special bread, fresh vegetables and fruits... supplies for your homemade veggie dishes are not a problem in Denmark. But when it comes to traditional Danish cuisine, it is important to know, finding a meat-free Smørrebrød is not as easy as you can imagine. To sum up: When in Aarhus, whether to feed the deer at the Deer Park or yourself in unexpected situations, having apples and carrots with you is always a good idea. Go green!



# Saving money at the supermarket

By *Edoardo Anziano*

**Y**ou might find thirty bananas and four kilos of potatoes inside the package. Or strawberries, avocados, broccoli, pears, two lemons and a whole plant of basil. Or maybe six kilos of delicious Danish bread and cinnamon rolls instead. These "Magic Boxes" are sold without a description of what's inside and cost as much as a cappuccino at the University bar. They're a great way to save money and, most importantly, to fight food waste.

The "Magic Boxes" can be ordered on a mobile app called Too Good To Go. In Aarhus, they are available every day in all major supermarkets, depending on surplus food. The idea is very simple:

instead of throwing away unsold but still delicious fruit, vegetables or bread, the supermarkets put them in big paper bags, which you can buy on the app and pick up directly at the supermarket.

You can find one of these bags for 29 DKK. In case you are still not familiar with the local currency (and prices), it's really, really cheap. "But what am I supposed to do with kilos and kilos of bread and potatoes?"; you might wonder. Good question. The simple answer is: put them in the freezer.

Before I came to Aarhus I always considered the freezer just an extra door to use when the fridge is full. But the fact is that you can freeze everything - bread,

of course, but also soup or even mashed potatoes, using tupperwares. In this way you can buy a large amount of food without wasting it and have it always ready when you need it. You just need to defrost it using the microwave.

Here we come to another good tip to save money when you are doing groceries. If you are not vegetarian you might probably notice that you can't order meat, which is quite expensive in Denmark, with Too Good To Go. But, in almost every supermarket, you can find yellow stickers on boxes of chicken, pork or beef, which means that they are sold with a discounted price. There is only a little problem: they are going to expire in one, maximum two days. The solution is, again, the freezer. You can freeze the meat, and it will last for months.

The last thing to consider is how to choose the supermarket that best suits your pocket. Especially if you live near the city center, you will find plenty of different brands. Generally speaking Netto and Rema 1000 are considered discounts, while Føtex might be more expensive. Compare the prices and how far the shops are from your accommodation, especially if you are planning to use the bike. You might be in the mood for a huge "Magic Box" and think that 5.3 kilometres biking is not that far away and that Denmark is mostly flat (not Aarhus, though). I did it, and it didn't end up well.



# How to finance the program

By *Rebecca Herber*

**I**f you are not one of the lucky ones receiving a full scholarship for the program (you apply automatically for one of those when you apply for admission), you might need to find another way to finance your studies.

One alternative is to find other scholarships. This can be quite specific from country to country, so you will have to find out yourself if there is something available for you. Try political institutions, organizations promoting international academic exchange and cooperation, NGOs, or local foundations.

The big advantage of a scholarship: you might not have to work while you're studying. It can be quite challenging to find time outside of your studies, even if it is only ten hours a week. But, it is doable if you commit to it and it is always good to have some extra money - after all, living in Denmark is quite expensive.

**“Ever since Corona happened, remote working is more common than before”**

Ever since Corona happened, remote working is more common than before - so check with your employer. Maybe you can continue to work for them even after you have moved to Aarhus. Quite a few people in our cohort work remotely.

Some students also managed to find a job in Aarhus. It is rather hard to get a placement in a media organization, but restaurants, bars and cafés can be really open to hiring internationals.

You might have to ask around a bit: some employers might be hesitant to hire you when you don't speak Danish. But there are definitely places where this is no problem, as most Danes speak English very well anyways.

If you have the time and the headspace before coming to Aarhus, it might be worth it to learn some Danish; try using apps like Babbel or Duolingo. That can improve your job chances. But even after arrival you will have good opportunities to learn Danish, a lot of classes are actually free - but you have to pay a deposit that will be reimbursed after you pass the exams.

A side note for EU-students: For you it might be particularly worth it to invest some time and energy into working besides your classes. If you work 10 to 12 hours a week, you are eligible to receive the Danish state support for students, called Statens Uddannelsesstøtte (SU). You do not have to pay it back; it is just an extra support of up to 6.000 DKK a month.

If you want to spice up your wardrobe and have already visited H&M and Zara, thrift shopping is a great alternative. Luckily, Aarhus has a wide range of second-hand stores waiting for you to indulge in. You can find unique pieces of clothing that will bring you and your wardrobe joy. Take a tour and get your thrift on with my personal guide:

## A guide to thrift shopping in Aarhus

By *Charlotte Glorieux*

### **Prag, Nørregade 55**

First stop, I would recommend heading to Prag, located in the city center. It's your standard thrift shop: it's big and has a lot of options, both for men and women. If you didn't bring a warm enough coat for the cold winter, I would recommend checking out their selection! The price range varies! I found a red striped Ralph Lauren shirt for 100 DKK.

### **All Time Vintage, Nørregade 42**

Next stop, if you're feeling a bit more generous with your money, stop by All Time Vintage. It's on the opposite side of Prag. I'm pretty sure this is my favorite thrift shop in Aarhus so far. Perhaps, that's because it's where I found my best purchases. The coat selection is amazing, but you'll find just about anything: overalls, corduroy pants, cool sweaters, handbags... the list goes on. It is on the more expensive side, so don't go too crazy! The space has a cozy atmosphere and it's uniquely decorated: mannequin heads with wigs, pictures of fish on the wall, etc. Heads up, they only take mobile pay or cash, and the nearest ATM is about 10 minutes away.

### **Salvation Army Thrift Shop, Nørregade 46**

After spending all your money at All Time Vintage, I suggest stopping by the Salvation Army on the corner of the same street. The store is full of unusual objects, like the book by Justin Bieber, or old postcards. The clothes are simpler, but the prices are more affordable than other thrift stores in the city.

### **Soul Shine, Graven 24**

This is an example of a good store with a cool location. To enter you'll need to go through a small tunnel that will lead you to an interior courtyard. The shop is super funky with a turquoise floor, and the prices are similar to All Time Vintage, with a slightly smaller selection of clothes. There is even a small cafe if the day of shopping has made you a little tired!

### **Reuse, Jægergårdsgade 170**

Last stop on this journey, I would highly suggest stopping by Reuse. It's a bigger space where you can find things for your room such as flower vases, picture frames, books, chairs, and even desks. And I haven't mentioned the best part yet: it's free. You can stop by every day because objects are being added constantly. Try and get there earlier in the day, as the selection is the best first thing in the morning!



# Cycling in Aarhus: A Lifestyle

By Sandra Abdalbaki

Aarhus is one of the most bicycle-friendly cities in the world. Cycling in Aarhus is more than a means of transportation; it has become a lifestyle and a huge part of Danish culture.

Investing in a bike is a must for students in Aarhus. Not only does it save on transportation costs, but it is also a good activity to keep fit and healthy. Most of the destinations in Aarhus are easy and even faster to reach by bike compared to the bus.

For it to be a good investment, it is better to buy a bike from a second-

hand shop. Some of the popular shops are Rebikeaarhus and Second Hand-Bike Aarhus. At Swapfiets it is possible to rent a bike for as long as you're staying in Aarhus.

In order to avoid any accidents, it is important to learn beforehand about the rules of cycling in Denmark. Most importantly: remember to cycle in the correct bike lane and always keep to your right. Learning how to balance and hop gracefully on and off a bike can take a bit of time to get right but practice makes perfect. Be warned that you can get fined if you don't have bike lights while biking in the dark!

Remember that biking in the Danish weather can be challenging. Venturing out in the rain requires some extra caution but it is always manageable with proper clothes: winter boots, raincoats, gloves, etc. Although you'll hear a lot about how trustworthy the Danes are, it is always advised to park bikes properly and lock them up. Safety should be your number one priority.

Your bicycle can become your most important companion in your student life, and what's a better companion than something that can take you wherever you want.



# Ping-Pong with the Sun

By Eliane Morand

**The Swiss video artist Pipilotti Rist has dedicated her biggest video installation to the Danish School of Media and Journalism in Aarhus.**

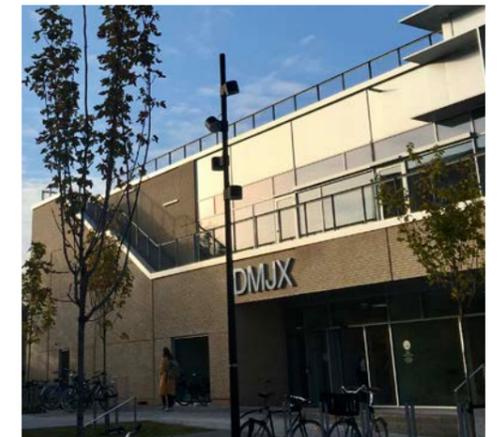
It smells of new furniture when you step into the freshly renovated building at the Danish School of Media and Journalism (DMJX) in Aarhus. The building is simple, with clear and modern lines - the Danes are known for their timeless design. Wooden tables and elements bring warmth to the rather neutral interior design. The lecture halls are named after colours: for example, there is a yellow room and a blue room, the 'Blue Auditorium' - tables, chairs and the walls are in these colours.

In the community area on the ground floor, a huge disco ball shines in the middle of the room. When the lights come on and the disco ball slowly rotates over the students heads, thousands of small dots appear on the ceiling and move slowly with the ball. What immediately catches your eye when you sit in the community area are the meter-long patchwork curtains. The curtains are designed by the Swiss artist Pipilotti Rist. The sewn-together curtains consist of 108 square metres of individual pieces of fabric.

The artist Pipilotti Rist has dedicated another artwork to DMJX - when the lights are dimmed you enter a world of colourful rays, plays, motley shapes and explosion of colours. The coloured lights move slowly over the walls, stairs and floor; changing their shape. The video projections are aligned to the changing weather and times of day. It is Rist's biggest video installation so far: "Jordlys og pingpong med solen" (Earthlight and Ping-Pong with the Sun).

## About Pipilotti Rist

Pipilotti Rist is a Swiss video artist. She studied illustration, photography and audiovisual communication at the University of Applied Arts in Vienna. Pipilotti Rist is known for her video installations and sculptures. She works with light, sound and colour-intensive images. Since the late 1980s, her work has been exhibited in museums and galleries worldwide.

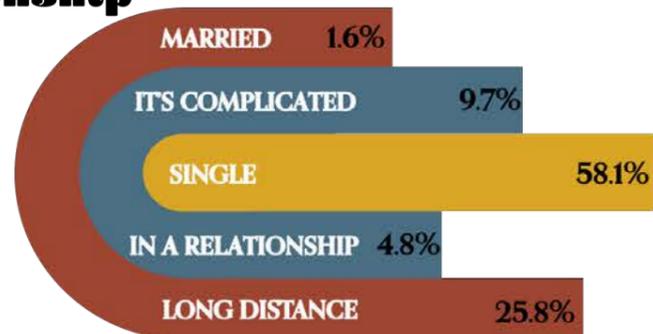


# Who we are

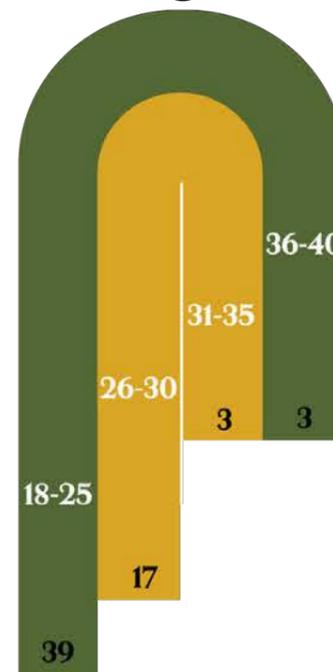
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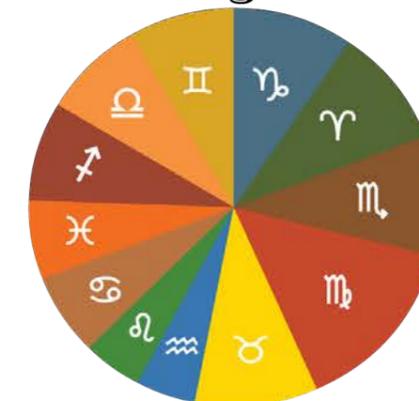
### Relationship status



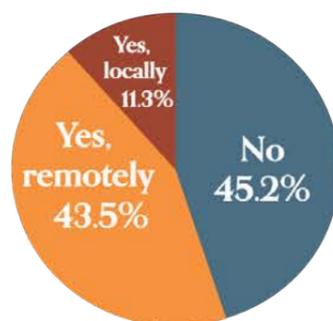
### Age



### Astrological sign

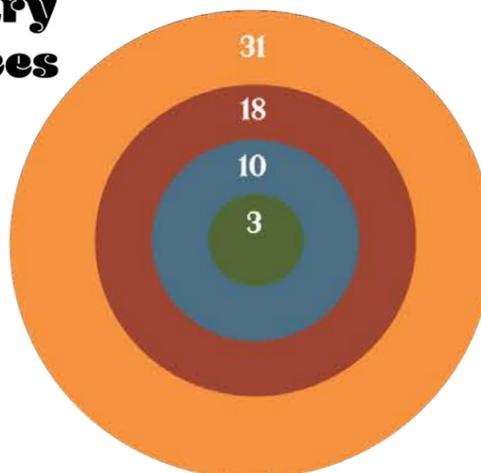


### Do you work?

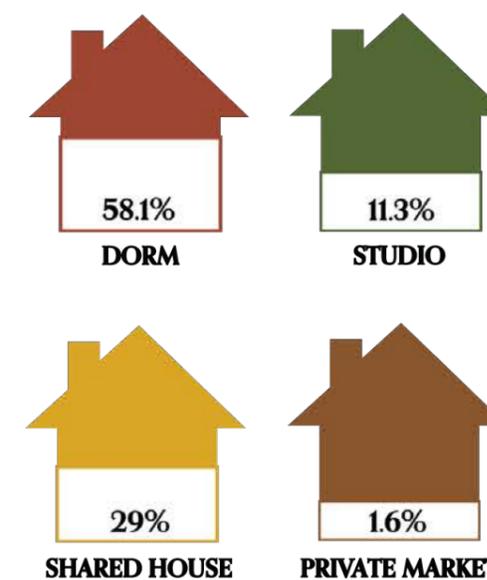


### Dietary preferences

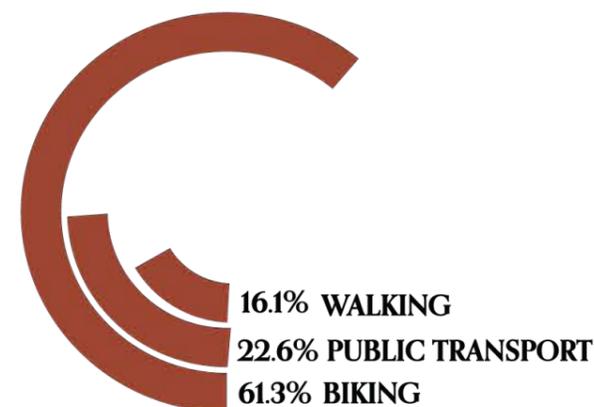
- OMNIVORE
- FLEXTARIAN
- VEGETARIAN
- PESCETARIAN



### Housing



### HOW MANY LANGUAGES DO YOU SPEAK?



### How do you get around Aarhus?



### How did you get to Aarhus?

### Do you drink alcohol?



I have a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy, but my greatest passion has always been writing, since I was a child. I started working as a journalist when I was sixteen, focusing from the beginning on investigative journalism. One of my favourite hobbies is reading books, but I also like to hike, ride bike and play guitar. My dream travel destination includes a tent, a small backpack and many miles by foot. In the future I hope I will be able to work in a place where the articles I write and the stories I tell can serve the common good and fight injustices.



**Edoardo Anziano** (he/him)

Age: 22  
 Nationality: Italy  
 Specialisation: Amsterdam  
 Contact: edo.anziano@gmail.com

I grew up in Brighton, a small city on the coast of England, and my family are from the UK and Ghana. I love travelling, and took a year out to travel in Central America and Europe before I moved to Bristol to study Politics and International Relations at University. I also studied in Copenhagen as part of a Erasmus year. I'm interested in global politics and current affairs, and why the world is the way that it is. After graduating I lived in East London and worked at a charity, but I started a few months before the pandemic hit so it wasn't a typical London experience. My hobbies include baking, both bread and cakes, yoga, running and creating collages, live music, dj sets, eating good food with friends, and the pub. My guilty pleasures are trashy reality tv and anything sweet.



**Lara Bodger** (she/her)

Age: 25  
 Nationality: United Kingdom  
 Specialisation: Amsterdam  
 Contact: larabodger@me.com



**Dosti Banushi** (he/him)

Age: 22  
 Nationality: Albania  
 Specialisation: Amsterdam  
 Contact: dostibanushi2@gmail.com

A "Journalist of the Year 2020" awardee for the innovative approach to improving the political dimension of Scan RTV. An OP-ED writer for Euronews Albania, Exit and ABC Albania. An Erasmus Mundus Scholarship holder who studies Political Communication at Aarhus Uni and the University of Amsterdam. A passionate after the epitome of creation: Politics! But most of all, an energetic person trying to walk the fine line between two of the most essential questions of life: "How can reality be improved?" and "How can I improve". Mind wide open and heart quite sober, I am constantly eager for new challenges through which I can utilize my skillset and evolve new ones along the way. Because after all, it is by improving ourselves that we also improve reality!



**Hannah Borwitzky** (she/her)

Age: 22  
 Nationality: Germany  
 Specialisation: Amsterdam  
 Contact: hakabo@hotmail.de

Before I came to Aarhus to study Journalism, about everyone I knew told me not to do it, because they believe that journalism is a dying profession. Well, I never liked to listen to advise - so here I am. I studied European Studies for my Bachelor's Degree and I really wanted to continue to study internationally together with people from all over the world. I also love to travel, which is why I am excited to experience two new cities in just a short amount of time. And I am very thrilled to find out if Amsterdam will offer just as many amazing pastries as Aarhus - I sure hope so!



**Sara Brandstätter** (she/her)

Age: 22

Nationality: Austria

Specialisation: Amsterdam

Contact: sara.brandstaetter@gmail.com

Since I started my Bachelors in Mass Media and Communication Science in Vienna, I always wanted to gain experience by studying abroad. Finally, in my 5th semester I went on an Erasmus exchange to Belgium and had the best time of my life – but just for two months, because Covid-19 came up and suddenly the whole world was in a lockdown. But from this point I knew, I wanted to go to another country to do my Masters and try to combine my interest in politics with my journalistic background. So here I am now, in Aarhus, studying together with people from all over the world. I believe that the next two years in Aarhus and Amsterdam will give me the knowledge I need for my future career. Even more importantly, I am sure it will teach me to think critically – a skill that is crucial to work as a journalist.



**Chi Ho Catherina Suna**

(she/her)

Age: 35

Nationality: Hong Kong

Specialisation: Amsterdam

Contact: sung\_catherina@hotmail.com

I'm one of the older students in the class. But, I believe age is just a number, the most important thing is staying young at heart. I travelled with my two cats Amber and Boston all the way from Hong Kong to Denmark. They seem to like here better than back home because of the garden outside our apartment. Other than being a full-time student and a cat momma, I also love running, traveling, sketching, hiking and photography etc. Denmark seems to be a great place for all of these activities during summer, but not so much in the dark and cold winter, as everyone warns us about. I hope we'll all do fine in winter.

My name is Ason. I was studying creative industries and politics before coming to Aarhus. And I also worked for online media outlets including one focusing on high impact weather coverage. In general, my hobbies are graphic design and Cantonese debate but sometimes I might spend too much time looking at the graphics of the news channels around the world so that could be my weird guilty pleasure. Looking back, the most ironic advice was to bring boxes of masks to Denmark where clearly no one is wearing a mask and I wish I had known that. My recent dream travel destinations are the Diomedede islands, Lake Baikal, and Pitcairn island. Back to Denmark, the most different thing so far is restaurants seldom offer meals with drink which are more common in Hong Kong, and this could be the biggest obstacle I have overcome coming here. The most valuable belongings are books which are still selling in my city before my departure. My aspiration is being able to look out of the window when someone say it's raining and another person say it's dry before the books are sold out.



**Chan Ho Yiu Ason**

(he/him)

Age: 24

Nationality: Hong Kong

Specialisation: Amsterdam

Contact: asonchy@gmail.com

For my bachelors, I studied politics and social policy in Ireland and The Netherlands. After, I spent two years working in the international development sector in monitoring and evaluation in Germany. My hobbies include skateboarding, going to the cinema and creating podcasts! Hence why I applied for the Erasmus Mundus Journalism course. I hope to pursue audio journalism after completing the masters. My past journalistic work has looked at reproductive rights, sex education and accessible housing policy.



**Aoife Doran** (They/them)

Age: 24

Nationality: Ireland

Specialisation: Amsterdam

Contact: aoifed15@gmail.com



**Maria Elorza Saralesui**  
(she/her)

**Age:** 23  
**Nationality:** Spain/Luxembourg  
**Specialisation:** Amsterdam  
**Contact:** maria.elorza@outlook.com

I am an illustrator and journalist with a passion for cultures and the environment. While I was finishing my Bachelor degree, I explored reportage illustration - think photojournalism but drawn - and realised I wanted to pursue an interdisciplinary path, combining both practices. My goal is to become a multimedia investigative journalist, and report on environmental issues through a constructive lens. Having grown up in the tiny country of Luxembourg within a Spanish-Basque family, I have always felt at home in a multi-lingual environment and the Mundus community feels like an extension of the multi-culturality from home. This doesn't mean that moving to Aarhus was easy - and I do wish I hadn't forgotten my rain trousers back home! - but the course is a unique opportunity, both to understand the changing practices of journalism, and to learn what it means to tell meaningful stories in today's world.



**Karina Kazantseva**  
(she/her)

**Age:** 22  
**Nationality:** Russia  
**Specialisation:** Amsterdam  
**Contact:** karina.kazantseva1@yandex.ru

My bachelor subject is political science, although I worked for 2 years as a full-time news correspondent. As a child, I wanted to become a philosopher or a writer. My guilty pleasure is watching Russian TV-shows.

I smile a lot (sometimes too much), open minded and outgoing guy who has a chicken allergy. Academic background: Media and Communication with a minor in Asian Studies (love Thailand and can't wait to go back to Southeast Asia). Program expectations: Gaining a multicultural perspective and making great memories with friendships that will last :) Advice for Denmark: don't get too excited about biking in Aarhus :) Biggest Difference: Denmark has so much trust in its people. I stopped being scared of leaving my belongings somewhere. Most important belonging: My Adidas slippers.



**Enno Hinz** (he/him)

**Age:** 24  
**Nationality:** Germany  
**Specialisation:** Amsterdam  
**Contact:** hinnenno@gmail.com

I used to study journalism and software engineering. I have a lot of hobbies, such as calligraphy, reading and snowboarding etc. The most important belongings I brought with me from home is a rice cooker.



**lilii** (she/her)

**Age:** 28  
**Nationality:** China  
**Specialisation:** Amsterdam  
**Contact:** lilii910.au@gmail.com

**G**rowing up in Berlin, a place still coming to terms with its past, still moulding its future, I became interested in storytelling and knew I wanted to become a journalist. For the past four years I have been working as a freelancer for German newspapers. The focus of my work is the exchange between sociocultural and political topics and thus also the means of expression with which I can present my works and ideas. It is important for me to engage in journalistic practice in a critical manner and have an open exchange with students from the Mundus Programme about it.



**Eliane Morand** (she/her)

**Age:** 25  
**Nationality:** Germany  
**Specialisation:** Amsterdam  
**Contact:** elianes.morand@gmail.com



**Katharina Narr** (she/her)

**Age:** 24  
**Nationality:** Germany  
**Specialisation:** Amsterdam  
**Contact:** katha.narr@gmail.com

**I** came to journalism fairly late. During my BA in communication, I first focused on corporate communication before turning to political communication and politainment. In the end it was an internship at an editorial office of ZDFtivi and my job as a production assistant for a small production company that made me discover my love for storytelling, videography, and journalism. Aside from that I love to cook and try out new dishes (I've already been complimented on my risotto, which made me really proud). I'm trying to learn a new language (Dutch, not Danish!). And I'm looking forward to spending many afternoons drinking coffee, and many evenings drinking wine. The Mundus Journalism program is the best fit for me, mainly due to my fellow students – they are great, they are passionate, and everyone is very open to listen and learn from each other.

**A**round ten years ago I heard about this programme for the first time. The idea of studying abroad was captivating for my very local mind. But, as it usually happens, life had other plans for me and only seven years into my professional life, I'm finally able to make this dream come true. I was born and raised in Bogotá, the capital of Colombia, a vibrant, sunny and complex country that has always inspired me to write and learn more about the complexities of our human experience. Ever since I knew I was coming to Denmark I received a lot of comments about how dark winters usually are... And even if the locals are insisting on it, I think it's pretty smart just to follow their advice and get a light therapy lamp.



**Ana Maria Ocampo** (she/her)

**Age:** 29  
**Nationality:** Colombia  
**Specialisation:** Amsterdam  
**Contact:** anamaria.ocampoc@gmail.com



**Hyunju Ock** (she/her)

**Age:** 33  
**Nationality:** South Korea  
**Specialisation:** Amsterdam  
**Contact:** laetia.ock@gmail.com

**I** describe myself as a world explorer who strives to have a bigger heart and to sympathize with more people so that I can become useful in bringing closer people of different classes, cultures, values and beliefs – a diversity that makes the world beautiful. After having worked full-time in Seoul for 8 years as a reporter for The Korea Herald, I decided to leave my cozy life behind to challenge myself (before it gets more difficult to give up) and to continue my journey of learning. I love and hate uncertainties life has to offer. Other than that, I love hiking, cycling, being lost in nature and sharing deep, soul-searching conversations with good-hearted people over food and drinks!



**Salome Phiri** (she/her)

**Age:** 26  
**Nationality:** Zambia  
**Specialisation:** Amsterdam  
**Contact:** salomephiri2@gmail.com

I am a Media and Communications specialist with a bachelor's degree in mass communication obtained at University of Zambia, working under the Ministry of information back in Zambia. I was advised to enjoy Denmark to the fullest and not just focus on academics, I wish I had learnt how to bike before coming here and my dream travel destinations are Paris and the USA. My biggest obstacle was the Corona red-list that restricted our entering Denmark and was glad it was lifted before classes started and also travelling to another country to obtain the travel Visa. A huge difference is how everything is so well organized and the trust amongst Danes. Lastly, I brought my bible and gifts from friends when coming here.



**Claire Marie Roney** (she/her)

**Age:** 26  
**Nationality:** United States of America  
**Specialisation:** Amsterdam  
**Contact:** claire.m.roney@gmail.com

I'm an outdoorsy person - I love camping, hiking and horseback riding. Ideally I would have a book with me at all times, so leaving my collection of books behind was one of the hardest things I had to do to prepare for moving here. I wish someone had told me that there aren't many English books available at the library, and that new books are quite expensive to buy. I also wish someone had told me to bring some red wine ...

I'd say I'm passionate about listening, trying to understand the world and finding new ways to explain it. I am particularly interested in human rights, the combination of old and new digital narratives and locally made international journalism. I graduated from my Journalism Bachelor at the Autonomous University of Barcelona in 2020, where I started participating in the academic and journalistic project "Berracas", about the role of women in peacebuilding in Colombia (in which I still participate). Currently, I also work remotely as the CM of Catalunya Plural, a Catalan newspaper. Before, I have worked as an English teacher, and I have collaborated with some independent online media as La Marea, El Salto and Report.cat as well. My biggest problem and maybe virtue is that I have an omnivorous interest, and thus it is very difficult for me to decide what path to choose in my career (as it was hard to decide the second-year specialisation for the Mundus programme). Some of the most important belongings that I brought along with me are my personal notebook, some vases from my grandmother's house, as well as some pictures and letters.



**Helena Rodriguez Gomez** (she/her)

**Age:** 24  
**Nationality:** Spain  
**Specialisation:** Amsterdam  
**Contact:** helenarogo@gmail.com

I like football, basketball, and scrolling through nihilism memes. Coming to Aarhus, even though it's tough to settle initially, I feel in control, possibly because of the sense of liberty I've felt here. However, I wish I wouldn't have underestimated the weather in Aarhus. The biggest cultural change was how big trust and safety are in Denmark.



**Akriti Saraswat** (she/her)

**Age:** 22  
**Nationality:** India  
**Specialisation:** Amsterdam  
**Contact:** akritisaraswat11@gmail.com



**Katie Sawyer** (she/her)

**Age:** 25  
**Nationality:** United States of America  
**Specialisation:** Amsterdam  
**Contact:** katie.sawyer14@gmail.com

**I** knew I wanted to become a journalist by the time I was in eighth grade, when I stood in front of my class and proudly declared my aspirations. I never thought I would end up in Denmark, studying journalism with 60 or so amazing and talented humans, but here we are. Mingling with my cohort members of so many nationalities and backgrounds has been the highlight of my experience so far, and a big reason I chose the Erasmus Mundus program in the first place. There's no denying moving to a foreign country is difficult, but the people and new experiences are well worth it. If I could recommend a packing list for incoming students, I would suggest you bring a Polaroid camera — for memory making, a supply of your favorite pens for note-taking and your sturdiest pair of waterproof boots for all those rainy days in Aarhus.

**I** am Rida Shah (naam tou suna ho ga- you must have heard the name) and I would like to introduce myself as a girl with big dreams. Belonging from khyber pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan, I have always wanted to contribute towards the development of my region. Having an opportunity to pursue my masters among brilliant individuals from all over the world is certainly a push towards that direction. I was a News Anchor at state run English broadcast - PTV World and I am part of the National Youth Council. (21-23). Okay now the fun part- my advice to all the people coming here is to warm up your muscles and join a gym because cycling is intense here because of the hills. If you are not prepared- the struggle is going to be real! Another advice would be to bring spices and mixes from your home country- Danes love to try different cuisines! My cultural shock was drinking water directly from the tap and the concept of dumpster diving! You have to come here to find out what I am talking about!



**Rida Shah** (she/her)

**Age:** 26  
**Nationality:** Pakistan  
**Specialisation:** Amsterdam  
**Contact:** ridaashahh@gmail.com

**I** definitely wish I had more financial preparation before coming here. The higher prices here are what I found to be most different from where I come from, but I thankfully have found a job here to help with that! The most important "non-essential" (and money-saving) belongings I brought with me from home are my rice cooker and my Kindle.



**Irene Schrader** (she/her)

**Age:** 20  
**Nationality:** Germany/France/China  
**Specialisation:** Amsterdam  
**Contact:** au698871@uni.audk



**Buckson Mulako Sikananu** (he/him)

**I** am a journalist turned corporate comms guy. Yeah, I sort of work with the bad guys (sometimes). My areas of interest are geo-politics, international relation, the internet of things, and tech gadgets . When I'm not in a discussion on social political issues, I'm procrastinating on a podcast or Spotify playlist to listen to. Tech junkie, e-gadget enthusiast, occasional traveller and stoner, and hat collector. Also a goddamn mess if we are being honest. I love anything Lord of the Rings, and between you and me, LOTR is better than HP. Don't tell my housemates though. Never watched Star Wars, probably never will. Sue me! Wanna discuss something over a cup of tea (yes, not coffee)?

**Age:** 26  
**Nationality:** Zambia  
**Specialisation:** Amsterdam  
**Contact:** aluckson123@gmail.com

I studied Security and Strategic studies at Masaryk University, and I specialized in disinformation and dangers of social media to its users. During my bachelors, I co-founded an NGO called Fakescape. Fakescape teaches mostly youngsters media literacy using gamification. In my free time I like to meet up with my friends, drink wine and explore my surroundings. I also love thrift shopping. My guilty pleasure are for sure reality shows, I love to binge-watch them to relax. Traveling is also my passion, and my dream destination is probably Costa Rica. The most surprising thing for me in Denmark is that Danish people don't share food. In Czech we always share almost everything but mostly food.



**Julie Vinklova** (she/her)

Age: 23  
 Nationality: Czech Republic  
 Specialisation: Amsterdam  
 Contact: julca.vinklova@gmail.com

I've wanted to be a journalist since high school. During my undergraduate years, I did a lot of in-depth reporting and feature articles, covering topics ranging from celebrity coverage to China's health insurance reform, during which I gained a lot and encountered a lot of confusion and frustration. In the next two years, I hope to learn more about how to make news, learn and reflect on global journalism, and most importantly, find out what I really want to do with my journalism career.

Fun fact: I brought 300 masks to Denmark, but so far I haven't used even 10 of them!

**Yixen Wang Even** (she/her)

Age: 22  
 Nationality: China  
 Specialisation: Amsterdam  
 Contact: leliawang@outlook.com



I'm Ruohan from Beijing. I was a journalist and editor before I came here. Now, I'm still working on my podcast; it's already updated over 100 episodes, which I'm super proud of. My interests are broad. I love all the outdoor activities and enjoy dancing and biking. that's why I brought my favourite bike helmets from China to here.) Some people may feel a little bit concerned about going abroad during the post-pandemic time, but to me, it's the best timing to reconnect with people from all over the world and observe all over things from different angles.



**Ruohan Xie** (she/her)

Age: 27  
 Nationality: China  
 Specialisation: Amsterdam  
 Contact: sherryruohan@gmail.com

I am interested in intercultural communication. I like reading, travelling and listening to music. Funny advice: My family suggested that I shave off my hair to prevent catching corona virus on the plane. I wish I had learned biking. Geography and landmarks are very different. Denmark is all flat, it is all mountains in Bhutan. I brought quite a bit of chilies from home (dried chilies, chili pickle and chili powder)



**Tsherins Yanaki** (she/her)

Age: 27  
 Nationality: Bhutan  
 Specialisation: Amsterdam  
 Contact: tsheyangki15@gmail.com

**T**he idea of getting back to academics started with longing to sit for hours in the serene surroundings of a library. Before joining the course, I worked as a journalist for several years in India. My professional life was much about deadlines, pressers, stories, quotes, and bylines to name a few.

The Erasmus Mundus Journalism program gave me a perfect opportunity to fulfil my 'library dream' while providing much-needed knowledge of the newer digital tools in journalism. I hope to go back to the professional world with a fresh perspective, more enriched and smarter.



### Namrata Achrya (she/her)

**Age:** 40  
**Nationality:** India  
**Specialisation:** London  
**Contact:** Namrata1480@gmail.com

**I** am a Broadcast Journalist with some years of experience working as a foreign correspondent. My previous studies in Mechanical Engineering, Business, Global Development, and International Relations gave me a wide enough background to report on a diverse number of topics.

To join the Mundus Journalism program I had to convince my employer that I am valuable enough to be given a two years career break. I was so busy with work and university studies this last few years I did not have much time for many hobbies. However now, I can catch up on all the anime and TV shows I missed, and I get to get back to playing some sports.



### Ibrahim Ahmaid (he/him)

**Age:** 36  
**Nationality:** Algeria  
**Specialisation:** London  
**Contact:** i.ahmaid@gmail.com

**“W**hich brings you here?” Believe it or not, I have been able to ask myself this question more than anyone else since I arrived in Aarhus. Mundus Journalism, for me, is about having courage, taking risks, and stepping out of my comfort zone. But don't think that I mean leaving sunny and hot Brazil behind to face cloudy and cold Denmark. I was born and raised in Itapira, a small town in the countryside of São Paulo state. I lived there until I was 18 years old when I moved to the capital to pursue my bachelor's degree in journalism. Since I was a child, I've always been an enthusiast of the fashion industry, and for four years now I've been working at Vogue Brazil's newsroom as an intern and freelance reporter. Now it's time to burst my bubble - and I couldn't be more excited about it!



### Sofia Ferreira (she/her)

**Age:** 23  
**Nationality:** Brazil  
**Specialisation:** London  
**Contact:** ferreirasofiacs@gmail.com

**M**y diploma is in journalism, I have been working for the main medias in Russia and decided to find out how media works in Europe. That was my main point to apply and go to Denmark. Also I want to develop my skills as a journalist, because it's my passion - to write stories, give people voices and dogs.



### Ksenia Dobrynina (she/her)

**Age:** 39  
**Nationality:** Russia  
**Specialisation:** London  
**Contact:** kdobrynina@gmail.com



**Gergana Marin Georgieva**  
(she/her)

**Age:** 23  
**Nationality:** Bulgaria  
**Specialisation:** London  
**Contact:** gergana.m.georgieva@gmail.com

I am 40% extroverted, 50% introverted, and 10% drunk (being drunk is always the good way to kick off the life in Denmark). You can also call me a wibu cause I'm so into anime (my all time favorite is Attack on Titan).

My target after graduating is to go deeper in data journalism as I sometimes have a huge crush on computing stuff. Last but not least, remember to buy warm clothes in Vietnam before going to Aarhus (a lot cheaper).

I love the outdoors so a weekend spent at home feels like a waste. I like travelling and am quite spontaneous (which I guess could be a dangerous combo). In my free time I practice karate shinkyokushin, do road trips by motorbike, windsurf or go off the grid for weeks while mountaineering or camping.

My guilty pleasure (for rainy days) is watching Turkish TV shows and pretending they're educational. Before coming to Aarhus, I was working as an editor of a business publication at a much warmer location - Oman. Hopefully, after completing the Master's I can continue covering underreported stories of high social significance from various points on the globe.



**Ha Nhoc Minh Duc**  
(he/him)

**Age:** 25  
**Nationality:** Vietnam  
**Specialisation:** London  
**Contact:** duchanm25@gmail.com



**Kaori Kohyama** (she/her)

**Age:** 25  
**Nationality:** Japan  
**Specialisation:** London  
**Contact:** kaorrin@gmail.com

After completing my Bachelor's studies in Hospitality Management (essentially a Business degree) I decided to go into marketing and worked as a content manager for a few years. Somehow, I ended up in the IT industry, constantly creating content about artificial intelligence, machine learning, virtual reality, and software development overall.

At that point, I felt like writing from the marketing angle was something I got used to and it was time to learn a new perspective. So, I began looking for Master's in Journalism programs and came across this one. The London specialization caught my attention not only due to the vibrancy of the city, but also because I felt it really coincided with my background. So, I applied and everything worked out well!

Guilty pleasure: binge-watching TV series. La Casa de Papel is one of the latest obsessions.

Last week, I got my long hair cut here first time in 10+ years. This sudden decision was driven by, retrospectively, I think the change I was going through moving from Tokyo to Aarhus with journalists from all over the world. After arriving here, I realized how this hyper-femininity was dominating a large part of my identity which I feel was not from within, but rather imprinted by the norms. In Denmark, I see people being comfortable in expressing who they really are, regardless of gender, sexuality, religion, or nationality -- I think this is one of the most important things when it comes to interacting with people from diverse background. So in sum, I am very happy about this environment where I can be nobody but myself, as much as I like my new hair!



**Maria Matskevich** (she/her)

**Age:** 26  
**Nationality:** Russia  
**Specialisation:** London  
**Contact:** mmatskevich@gmail.com



**Yohanna Lara Barros Pinheiro**  
(she/her)

**Age:** 30

**Nationality:** Brazil

**Specialisation:** London

**Contact:** yohanna.lara@gmail.com

I was already working as a journalist in my hometown (Fortaleza) for over seven years, but I've never stopped dreaming about studying abroad - and it seemed like such a distant dream that I couldn't believe when I actually got my acceptance letter! The Mundus Journalism program appeared as a perfect fit for my aspirations to deepen my knowledge in the business journalism field, reach an international level and also live in two beautiful cities in Europe. It's a total game changer - and not only in a professional level, but also personal. Getting to know and to live with so many people from such different backgrounds is one of the most amazing experiences of this program, something I'll bring with me forever.

If someone told me two years ago that I'll be studying my Master's in two different countries, I would have flipped. Now it's reality and I couldn't be happier about it. Despite all the challenges with juggling social activities, university and adapting to a new city (biking up the hill at 7:30 a.m. to uni definitely is something), I love my new life here in Aarhus even more than I expected. Before taking this big step, I did my bachelor's in journalism and communication in Vienna (with an exchange semester in Utrecht, NL).

My journalistic experiences besides my studies include writing for a daily newspaper and a gourmet magazine as well as working for the Austrian public broadcaster. My hopes are to have this master's programme as a door opener for an international career - from today's perspective preferably in TV journalism. Until then, my goal is to enjoy my time both in Aarhus and in London to the fullest - all rainy days included (yes, I probably chose the most rainy combination possible).



**Sonja Wind** (she/her)

**Age:** 22

**Nationality:** Austria

**Specialisation:** London

**Contact:** sonjawind@live.at

Here's a freelance book editor, journalist to be and part-time dreamer from the Far East. The combination of Chinese history, Japanese manga and Korean music makes me super Asian, meanwhile, I'm super attracted by European lifestyles, so I'm ok to drink green tea and black coffee at the same time. My dreamland is Iceland even though I have never been there till now, but the pure white snow and mysterious polar light appeared more than 10 times in my dream. However, to make these dreams come true, I have to overcome my guilty pleasure of being a sofa potato first.



**Didons Zhao (Marx)**  
(he/him)

**Age:** 22

**Nationality:** China

**Specialisation:** London

**Contact:** marxzhao1999@gmail.com



**Sandra Abdalbaki** (she/her)

**Age:** 20

**Nationality:** Lebanon

**Specialisation:** Prague

**Contact:** sandra.abdbaki@gmail.com

This program is my first experience to live abroad or even come to Europe. I studied Multimedia Journalism in my Bachelor's and worked in communications and journalism back in my home country. When I first got here, I felt a bit homesick but meeting sweet people and getting used to the places here made it easy. I like discovering new places, living alone, getting to know different cultures, engaging in intellectual conversations, dancing on good music, and most importantly I love being busy all the time!

In my free time I enjoy climbing, swimming, walking, cooking, reading and playing music. Before travelling to Aarhus I studied journalism at Edinburgh Napier, also freelancing as a culture, arts and local news reporter for a handful of outlets.

While studying on the Mundus programme I hope to deepen my academic knowledge and grasp of multimedia journalism, and hopefully open myself up to a range of global perspectives and lens' through my coursemates.



**Louis Boyd-Madsen** (he/him)

**Age:** 22  
**Nationality:** Scotland  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
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After more than a year at home, the world traveler that I aspire to be was eager to leave the house. This program is a great opportunity for me to step beyond my comfort zone and build friendships across the world.

I hope to be a voice for the voiceless and shed a light on issues that are important to me, particularly the ones surrounding the climate crisis. Finally, a little guilty pleasure that I practice whenever I have the opportunity to be in a new city: try out the local snacks and drinks in supermarkets.



**Charlotte Glorieux** (she/her)

**Age:** 23  
**Nationality:** Canada  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
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**Gabrielle Chastenet de Gery** (she/her)

**Age:** 23  
**Nationality:** United States of America/France  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
**Contact:** gabriellechastenet1998@gmail.com

I grew up between Santa Fe, New Mexico, and southern France. I've always lived near mountains, and so many of my hobbies have to do with spending time hiking, climbing, or biking in the mountains. I also enjoy playing guitar and singing.

I studied International Relations and Creative Writing in my undergraduate degree, and hope to pursue literary journalism.



**Serena Golden** (she/her)

**Age:** 22  
**Nationality:** United States of America  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
**Contact:** serenagolden0410@gmail.com

I studied Journalism and International Relations at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia, where I graduated in 2021. I've previously worked in radio, print and video journalism for National Public Radio in the U.S., Georgia Public Broadcasting in the U.S., and Cape Community Newspapers in South Africa. I aspire to cover foreign affairs in Europe and North America as a multimedia journalist. I hope that Mundus Journalism will give me a solid framework in theory and ethics to refer back to while reporting.

My guilty pleasure is the Twilight Saga (team Edward).



**Daria Gorshenina** (she/her)

**Age:** 22  
**Nationality:** Russia  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
**Contact:** dargorshenina@yandex.ru

I graduated from the High School of Journalism and Mass Communications of St.Petersburg State University. I consider myself a feminist, so my academic interest is centralised to the feminist movement. For instance, my Bachelor's paper was about the representation of Russian feminist values in visual content on Instagram. For the last five years, I have been working in different digital and TV outlets. Also, I launched my personal media project to teach young Russian students how to cover violations of human rights. In my spare time, I volunteered as an observer of police stations in St.Petersburg. I would suggest not to overthink about moving to Denmark. You cannot prepare yourself for everything, and it just takes time to adjust to the new home. Moreover, do not send anything by postal mail from your home country! There is a huge risk that your parcel will be getting lost as it happened with mine.



**Rebecca Herber** (she/her)

**Age:** 23  
**Nationality:** Germany  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
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I have known for a long time that I wanted to become a journalist. After some internships and a Bachelor in English, Communication Studies and Cultural Anthropology, I was more than thrilled when I received the admission email to the Mundus Journalism Master. This might help me achieving my goal of working as a foreign correspondent, maybe for Southern Africa or in the political capitals of Europe.

My hobbies include skiing, cooking, going to concerts, reading and hanging out with as many of my most valued people as possible. The most important things for me to bring were a lot of photos and my favourite pesto. I wish I had known that statistics would be part of our academic year in Aarhus – or maybe it was good that I didn't know. I might not have come. And I am so glad I did!

Coffee addiction. Relative notion of time. Attention to random details. This mini biography could be a mix of politics and Modern Love podcasts, or even a first chapter with stories of my -several- bike falls since I arrived in Denmark. But I won't do that.

In the last years I had the opportunity to travel and see the "Brazil's" that exist within my country. I worked with culture, communication, and with best of all: people.

Now life has brought me to a country with fewer people than my city, that rains most of the time and where when I think it's already winter I hear from danes: "it's still end of summer". But when your daily life becomes living with thirty nationalities, strangely, it also feels like home. Or like several different homes, you just have to be open for it. And if I can give you a tip: be!



**Daniela Campolina Rebello Guerrero** (she/her)

**Age:** 27  
**Nationality:** Brazil  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
**Contact:** daniela.rebello1@gmail.com

When I was in college in Ireland, I got involved with the disability activism scene and discovered the power of writing and using my voice to make change.

I think a lot of the people on the course have also realised this too and are here for the same reason as me: to learn how to be heard and (hopefully) make a difference.



**Niamh Herbert** (she/her)

**Age:** 25  
**Nationality:** Ireland  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
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**Benjamin Hindrichs** (he/him)

**Age:** 26  
**Nationality:** Germany  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
**Contact:** bhindrichs@web.de

No high aspirations here, all I want is to provoke the public. I enjoy live music, a stirring read, documentary films and indie movies, poetry, sharing a bottle of wine while having a talk about politics, the fluidity of identities and the abstract mechanisms of societal violence imposed on individuals, hiking, hitchhiking, camping by the sea and cooking self-made ravioli stuffed with goat cheese, walnuts, and honey. In the past, I studied political science and sociology and worked for several media outlets in Germany and Bolivia. Parrots are my favorite animals. And before coming here, I wish somebody would have told me how much Danes love "despacito" and other horrible pop songs.



**Luis Orlando Leon Carpio**

(he/him)

**Age:** 31  
**Nationality:** Cuba  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
**Contact:** luiso.leon@gmail.com

I am a 31-year-old Cuban boy who did not expect being a journalist at first. I attended the aptitude exams for the university just for fun - because I actually wanted to study foreign languages and linguistics. I turned out to be selected and thus my passion for this career never stopped growing. I graduated in 2014 from my bachelor program and then worked mainly in print media though I have contributed as a freelancer to digital media. In the Mundus Journalism program I expect to push hard my skills, to learn new tools as well as gaining a stronger critical thinking not only from the lectures but from the amazing international community -made of super talented & diverse people- of this cohort. My main hobby is to sing because I love music but a new passion is growing inside me: traveling! My dream travel destination is going to those countries where my ancestors belong to.

I joined the Mundus Journalism programme with four years of journalism experience but without any academic background in journalism. I studied law and worked as a criminal lawyer for a year before shifting to journalism. I now tell anyone who will listen that I am a fake lawyer and a fake journalist. My imposter syndrome notwithstanding, I enjoy working on stories of law, crime and politics. I do not like that it is true, but the worst of times for India were the best of times for my journalism. I lost hope in the process, and I am unsure if the trade was worth it. I've joined the Mundus programme for its totalitarianism specialisation, to try and better understand India's political reality while also seeking a break from it.

Perhaps I find my hope along the way. Meanwhile, I dream of abandoning journalism to write political satire.



**Arshu John** (he/him)

**Age:** 29  
**Nationality:** India  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
**Contact:** arshujohn@gmail.com

A funny piece of advice I got before I came to Aarhus was to train for all the hills here... after a long day, those hills can be tough to go through on a bike!

I have a bachelor of communication from the Danish School of Media and Journalism. Before I joined the Mundus programme I among other things worked as a journalist at the Danish Broadcasting Corporation (DR).

In the future, I aspire to have a job where I can let my curiosity keep pushing me forward in the journalistic world. Hopefully, somewhere where I can focus on our globalized world!



**August Kaae Merved** (he/him)

**Age:** 26  
**Nationality:** Denmark  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
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**N**ever in my wildest dreams did I think my passion for journalism would land me at such a robust international journalism program in Denmark! I completed my Bachelor's in Communication Studies back in 2020, and spent a year working in community radio and media. Although I loved the work I was doing, I knew I wanted more—more of the world and more education. The Mundus program provided just this for me. Mundus journalism exceeds a conventional Masters program by providing the opportunity for students to learn from one another, as we all come from such diverse backgrounds. Being so close to my family made it difficult to make the move from Canada, but the minute I landed in Aarhus and met some of my classmates, I knew I made the right decision. Aarhus is an incredibly vibrant and safe city with so much to see and explore, I can't imagine doing my Masters anywhere else.



**Amelia Mola-Schmidt** (she/her)

**Age:** 23  
**Nationality:** Canada  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
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**M**y journalism journey began when I served as editor-in-chief of my high school newspaper. After receiving my BA in philosophy, I did a one-year master's degree in journalism while interning for a public radio station—and here I am. I love Denmark and I'm looking forward to spending Year 2 in beautiful Prague.

After graduating from Mundus, I'm hoping to work internationally, covering current affairs in both Europe and China. My hobbies include traveling, working out, reading, cooking, and playing the viola. Fun facts: I studied Mandarin for two years and possess dual citizenship with the USA and Estonia.



**James Niiler** (he/him)

**Age:** 23  
**Nationality:** United States of America  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
**Contact:** 202103912@post.au.dk

**W**hen I was 15, I started to write small articles to the youth magazine. I visited many new places, talked to the new interesting people, and made my first steps as a journalist. When I was 17, I became a lazy teenager who refused to get prepared to the entrance exams on the journalism faculty. That's my story of becoming a political scientist, but thank God (I'm agnostic btw), journalist inside me wasn't dead, and now I'm a part of this program! Things that I love, except journalism: Italian and Japanese food, rock and indie music, all breeds of dogs, cooking breakfasts, Woody Allen's movies, and novels about Harry Potter. Advice I wish someone told me before coming here: don't think that beer in Denmark is cheap, because you saw the Carlsberg ad with Mads Mikkelsen on TV. Unfortunately, it is expensive (as everything else)



**Eric Machado Raupp** (he/him)

**Age:** 25  
**Nationality:** Brazil  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
**Contact:** eric.raupp@gmail.com



**Ylada Purtova** (she/her)

**Age:** 21  
**Nationality:** Russia  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
**Contact:** purtovav@shagi29.ru

**S**ince I was a kid, I wanted to be an international journalist and I feel that it was natural to choose the Mundus program. During my undergraduate course, I've been to two exchanges (Canada /Portugal). When I got to know this MA, I realized immediately this was the one for me. After finishing university, I started a specialization in International Relations, and I like to work with the intersections between geopolitical and cultural aspects, and journalism.

Coming to Denmark was specially challenging due to covid restrictions, which made the process more emotional. Within my 56kg luggage, I brought only clothes and five souvenirs from places I've visited, but the most significant item is a collage of photos my sister made. While in Europe, I hope to go North and watch the Northern Lights, number one on my bucket list. I'm a volleyball fan, which I practiced from 8 to 18 – French cinema and learning languages are also a passion.



**Ronald Rodrigues** (he/him)

**Age:** 26  
**Nationality:** India  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
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I am one of the few in this programme who took the curve the other way around as I worked in digital news journalism, an NGO and then went on to work as a Correspondent for five years for a print national English daily newspaper in India. But, I wanted a break from working (though I had to give up on the comfort money and it pinches me everyday), I wanted to study a course in journalism with people from different parts of the world. Get plenty of tea, cigarettes and coffee from home, it will ease your pocket. I like trying different kinds of cheese and drinks from different countries so that's my guilty pleasure. My dream travel is to go backpacking in the wilderness probably the Amazonas, forests of Africa or bustling streets of Greece. My advice would be, "Don't plan a lot. Take it with the flow. Meet people, live the experiences and embrace the opportunities." You are in for a lot of fun!

I have always had many different interests and that is why I chose to study journalism: it is a way to constantly learn about different subjects. My indecision to choose a single field has led me to work for a newspaper, a radio programme and on European affairs, so it can sometimes lead to diverse and interesting experiences.

In search for new experiences, I decided to apply for this programme: it seemed to me a great opportunity to travel, to meet new cultures and all kinds of people. And what I would like to get out of it is learning how to use journalism and communication to better connect the world and have a positive impact on it.

Before coming to Aarhus, I was told that it would be incredibly difficult to make Danish friends, but I'm super happy that my roommates are proving that wrong:)



**Mar Segura Mondedjar** (she/her)

**Age:** 23  
**Nationality:** Spain  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
**Contact:** marsegura98@gmail.com



**Johanna Mai Varmins** (she/her)

**Age:** 26  
**Nationality:** Denmark  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
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As a Journalism, Film and Media student, the Mundus Journalism program instantly caught my eye. I love learning in an international environment and hope to be able to use the global perspective the program has to offer in my future career as a journalist.

These last few months in Denmark have been one of the most challenging experiences I have ever lived, but probably also the most rewarding. Coming from Spain, I soon realised I was very unprepared for the Danish cold weather and the 24/7 biking. However, it didn't take long for Aarhus to start feeling like home, and the people I have met here make everything better.

Some peoples old teenage room looks exactly like it used to. My parents are using mine for storage. Still, I moved back into the room during the first lockdown in Denmark, when I had to cancel an exchange semester in Finland and go home. So, I was sitting among boxes and googling what to do after finishing my bachelor's in journalism at DMJX. The Erasmus Mundus Journalism programme was perfect because it combines journalism with globalization, and it combines theory with a more practical approach. And I would be able to combine my love for journalism with a new international experience.

A fun fact about me is that I prefer to walk and rarely use my bike. In fact, it has been broken for a year. Who knows if I will ever get it repaired?



**Marina Vidal Rico** (she/her)

**Age:** 22  
**Nationality:** Spain  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
**Contact:** marinavidalrico@gmail.com



**Jakob Weizman** (he/him)

**Age:** 23  
**Nationality:** Denmark  
**Specialisation:** Prague  
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I love wandering the world, I've lived in six countries so far and Czech Republic will be my seventh. I worked as a journalist in Kosovo for three years, so my goal is to return to the Balkan region and contribute to the field of investigative journalism there. In my free time I exercise, read, write stories and hang out with friends.

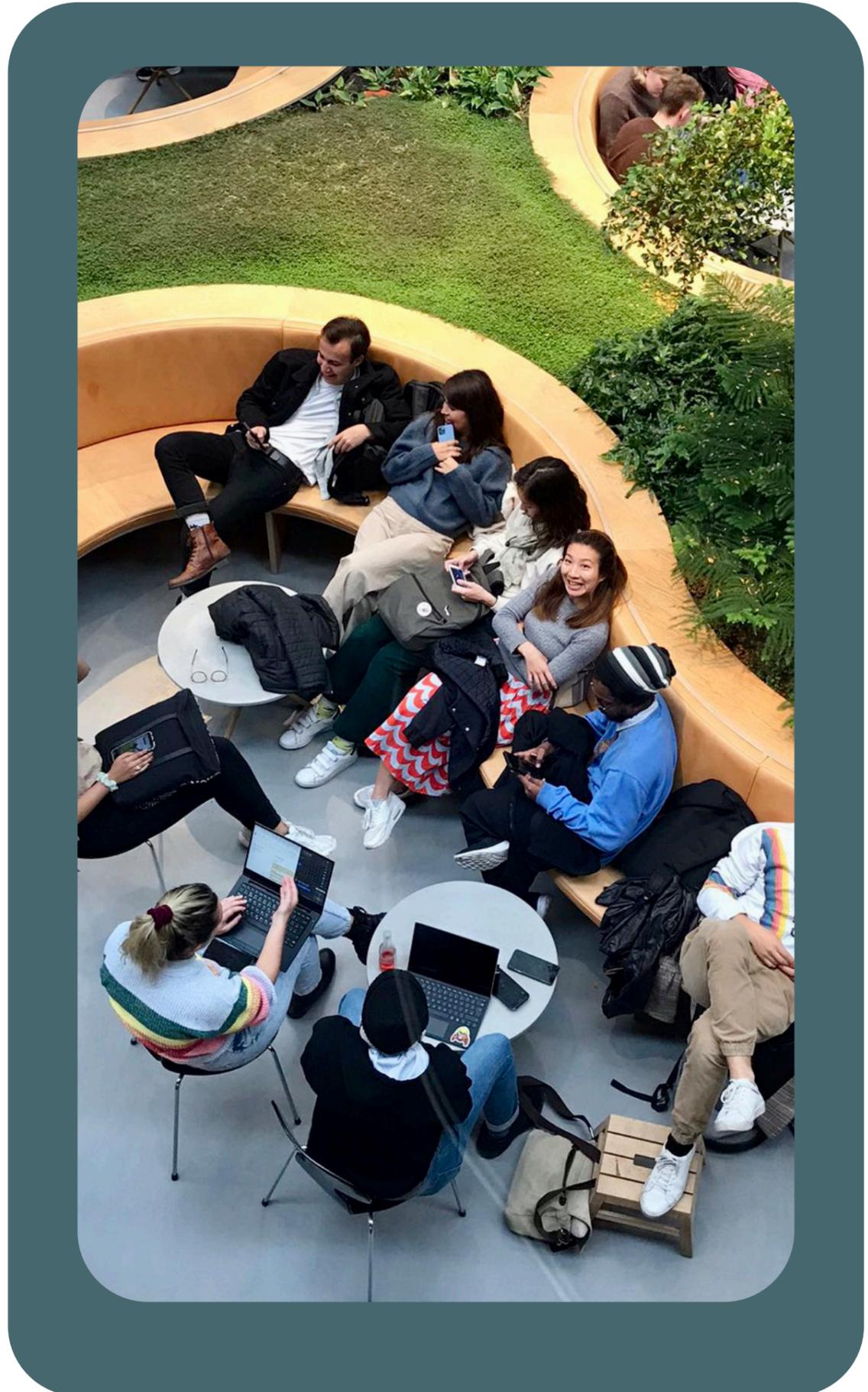
Most people think journalism is dying, but that isn't what I experienced in the weeks with all of my great, curious classmates. I'm happy that I stuck to journalism and chose the Mundus Journalism program.

I brought my dog with me all the way from China, and she is my most important, valuable belonging.



**Jina Yang** (she/her)

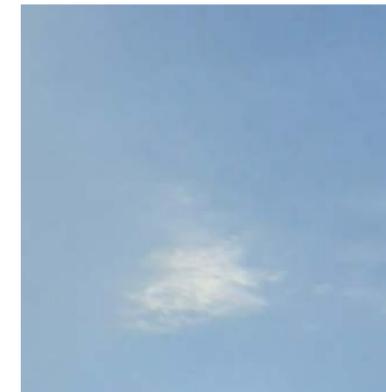
**Age:** 28  
**Nationality:** China  
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