

Erasmus Mundus Journalism, Media and Globalisation

# BLUE BOOK

DANMARKS MEDIE- OG JOURNALISTHØJSKOLE

MINOR  
CHALLENGES,  
MAJOR FUN

TRAVELLING TO  
AARHUS  
AND LIVING THERE

PAST, PRESENT,  
FUTURE  
ALL ABOUT THE  
CLASS OF  
2016-2018

WHAT THE  
MUNDUSIAN  
SPIRIT IS  
REALLY LIKE

DANISH LIFESTYLE:  
MAKE IT *HYGGELIG*

OUR SPECIALISM  
UNIVERSITIES ABROAD





# Welcome!

First created in 2005, the Erasmus Mundus Bluebook has become a much treasured Mundusian tradition as old as the programme itself.

This year's Bluebook is coming along as a lifestyle magazine for present and future Mundusians as well as for our alumni and anyone interested in the Erasmus Mundus Master in Journalism, Media and Globalisation.

The Bluebook perfectly resembles the diversity of our student body. In twelve features, you get to know the 80 students of the class of 2016-2018 through their impressive professional backgrounds and their ambitious career plans. Find out about their daily experiences on campus, in the city of Aarhus and with Denmark overall. Learn about the challenges they are facing and the heaps of fun they have. On behalf of the entire editorial committee, please enjoy the reading!

**Bettina Andersen**

**Mundus Journalism Programme Coordinator**

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A group of six Erasmus Mundus students are captured in a joyful moment, standing on a light-colored wooden floor. They are all smiling and have their arms raised, holding hands or clapping. From left to right: a woman with blonde hair wearing a red and white striped shirt under a grey cardigan; a woman with blonde hair wearing a grey sweater and a brown scarf; a woman with blonde hair wearing a white t-shirt with 'MSCH' and 'EST. 1900' printed on it, under a brown blazer; a man with dark hair wearing a blue denim jacket over a striped shirt; a woman with dark hair and glasses wearing a white long-sleeved shirt; and a woman with dark hair wearing a teal jacket. In the background, there is a large, abstract mural with dark, swirling patterns and some green and blue accents. The overall atmosphere is one of excitement and camaraderie.

# Mundusian Spirit

As a student on the Erasmus Mundus Journalism, Media & Globalisation Master's programme, you will find yourself as part of a unique group of like-minded people who have come together from all corners of the world to develop their careers and themselves as a whole. On the 2016-18 programme, 80 people from 39 countries moved together to a little city in one of the smallest countries in the world and together face the challenge of becoming familiar with a new culture and society, on an entirely new continent for many. Taking this step together, with a group of people you have never met before, creates something truly amazing. We like to call it 'Mundus spirit'.



## LINDA DE VEEN

Dutch

The 'Mundusian Spirit' is all about being united in our differences. It gives you the feeling of having a family away from home. The more informal atmosphere in the classroom also makes it easier to approach coordinators and teachers, which makes me feel welcome at all times.

The Mundus experience is about meeting people from

other places, understanding where they come from, where they have worked and how the world works in general. This is something that cannot be taught from books only. It is something that sets this programme apart from others and that will guide us as journalists and/or academics.

**Age:** 24

**Specialism:** War and Conflict (Swansea University)

**Tweet about yourself:** If I'm not allowed to drink my cup of coffee, in my anguish I will turn into a shrivelled-up roast goat #JSBach #nojoke #couldvebeenmethough

## MIE ØLSEN

Danish

The key word in understanding "Mundus Spirit" is inclusive. People are so game on getting to know each other, explore the country and discuss their journalistic work. Maybe the best thing of being part of the Mundus team is getting to know fellow alcoholics that, nonetheless, turn out to be a delightful crowd, and listening

to good stories. For an inspiring international journalist, who wants to travel the world, the social and professional network is unique. You meet people from all over, who is just as passionate about journalism as you are, and there is a mutual wish to improve in the field. It is a kind of "together we can grow" feeling.

**Age:** 25

**Specialism:** Business and Finance Journalism (City University, London)

**Tweet about yourself:**

Basketball playing blond girl keen on travelling. Loves movies, red wine, my parents, diving, hiking, Nancy Sinatra and soaking in bathtubs.



## ALETTA D'CRUZ

Indian

The 'Mundusian Spirit' is a feeling of finding family in people you have known for just a couple of days. With all the cultural diversity of the Mundus team, I get the chance to learn both inside and outside the classroom. My undergraduate Sociology degree taught me how society functions via theories. Now, the Mundus programme teaches me how

to recognise and apply these theories in my day-to-day life and career. And the value of the Mundus partnership does not end at graduation. Being associated with the Mundus family allows me to join a select network of individuals who have all lived the same experiences, becoming invaluable resources to one another.

**Age:** 27

**Specialism:** Media and Politics (University of Amsterdam)

**Tweet about yourself:** "Sunshine with a little hurricane"

## ANN-KRISTIN HERBST

German

When I first met my fellow students, I immediately noticed diversity in looks: tall and short, dark and blond hair, different outfits and voices. And these were only the varieties you could see at first sight. Over the next days, I got to know various personalities, life-stories and expectations regarding the programme. After one month, all these

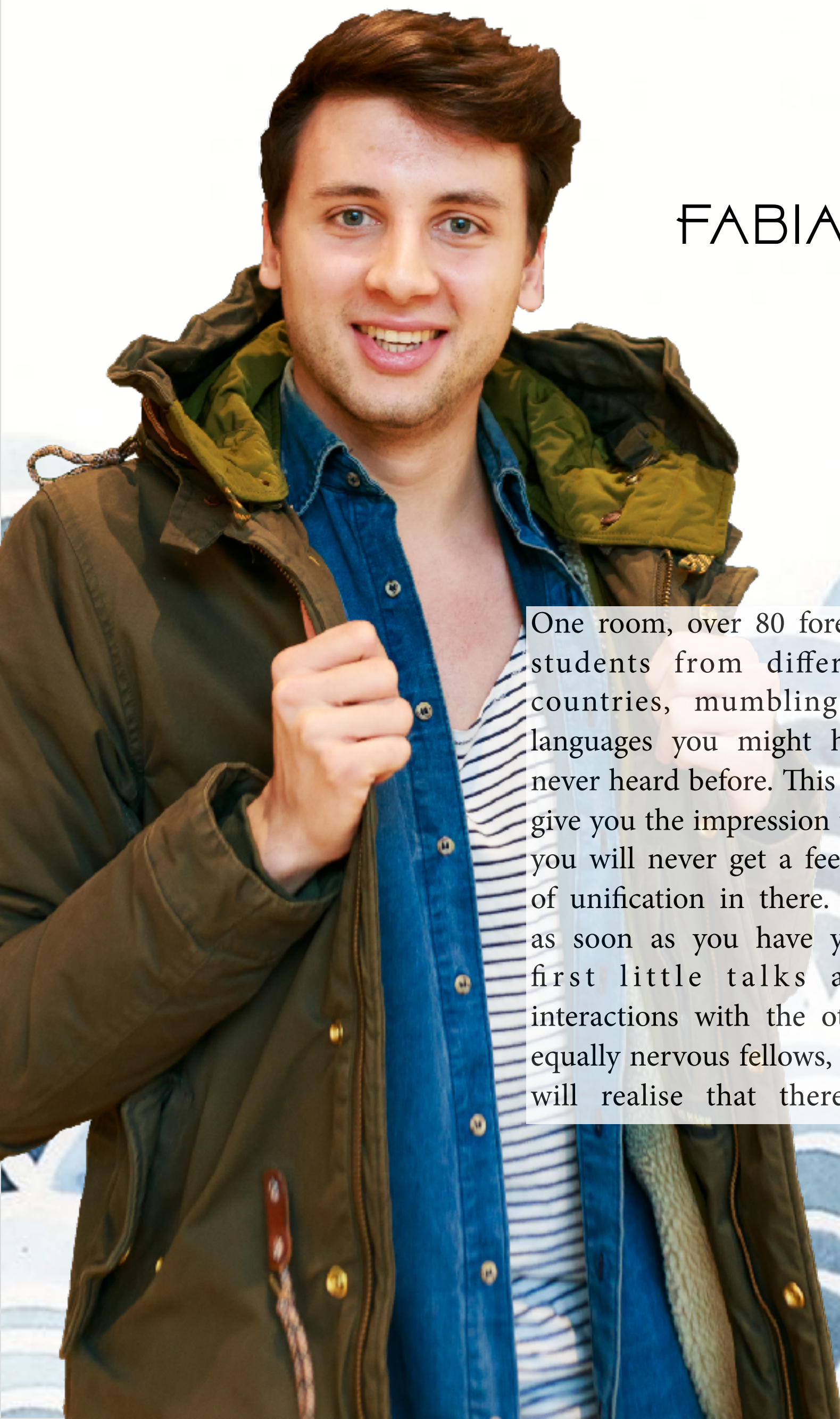
differences felt completely normal. It is a lot of fun to get to know more about the way my fellow students think, how they grew up and what they are up to in their future. When coming to class today, it is not the differences that I notice at first, but the feeling of belonging and being one group, ready to work on great projects together.

**Age:** 26

**Specialism:** Journalism and Media Across Cultures (University of Hamburg)

**Tweet about yourself:** Completely in love with coffee, enjoys to travel and to live abroad, always ready for a beer and good conversations.





## FABIAN WEGENER

German

One room, over 80 foreign students from different countries, mumbling in languages you might have never heard before. This can give you the impression that you will never get a feeling of unification in there. But as soon as you have your first little talks and interactions with the other equally nervous fellows, you will realise that there is

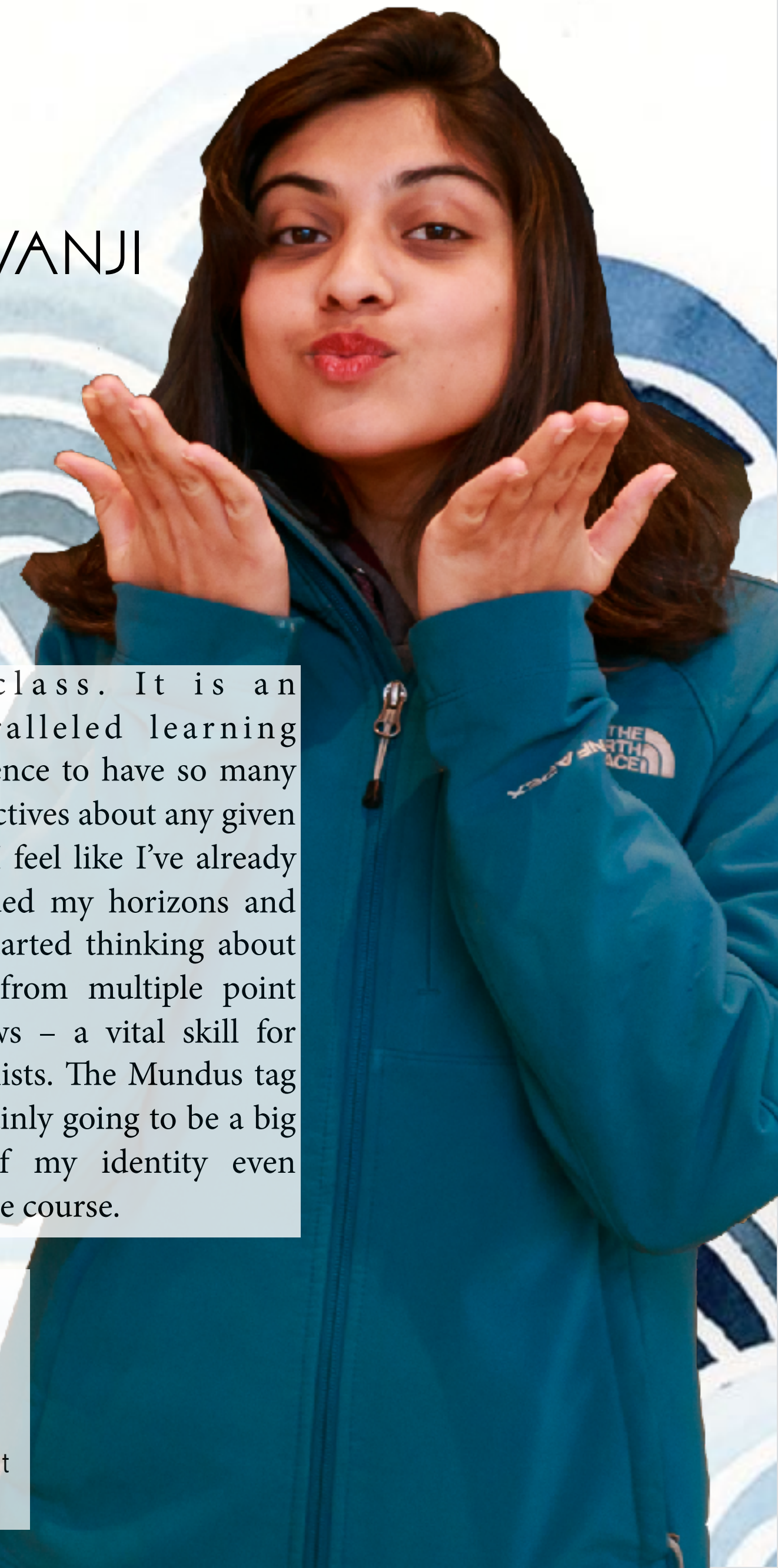
something deep down that unites them all. And this feeling, that's exactly it. I really enjoy the idea that I might have already made friends that will stick around for the next 10, 20 years and maybe even longer. The amount of opportunities that emerge from these special bonds are sheer limitless.

**Age:** 23

**Specialism:** Business and Finance Journalism (City University, London)

## SANIKA DIWANJI

Indian



You must've already heard of the "One Big Mundus Family" aspect many times over. But when I think of the Mundus Spirit, that really is the only description which comes to mind. A global family where everyone is each other's support system. All of our differences in terms of language, culture, age, experience and so on, are the biggest strengths of

the class. It is an unparalleled learning experience to have so many perspectives about any given topic. I feel like I've already expanded my horizons and have started thinking about issues from multiple point of views – a vital skill for journalists. The Mundus tag is certainly going to be a big part of my identity even after the course.

**Age:** 25

**Specialism:** Journalism and Media Across Cultures (University of Hamburg)

**Tweet about yourself:** Writer, traveler, explorer, free spirited and adventure lover. Can't imagine life without new experiences, challenges and laughter.



# Travelling To Aarhus

Travelling is always an adventure. It has its ups and downs. Your baggage can get lost, your plane might be delayed for hours or you might just discover that your final destination does not match your expectations. But it is also an opportunity to learn about other cultures, make new friends along the way and even discover something new about yourself. Travelling can bring fun, tears and joy.

Here, some of the Erasmus Mundus Journalism 2016-2017 students narrate the highs and lows of their experiences travelling to Aarhus.





## ABDULLA AL-KHAL

Bahraini

When I left home, it was a bittersweet feeling. I was excited to start a new journey, but, at the same time, sad to leave my family and friends. I took a flight from Bahrain to Copenhagen with a layover in Istanbul. In total, with the train to Aarhus, it was 14 hours. I was told that Aarhus is expensive, so I got a lot of winter clothes prior to coming here. I had a lot of stuff though. When I arrived in Denmark, things were smooth and people were helpful which made everything much easier. My advices for next Mundusians: Apply for your permit ASAP. Try to ship things that aren't that important and bring some personal items to decorate your room as it will give you a feeling that you are home!

**Age:** 25

**Specialism:** War and Conflict (Swansea University)

**Tweet about yourself:** A Sushi. Hard to get me, let us just say I'm controversial. Crazy, ambitious, and a master procrastinator nerd.

## DINORAH AVENDANO CURIEL

Mexican/American

I am lucky that my journey from Colorado to Aarhus was not my first international experience. After 32 hours on a plane, my "checked baggage" got delayed. I had only my carry-ons for the first 4 days. Luckily, the weather was not too cold, so my dresses and long boots made it work out. A classmate kindly picked me up at the train station when I arrived.

I cried like a baby when I left home. It was so emotional because my return is uncharted. But you have to remember: You are taking this opportunity because in the bottom of your heart that is what you want. Don't be discouraged if things don't pan out how you expect them to. Be open to get involved. Aarhus can be your home.

**Age:** 25

**Specialism:** Journalism and Media Across Cultures (University of Hamburg)

**Tweet about yourself:** I'm a traveler at heart. Adventurer day and night. I like people and places. No space for fear or doubt. I am a poet who listens to beat of my own heart.



# NICOLE GOSZCZYNSKI

German

My trip from Germany to Aarhus was pretty comfortable! I rented a minibus, so I could bring all my stuff at once without segregating: my beloved bed, three enormous suitcases, one box with my favourite books, photos and my collection of shot glasses from around the world. I was very excited when I left home for a new adventure.

After 500km, I finally arrived at my dorm. I just felt overwhelmed. I didn't understand the native language and my room seemed sad. To make it cosier, I spent the very first day getting furniture and flowers at Ikea and hanging up pictures. Luckily, the people I live with were also very welcoming and helpful, which made it easier to settle in after that first shock.

**Age:** 23

**Next year:** Media and Politics (University of Amsterdam)

**Tweet about yourself:** If you ever see a petite, dance-loving, sarcastic, chips- & shopping- addicted control freak traveling the world, say Hi Nicole!

# LUCIA MALVAREZ

Argentinian

Once I got the paperwork from University, it took me two weeks to get my student visa. I was very excited about coming to Aarhus. Still, it is hard to be apart from my 8-month-old niece - I really miss her. I didn't have much time to mentally prepare for travel. I just put all my clothes in two suitcases. It took me 3 planes and over 24 hours to get to Aarhus.

The trip was supposed to last 17-hours, but my flight from Buenos Aires to Frankfurt had an 8 hours' delay. I missed my connections to Copenhagen and Aarhus and had to spend the night in Frankfurt. It is good not to overthink everything, just enjoy the experience. There is always going to be setbacks, but just think positive.

**Age:** 32

**Next year:** Media and Politics (University of Amsterdam)

**Tweet about yourself:** I am a mixture of Bridget Jones and Liz Lemon, I am Bridget Lemon!!!



# NG HWEE CHIN

Singaporean

I got my residence permit very fast. It took me about three weeks. In advance, I bought lots of food and green tea from Japan to prepare myself for the trip to Denmark. Leaving home was a great feeling and arriving in Aarhus was awesome! When I came to Aarhus, it took me 16 hours including a 2-hour transit delay in Doha. It was really easy for me to find the way to my accommodation. I would like to advise prospective students to please check in advance if you need a router for your dorm.

**Specialism:** War & Conflict  
(Swansea University)

**Favourite quote:** Be like water,  
my friend.

**Tweet about yourself:**  
Photojournalism is my life.

# HAOCHANG ZUO

Chinese

It took me 17 hours by plane to travel from Singapore to Aarhus. I was the first student to arrive and I explored almost everything by myself in the first few days. Being brave to ask questions whenever and wherever is really important. If you need, you can always ask for help at the university's International Centre. You will also be warmly welcomed by a free package full of useful information as a new comer to the city. Last but not least, please be well prepared both physically and mentally for an adventure in this windy place with a legend of "Dark November Forever". You only live once, enjoy as much as you can!


**Age:** 26

**Next year:** Business and Finance (City  
University, London)

**Tweet about yourself:** Today I am I,  
that is truer than true.



# Life in Aarhus

A group of five students are gathered around a small black table. A young man in a grey hoodie is on the left, looking towards a young woman in a maroon top who is smiling. Next to her is a young woman in a blue and white floral shirt holding a white mug. To her right is a young woman in a grey and white striped shirt. In the background, a young man in a black jacket and a young woman in a blue top are standing and talking. They are all in a room with a large mural on the wall behind them, depicting a busy outdoor scene with many people. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

Recently, the city of Aarhus was ranked among the top 10 cities in Europe. Some of its highlights are the harbour area, the Aros and Moesgaard museums and places like Dokk1, one of the most modern libraries in the world. Moreover, in 2017 Aarhus will be the European Capital of Culture and many events, concerts and activities will be held to present the city in its best light. With so much to do in Aarhus, it's no wonder that every single person has different experiences when arriving in the city. Here, some of the Mundus students give you a first impression how it is to live in Aarhus and what's to discover in the so called "City of Smiles".

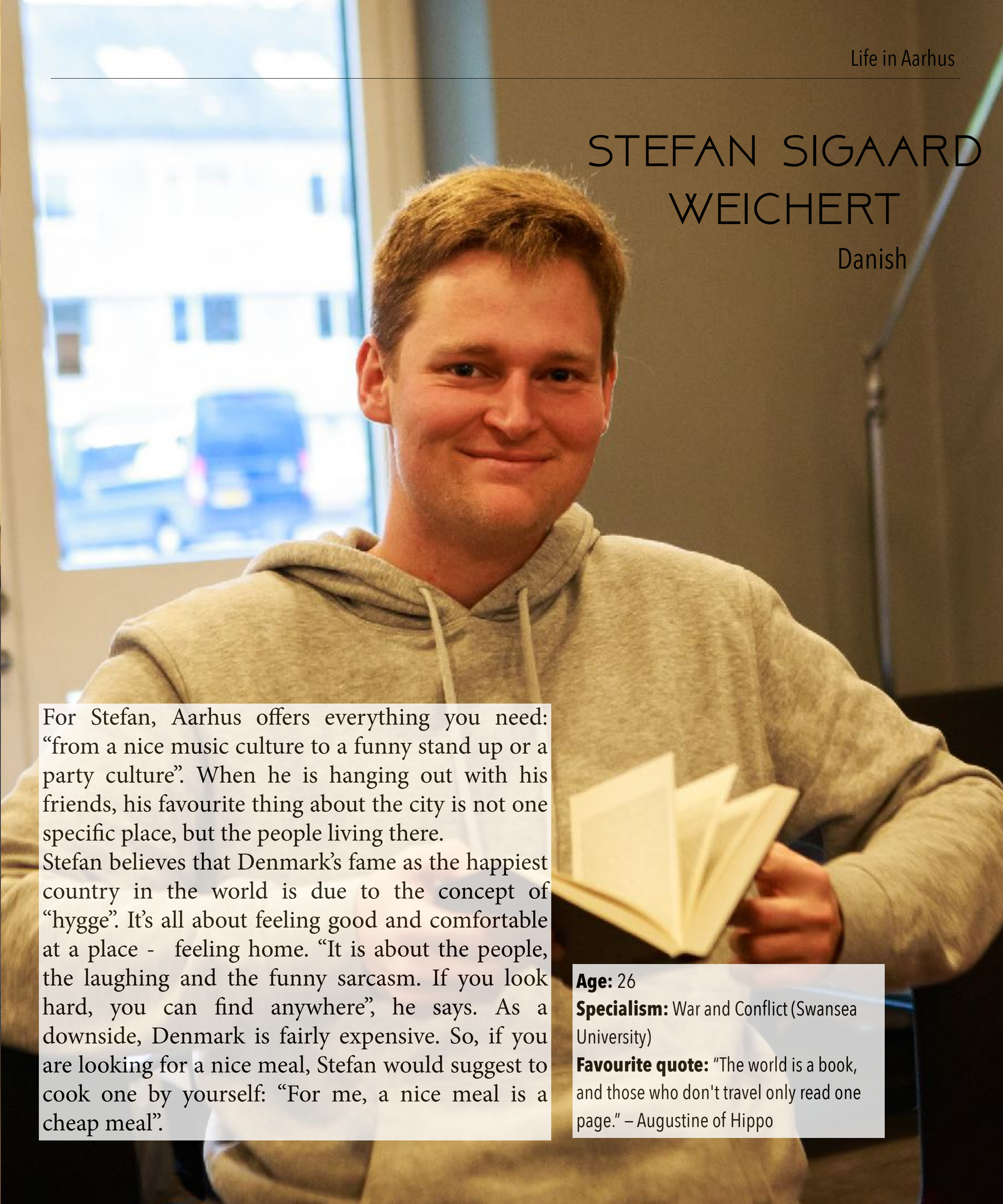




LAURA MAIA  
DE CASTRO  
Brazilian

As most students in Aarhus, Laura lives in one of the student housing facilities. From her window, she can see Universitetsparken up close. “I love to feed the ducks, see the sunset or just study on the grass”, she says. Sharing a kitchen and a bathroom with Danes gave Laura the opportunity to get in touch with Danish culture. The dorm’s location, near the city’s centre and the university even helped her joining a very Danish habit: “I can go everywhere by just cycling”. For Laura, one of the best spots to grab food is at the Street Food Market: “It has an informal atmosphere and it is a nice place to hang out with friends”. Despite being afraid of the winter, she loves Aarhus.

**Age:** 27  
**Specialism:** Business and Financial Journalism (City University, London)  
**Favourite quote:** “Size is a matter of perspective.”



STEFAN SIGAARD  
WEICHERT  
Danish

For Stefan, Aarhus offers everything you need: “from a nice music culture to a funny stand up or a party culture”. When he is hanging out with his friends, his favourite thing about the city is not one specific place, but the people living there. Stefan believes that Denmark’s fame as the happiest country in the world is due to the concept of “hygge”. It’s all about feeling good and comfortable at a place - feeling home. “It is about the people, the laughing and the funny sarcasm. If you look hard, you can find anywhere”, he says. As a downside, Denmark is fairly expensive. So, if you are looking for a nice meal, Stefan would suggest to cook one by yourself: “For me, a nice meal is a cheap meal”.

**Age:** 26  
**Specialism:** War and Conflict (Swansea University)  
**Favourite quote:** “The world is a book, and those who don't travel only read one page.” – Augustine of Hippo



# HON SOPHIA BALOD

Filipino

If you're looking for accommodation in Aarhus, Sophia recommends to use the facilities offered by AU student housing. She lives in a dormitory built in the 1960s and, although she gets annoyed by the strong smell of mould and bricks in her bedroom, she appreciates having her neighbours around. "They are very warm and friendly. I also get to see the sunrise and sea everyday", she says. Sophia's favourite spot in Aarhus is the Den Gamle By open air museum. It's a nice place to explore the local culture by literally walking through the centuries of Danish history. "There's something about old towns, Danish culture and rye bread with cheese that excites me!"

**Age:** 27  
**Specialism:** Media & Politics (University of Amsterdam)  
**Favourite quote:** "The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honourable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference that you have lived and lived well." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

# GWENDOLIN GÜNTZEL

German

Aarhus left a great impression on Gwendolin. Not only the natural beaches, like Belhage Beach, near the city centre, or the Deer Park, where you can feed deer with carrots. Another thing that caught her attention is all the young parents walking around with their children in the parks. At Universitetsparken, it's often a buggy vs. bikes challenge. And speaking of bikes, Gwendolin has some good advice on how to avoid high prices on your first weeks at Aarhus: "I bought a bike for too much money. The tires were not good at all and the chain is rusty. But when you come to Aarhus, wait a month until better bikes are sold for less money".

**Age:** 23  
**Specialism:** Media & Politics (University of Amsterdam)  
**Favourite quote:** "If music be the food of love, play on." – William Shakespeare



# MARIUS STANKIEWICZ

Polish/Canadian

**Age:** 33  
**Specialism:** Media & Politics (University of Amsterdam)  
**Favourite quote:** "When someone is honestly 55% right, that's very good and there's no use wrangling. And if someone is 60% right, it's wonderful, it's great luck, and let him thank God. But what's to be said about 75% right? Wise people say this is suspicious. Well, and what about 100% right? Whoever say he's 100% right is a fanatic, a thug, and the worst kind of rascal." – An old Jew from Galicia.

There are many different options of where to live in Aarhus. Marius found his flat via AU housing, but outside campus. "Although it is far from the city centre, it's clean and spacious and there is lots of green space outside. Surprisingly, the rent is much cheaper than some other options", he says. Marius enjoys spending his free time at the seaside and cycling. "It's the only way, the Danish way!", he says. One thing he misses in Aarhus is mountains, as he loves to hike, even though some people would argue that there are more than enough mountains just right in town. For Marius, Aarhus has everything you could look for: "You just need the time, and a little bit of money!" he says.

# CHANDRALEKHA MUKERJI

Indian

For Chandralekha – or “Tuki”- the city of Aarhus is a scenic place with a beautiful old town. The only thing that scares her so far is the city's harsh temperatures during the winter. Still, she says you'll soon find out that Aarhus has many things to offer to distract you from the winter blues. You can always enjoy festivals, go to flea markets, take bike rides or visit museums, like ARoS. Tuki has a great tip on how to get in touch with Danish culture: Sharing a meal and stories with a Danish family is a great way to discover their traditions and local food specialties.

**Age:** 27  
**Specialism:** Business and Financial Journalism (City University, London)  
**Favourite quote:** "Two roads diverged in a wood, and I took the one less travelled by, And that has made all the difference." – Robert Frost





# Danish Culture



# DET ER HYGGE

Hej! Welcome to Denmark and the 'hyggelig' Danish culture. Our fellow Mundusians invite you to discover a few peculiarities regarding the Land of the Vikings and its people. You will find testimonials about life in Denmark and their favourite local dishes and words. There is also a special etiquette guide prepared by a Danish colleague, since you don't want to be in embarrassing situations, right? But please mind that the perspectives presented by our students come from their own experiences. You will only find out how Denmark really is by coming here and living it up to the most you can. We hope you will fall in love with this beautiful culture and that you enjoy your stay!



ANNA JOPP  
German

**Age:** 23

**Next year:** Media and Politics  
(University of Amsterdam)

**Tweet about yourself:** Mostly harmless. Loves mountains, language and horrible puns. Always hungry for chocolate and knowledge.

Most Danes I've met love to exercise, are glad to help and speak amazing English. The people of Aarhus also seem very friendly, patient and comparatively quiet. Unfortunately, Danish daily life is quite bureaucratic in that it seems to have adapted to ubiquitous government nudging (high taxes on everything unhealthy, high fines on everything you are not "supposed" to do). During my stay in Denmark, I have

made it my mission to try all the different things that come in "milk cartons". My newest acquisition - "Koldskål" - tastes like buttermilk with a smack of lemon and is supposed to be eaten with a spoon and cookies. Pouring it in a glass and drinking it works much better, though!



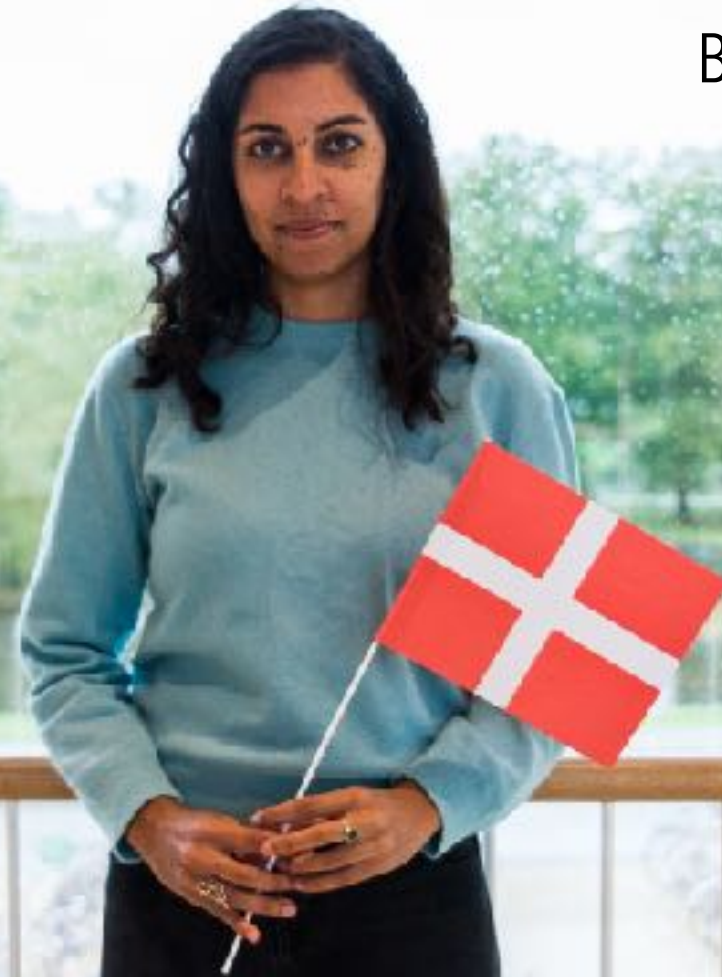
## ELISANGELA ROXO MAGAROTTO

Brazilian

**Age:** 32

**Specialism:** Journalism and Media Across Cultures (University of Hamburg)

**Tweet about yourself:** Curiosity has been guiding me before each serendipity on the way. I'm in Denmark for an investigation on hygge and for Mundus Journalism.



An interesting meal that I have had in Denmark was the cinnamon roll. I really liked it, but I feel that I still need to learn more about local cuisine. In general, Danes seem to really enjoy life and welfare state is presented as a solution for a lot of problems in the rest of the world. The most famous Dane that I know is Nikolaj Coster-Waldau,

for the role of Jamie Lannister in "Game of Thrones". Since I'm fascinated by languages, I decided to learn Danish, although it is a challenge to decode it. My goal is to be able to communicate with the locals in their own language. Learning Danish also helps me to understand better the culture. And where else would I have this opportunity?

As someone who grew up in a multi-cultural country (we have Malay, Chinese, Indian, aborigines, and hundreds of tribes!), moving into a country where the culture is totally different from my own was not a big deal. I like learning about new cultures and its people. Moving to Denmark was certainly an eye opener and the Danes have some pretty interesting traditions that I'm looking

forward to learn! So far I have realised that they are health conscious people that just happen to be stylish too. For some reason, Danes are obsessed with their flag. They even put it on birthday cakes. An advice that I would give to new students is: when the sun comes out, you go out. Enjoy it as much as you can.

## FARAH FAZANNA ZULZAHA

Malaysian

**Age:** 28

**Next year:** Journalism and Media Across Cultures (University of Hamburg)

**Tweet about yourself:** I suffer from a constant wanderlust.





## MICHAEL NYANTAKYI OTI

Ghanaian

**Age:** 28

**Specialism:** War and Conflict (Swansea University)

**Tweet about yourself:** It is an awesome experience to be here in Denmark. We are working hard and playing hard just like its done back in Ghana. Ghana in the building!

Life here is not extravagant, people live simply and it is hard to tell the rich from the poor. Everybody rides a bicycle, everybody belongs. Beer is the most traditional thing in Denmark. Everything revolves around beer. Regardless of the occasion be sure you will find beer. Before coming to Aarhus, I already knew who Hans Christian Andersen was. My

favourite tale that he wrote is “The Emperor’s New Clothes”.

I feel that one year would not be enough to understand Danish properly, so I decided to not take a course. When I arrived in Denmark, I was impressed by the winter and the long nights. It was a shock the first time I saw it was 9pm and the sun was still up.

If you were invited to a dinner with Danes, you should consider reading these hints. First, you have to arrive at the exact time you agreed on. Don’t try to be spontaneous, it is really not our thing. Once you arrive, the first thing to remember (if you don’t know these Danes very well) is to never go for a hug, or even worse a kiss on the cheek! A Dane will get so

awkward and you will not want to start your dinner out like that.

Also, small talking is not really our thing either. Unless you want to talk about the weather, of course. In Denmark we love to complain. As we don’t really have anything to complain about, we enjoy discussing the one thing we can’t do anything about: the rain.

## MIA KIRKEGAARD JØRGENSEN

Danish

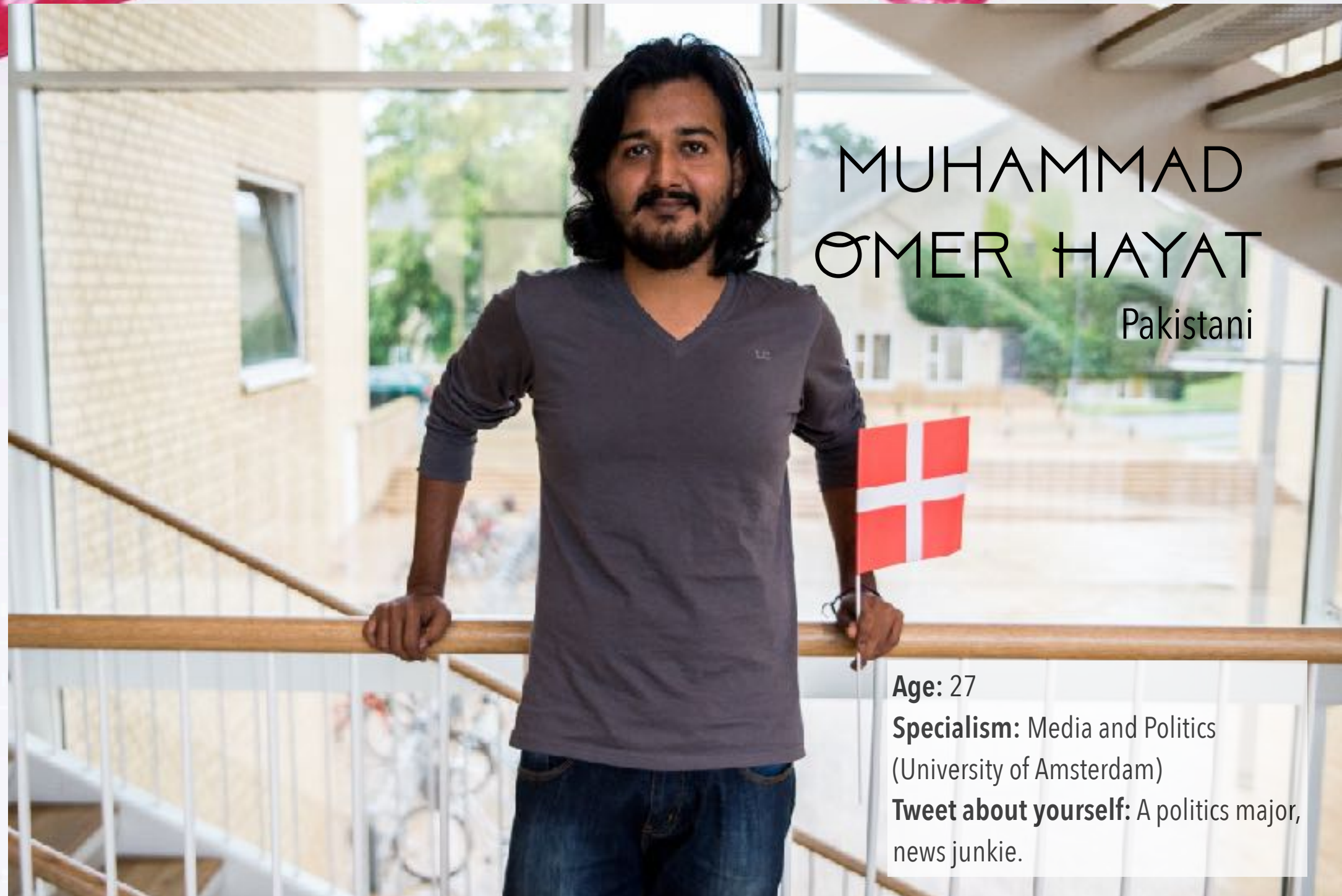
**Age:** 23

**Specialism:** Business and Financial Journalism (City University, London)

**Tweet about yourself:** I just realised that I consider myself quite the Me expert. But this is my first time tweeting ever. I’ve been living a lie #awkward







Most Danes seem kind of cold, but are actually very friendly once you have more communication with them. I feel that they are just like us Chinese — shy but warm-hearted. The life style in Denmark is very cozy and relaxed. Danes have a special word called “hygge”. Anyone who wants to totally understand it has to experience it in person. Imagine that you sit by the warm

fire with your friends on a winter night, drinking a cup of hot cocoa and talking with each other. That’s my definition for hygge!

I would say that traditional in Denmark would be riding a bike no matter what the weather is. I find it interesting because here they have special lanes for bikes and we don’t have it in China.

My favourite word in Danish is *tilbud*, which means ‘offer’. You can find it, for example, in supermarkets, when they have products with good prices. The most famous Dane that I remember is Lars Lokke Rasmussen, the prime minister of Denmark. I think that the country has an admirable balance between work and leisure. Also, most Danes I’ve met are very polite.

I would describe their lifestyle as healthy, since they are definitely fitness freaks, but they do love their alcohol as well! Learning Danish is essential, because most signs and public literature are in their language. I also think that it is the fastest way to integrate and get to know more about the society.





# Cultural Clash





## A TALE OF CULTURES

We all have our own prejudices and stereotypes, admit it! It doesn't mean that we are necessarily ignorant to our differences and that's why it's very interesting when we challenge our perceived ideas, especially when studying a group of 80 students from 39 countries. Our batch arrived in Denmark with certain clichés regarding Danes or our fellow students, resulting in a cultural clash that was just inevitable. As the representatives of our own countries, the programme gives us the opportunity to disseminate our message to our colleagues and to listen to their views and beliefs. The Mundusian experience is a unique opportunity for many of us to show our real culture and traditions and go beyond the image of a nation, which is mostly formed through stereotypes.

## FAITH ANUOLUWAPO OLORUNTOBA Nigerian

Prior to arriving in Aarhus, Faith pictured the Danes as boring, unfriendly and cold. Living in Aarhus for a while taught her the opposite: Although the Vikings are a bit reserved, they are the most helpful people on earth who like to have fun. Anyhow, one of her stereotypes was proven right – Danes love to drink a lot of beer. Faith used to have certain stereotypes regarding Arabs, Asians and Americans. Meeting people from those regions in real life made her less critical and more sympathetic concerning their cultures. The fact that other countries perceive Nigeria as a fraudulent state makes Faith very sad. She says Nigerians are peaceful and honest with a cheerful spirit and loving hearts.

**Age:** 24

**Specialism:** Journalism and Media across Cultures (University of Hamburg)

**Tweet about yourself:** A lioness, whose fieriness is tempered with humbleness, always in pursuit of her happiness to the fullness, never afraid of her weakness.





## TIANYAO ZHONG

Chinese

Even if some clichés Cecilia had to face were meant to be jokes, some of them were real assumptions: "You Chinese all look the same!", "You must be really good at Math", "Did you work in a factory when you were 8?", and "You eat everything", etc. The fact that the media portrays the Chinese as a weak community, whose people keep their heads down and their opinions to themselves, makes Cecilia angry. She claims that the Chinese politeness is not a weakness, but an essential part of their Confucian culture. Although stereotypes are not completely a bad thing, Cecilia emphasises the importance of not solely defining an individual person based on country-related stereotypes, since everyone is different.

**Age:** 22

**Specialism:** Journalism and Media across Cultures (University of Hamburg)

**Tweet about yourself:** Sometimes when people keep calling me Cecilia, I forget my real name. Or maybe it is because I'm drunk.

## ELIZABETH LOUISE ROBERTS

British

Lizzie sees the Mundusian family as a possibility to meet people from all over the world, in a way she has never experienced before. Since the programme provides the best environment to get to know various cultures in their real forms, Lizzie feels that former stereotypes are eradicated by that. She emphasises the opportunity to learn new languages and traditions from all corners of the globe and above all to make international friends for life. Outside of the UK's 'insular bubble', it is eye opening for Lizzie to see how the rest of the world judges the UK with regards to Brexit. She stresses that the young British feel disheartened and disappointed by the vote and that they do not want to leave the EU.

**Age:** 24

**Specialism:** Media and Politics (University of Amsterdam)

**Tweet about yourself:** 24 year old, opinionated Brit, keen feminist, lover of dogs, obsessed with Iran and aspiring foreign correspondent.



# JANA STUPPERICH

German

Before Jana entered the Mundusian family, she had certain stereotypes towards Asians in her mind. She expected them to be shy and overly ambitious. After studying in the culturally-mixed environment of the programme, however, she realised that these clichés were not true. On the other hand, Jana argues that her fellow students expect Germans to be way more efficient and organised than the rest of the world. One of the main misconceptions regarding Germans is their lack of humour. Jana sees the Mundus experience as an opportunity to bring different cultures together and get rid of stereotypical thinking: “It’s lovely to see that a genuine smile says a lot more about an individual than any passport ever could.”

**Age:** 26

**Specialism:** War and Conflict,  
(Swansea University)

**Tweet about yourself:**

Latina at heart. Loves tea,  
Nutella, Doctor Who and  
everything blue.

Sometimes mistaken for a  
walking cello.



# ARCHIS CHOWDHURY

Indian

Living the life of a globetrotter who has already stayed in two different countries, Archis tries to avoid forming stereotypes in his head. Such as, that Indians only eat spicy food. However, before arriving in Aarhus, he had the idea of Danes being calm, quiet and patient people who don’t drink much alcohol. After spending two months in Denmark he says that his thoughts about Danes have proven to be right – except for the part about alcohol. Archis sees the Mundus programme as a great opportunity to get to know various people, countries and cultures beyond stereotypes. He describes the cultural mix as an education in terms of learning the reality of different countries.

**Age:** 25

**Specialism** Media and Politics  
(University of Amsterdam)

**Tweet about yourself:** I'm  
guilty of being extremely  
curious about everything.





## CATALINA ANDREA GAETE SALGADO

Chilean

Catalina pictured Denmark as a good example of a “first world” country regarding its educational system, health insurance and retirement policy. Spending more time in Aarhus strengthened her perception about the Danish way of life as a role-model. She emphasises: “I cannot wait to tell everyone in Chile about how they heat houses and water with trash, how equal their society is, how on time the buses arrive (an old dream in Santiago) and how happy the people are”. Talking about clichés towards her fellow students, Catalina was quite surprised that the Germans are not, as expected, a coconut country. She claims very delightedly that Germans are a sweet combination of coconuts and peaches.

**Age:** 26

**Specialism:** Media and Politics  
(University of Amsterdam)

**Tweet about yourself:**

Always thinking in how we can build a better world! Chilean journalist. #InLoveWithPablo <3 #ForeverYoung #FirstTimeAbroad #MissingMyMom :(

## DANIELA NINA EŠNEROVÁ

Czech

It wasn't a big surprise for Daniela to figure out that all Danes look like models. What astonished her though is that the Danes are not as punctual as they claim to be. For Daniela, the Danish drinking culture is quite ambivalent. One the one hand, she pictures them as a nation with high alcohol toleration, since there is an old Czech saying, "to drink like a Dane". On the other hand, Daniela has experienced young Scandinavians storming Prague's bars and getting wild and destructive. Due to that she is not quite sure if Danes can stand as much alcohol as they boast. One of the main misconceptions Daniela had to face, is her being immune towards coldness because of her Czech nationality.

**Age:** 24

**Specialism:** Business and Financial  
Journalism (City University, London)

**Tweet about yourself:**

I got not only wisdom teeth(8ths), but also 9ths and part of 10. I like to see it as a sign of wisdom, but haters say it's anti-evolutionary.





# Challenges

Going abroad for two years to pursue a master's degree might sound overwhelming for some people. It surely did for some of our Mundusians. The question is not how to prepare for the challenges awaiting you, because that's not possible. Life is a journey into the unknown, you can try to influence the direction it takes, but you can't really control it. Everybody's experiences different kinds of difficulties, be it on an academic or an emotional level. The most important question is how to deal with them. Here's what a few of our Mundusians had to cope with in the beginning of this adventure and how they mastered it!



# LOUISE CHRISTINA DE ANDRADE SILVA SOARES

Brazilian

For Louise, it was a major challenge to arrange her journey from Rio de Janeiro to Aarhus. Not only was she working until the last week of August, she was also about to publish her novel, only two days before getting on the plane to Denmark.

After arrival, she realised how different the weather was. Not being used to temperatures below 15°C, she quickly got into the routine of carrying around a jacket or a raincoat. As she put it: “The weather in Aarhus can change out of the blue.” Apart from the weather, Louise also experienced homesickness, but the power of technology, literature and music helped her to get over it.



**Age:** 27  
**Specialism:** Business and Financial Journalism (City University, London)  
**Favourite quote:** “To be of use to the world is the only way to be happy.” – Hans Christian Andersen

# BASMA ELMAHDY

Egyptian

As her native country Egypt is going through a crucial phase, Basma found it hard to leave home. She even felt guilty for leaving while her friends were being detained in custody for political reasons. Was it really worth it? How could this decision impact not only her career but also her personal life and even the future of her country? All these questions occupied Basma’s mind before coming.

Then, with the start of her master's degree, she had to get used to being a student again. Having worked as a journalist for seven years, she found it quite challenging to think in theoretical terms again.



**Age:** 28  
**Specialism:** War and Conflict (Swansea University)  
**Favourite quote:** "You will be surprised what I can live without"



LYDIA WEBER  
German

Lydia had to face two challenges in the beginning of her stay: First, she was concerned about her English skills not being good enough to study in a Master’s programme. It took her a long time to read and write in English, so the first weeks were a bit heavy. However, she found her daily routine to manage the workload. On the other hand, she found the first days a bit exhausting.

Meeting all the new people, out of whom some seemed to have known each other for ages, was overwhelming. She’s not a big fan of small talk, and she’s German, which doesn’t make her the most outgoing person, as she says. Still, she got to know great people whom she started liking after a couple of days. Her advice for you: Don’t stress out!

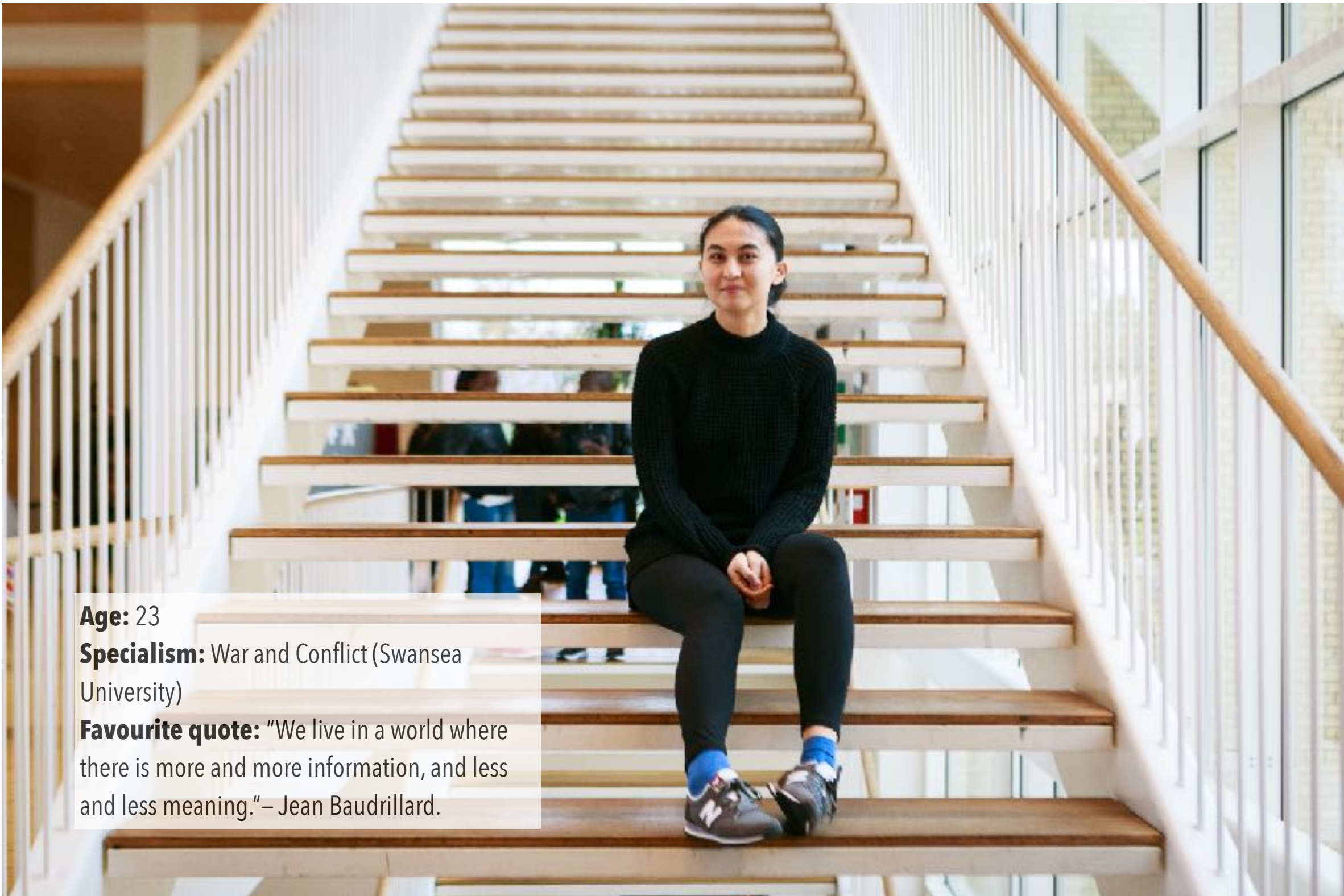


**Age:** 24  
**Specialism:** Media and Politics  
(University of Amsterdam)  
**Favourite quote:** If you know nothing  
you have to believe in everything.

MALIKA BAIAZOVA  
Kyrgyz

At first, Malika felt uncomfortable as she was the only one in the programme from her country and even region. As she put it, her “social awkwardness” reached its maximum when she was confronted with so many new people. But when she realised that she was not the only scared one, she relaxed and got to know them better.

On September 13, shortly after the course start, she celebrated her first birthday far away from her home and family. She felt homesick, but still decided to have a great day – and she did, thanks to her charming classmates.



**Age:** 23  
**Specialism:** War and Conflict (Swansea  
University)  
**Favourite quote:** “We live in a world where  
there is more and more information, and less  
and less meaning.” – Jean Baudrillard.

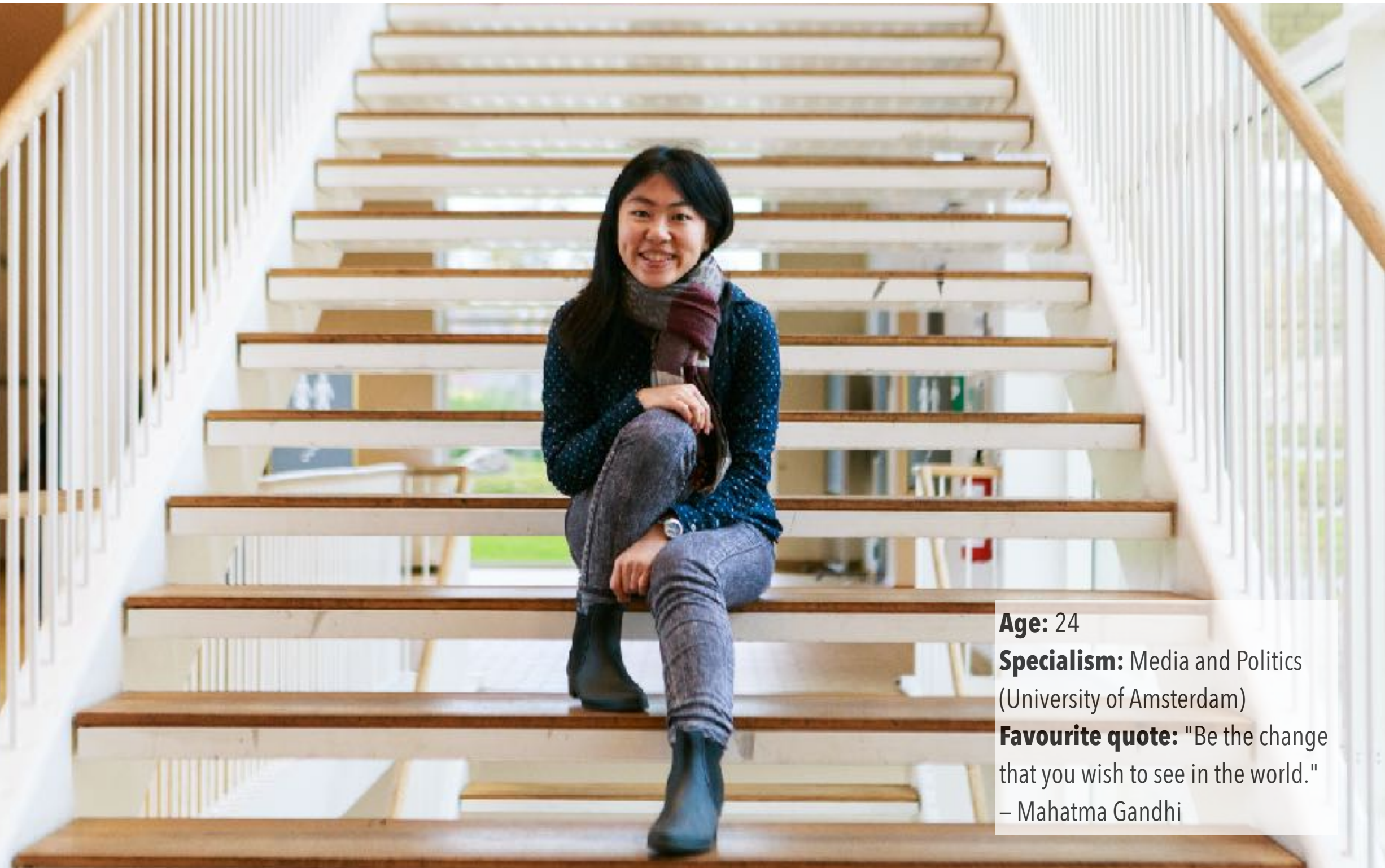


# PEI-YUN LO (PASCALE)

Taiwanese

Pascale found it very hard to accept the almost non-existent Danish recycling system. For instance, when going to McDonald’s in her native country, Taiwan, people have to throw the straw, the lid and the cup from their drinks in separate bins.

Another challenge was her homesickness in the beginning – she mostly missed her boyfriend and not being a small-talk person she had a hard time getting to know new people. She tried to change, but then realised that the most important thing is to always be yourself! In addition to that, she started to get to know her new home by cycling through the city and hanging out with other people from the course.



# PRIYANKA KALRA

Indian

For Priyanka, the move to Aarhus couldn’t have been more of an adjustment: New Delhi and Aarhus are such different cities. She had to get used to not having her car, infrequent buses, and shops shutting down too early. Nonetheless, she found these things inconvenient, but not really problematic.

Emotionally, Priyanka felt a little homesick, when her family was having a great vacation without her. Otherwise, she was too busy to allow herself to be overwhelmed by it. Thanks to the active and helpful Mundus administration’s work in introducing people already before their arrivals, so she met a lot of friends in Aarhus, with whom she met every day.





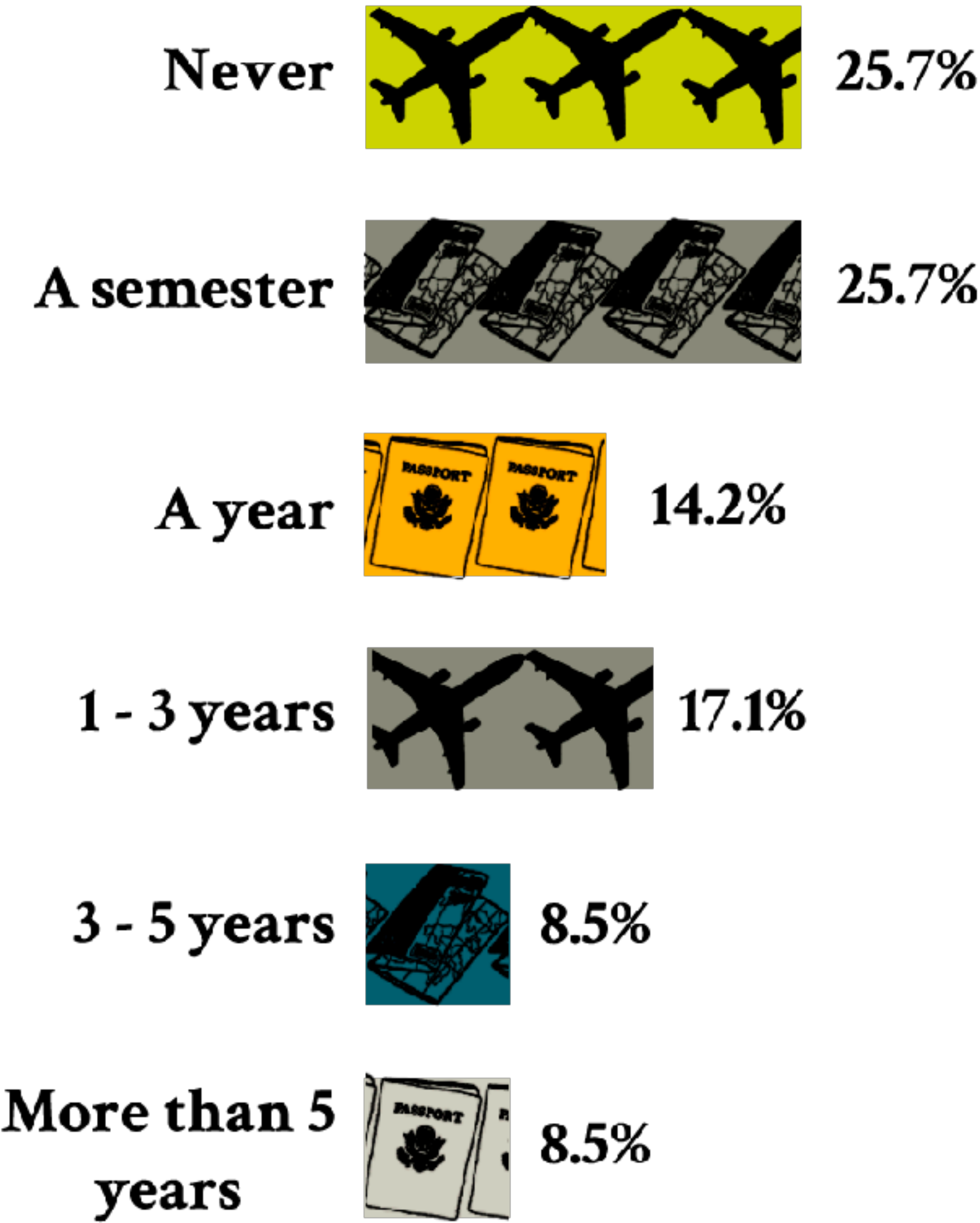
# VICTORIA CAROLIN VORBRÖKER

German

Victoria’s major challenge was to come to grips with the two different voices in her head saying, “I am not able to do that” and “But I really want to accomplish it!”. She was worried about failing, especially because she had never studied in English before. In addition to that, it was hard for her to leave her old environment behind. Just before moving to Aarhus, she feared to enter the new group and realise that she doesn't fit in. Luckily, that was not the case. She didn’t find it hard to bond with new people and all the interesting and brilliant people she has met so far made it easy for her to overcome her initial concerns.



## How long have the Mundusians lived abroad before?





# Fun Stories

When you move to a new country that has a culture different than yours, you are bound to encounter awkward yet funny situations. For example, your idea of a casual shower at the gym after you workout may change, or a smile to a stranger while walking in the street may not go as you expect. Some funny incidents though may even occur when you're still back home. What do we mean by all of that? Scroll down to learn more!





# FABIOLA ORTIZ

Brazilian/ Portugese

It’s been quite some hard work to re-learn how to ride a bike, especially when you have to indicate with only one hand while turning right or left. More than ten years, I didn’t ride a bike at all. Although it is the best, the cheapest and the easiest way to move around Aarhus, I find it quite challenging going up and down the hill every time I want to go to the city centre. What an adventure is that!



**Age:** 30  
**Specialism:** War and Conflict (Swansea University)  
**Favourite quote:** “Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” - Mahatma Gandhi

# MATHIEU DASNOIS

South African



**Age:** 30  
**Specialism:** Media and Politics (University of Amsterdam)  
**Favorite quote:** “We wanted flying cars, instead we got 140 characters.” - Peter Thiel

Fun facts about Denmark: Danes consider it polite to respect personal space. To some of us from the south, they take it a bit far. Try this: when walking past someone on a Danish street, make an eye contact, smile, and say hello. It freaks. them. out. Avoid looking away and you'll soon be rewarded with a silent, "JESUS, HE'S STILL LOOKING!" expression.



ELLA NAVARRO  
Uruguayan



**Age:** 28  
**Specialism:** Business and Financial Journalism (City University, London)  
**Favourite quote:** "You don't always need a plan. Sometimes you just need to breathe, trust, let go and see what happens"

Let me tell you about my adventures at the gym in Denmark. Firstly, you must know all the classes are in Danish. But this didn't stop me. I remember being in Step Intro class (no way this is intro, don't be fooled!) and the teacher kept saying something that sounded like 'joia' to me (turned out it was højre=right). I preferred to pretend as if I sucked at step -which I don't - rather than getting a 'dumb treatment' or a 'poor her' treatment in English. But the strangest thing was when I had to bathe completely naked in open showers in front of everyone. It was funny, because it was completely unexpected. Back home it's different. Now, I am totally used to it, and I laugh at the memory of my initial shock!

PIOTIE YAKAP SONIA  
Cameroonian



**Age:** 29  
**Specialism:** War and Conflict (Swansea University)  
**Favourite quote:** "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me." – King David

My mum is a lovely and caring woman, especially for her kids. She always wants to plan things ahead, she decided to ask a stylist to make me some clothes (I had not even obtained my Danish visa at that time!!). Also, we were staying in two different cities and the stylist did not have my measures. But because my mother insisted, she went ahead and sewed the clothes. So imagine the expressions on my face when the stylist showed me the clothes. It was hilarious!



LAURA URBONAVICIUTE  
Lithuanian



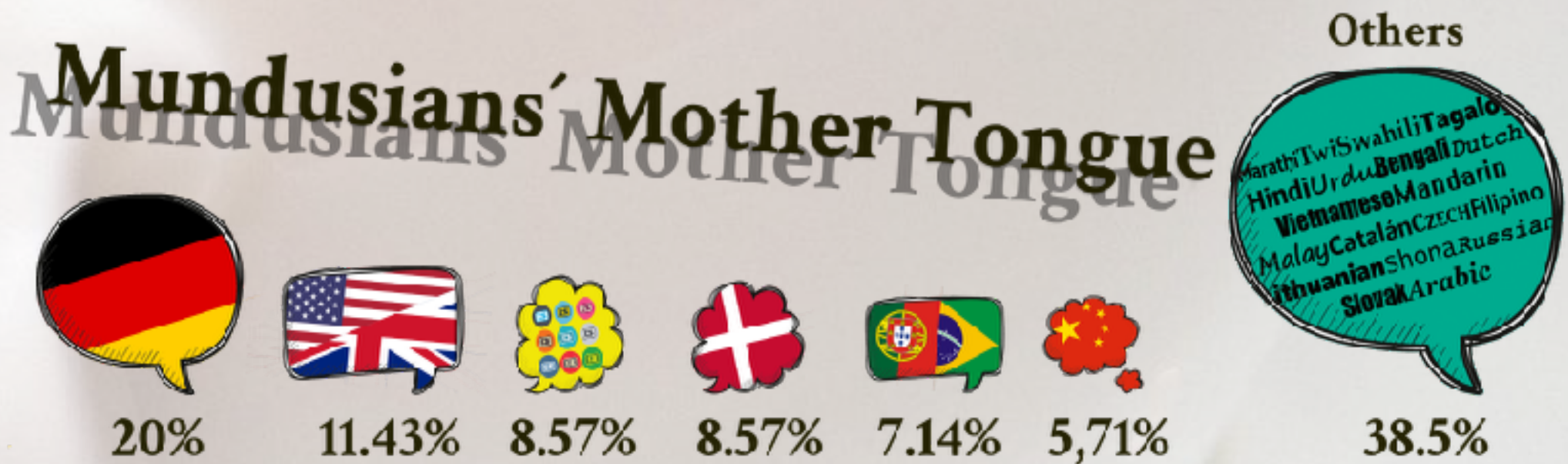
Danish language is actually quite funny. Those who are learning it know, that “gift” in Danish means “marriage”. It also means “poison.” So here you go, good old Scandinavian humour.

**Age:** 24  
**Specialism:** Media and Politics (University of Amsterdam)  
**Favourite quote:** "Don't follow your passion. Bring your passion with you." – Mike Rowe

CYNARA VETCH  
British/Kenyan



**Age:** 33  
**Specialism:** Journalism and Media across Cultures (University of Hamburg)  
**Favourite quote:** “You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.” – Desiderata





# *Professional Experience*

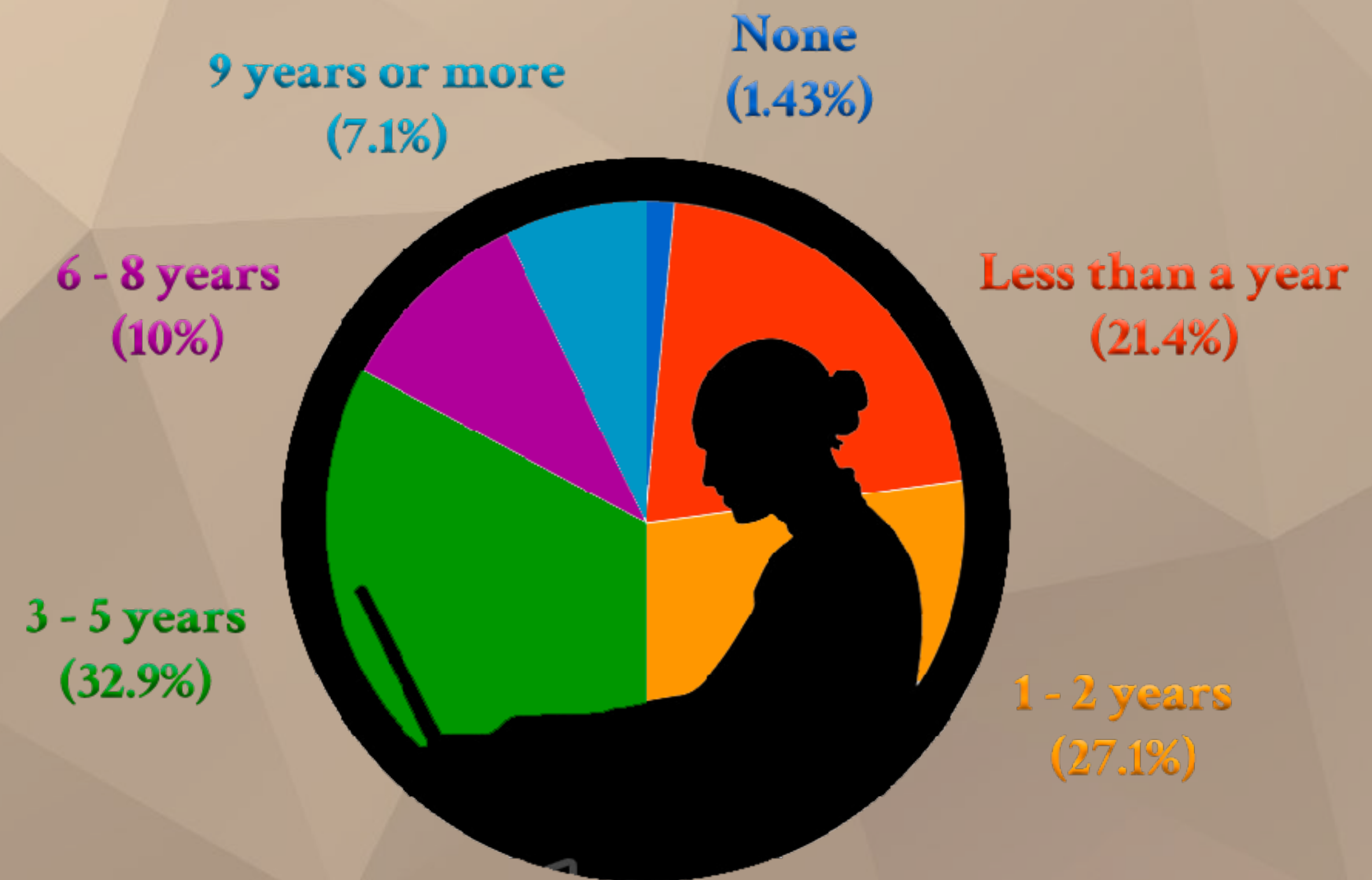




# WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK, WORK

Diversity is considered the Mundus DNA and Mundusians' professional experience is another reflection of that. Six Mundusians talk about their professional background prior to joining the programme. Their stories capture a wide array of journalistic skills that is somewhat representative of the 2016-18 class. We noted career journeys spanning diverse areas of journalism across multiple locations such as, reporting women's rights in Pakistan, producing multimedia content in Mexico, editing business publications in the Philippines, and teaching multimedia journalism in Switzerland. Students also shared what they enjoyed the most in their previous jobs and how their career experiences motivated them to join the Mundus journalism Programme.

## MUNDUSIANS' PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE





## SARAH BATOOL HAIDER

Pakistani



I worked for different newspapers and magazines in Pakistan, mainly covering women's rights, conflict and social issues. Moreover, I wrote features for South Asia Magazine, covering environment and different socio-cultural aspects of South Asian countries. Before coming to Aarhus, I spent a few months in Istanbul, Turkey, where I learnt the Turkish language and worked as a freelance journalist. When I finally decided to pursue a master's degree, Mundus Journalism was the most appealing programme for me because it is perfectly in line with my professional and academic background. As a journalist, I worked on stories that are directly related to the War & Conflict specialism.

**Specialism:** War & and Conflict,  
(Swansea University)

**Favourite quote:** "It is the mark of  
an educated mind to be able to  
entertain a thought without accepting  
it." – Aristotle

## MICHAL SKÝPALA

Slovak



Before coming to Aarhus, I was testing journalism waters in Slovakia. As an economic reporter, I covered public finances, mainly state budget, macroeconomics and the social system. After some time, I pivoted a little. Corruption in the health care system and the new phenomenon of civic hacking sparked my interest and became my main passion for stories. Choosing the Mundus programme was a compilation of personal and professional motivations. Studying in a reputable university in one of the financial centres of the world is an enormous opportunity for a reporter. And, after spending already two semesters abroad during my studies, I was lured into the idea adding two more locations of my expat journey.

**Age:** 23

**Specialism:** Business and Financial  
Journalism (City University, London)

**Favourite quote:** I need to talk to  
some food about this.



## ANNE FLEISCHMANN

German



Before coming to Aarhus, I didn't have "one job", but rather different projects that I was working on. I tried to combine my academic aims with my passion to get the best out of it. During my Bachelor's studies in Journalism, I switched between living in Germany to completing my education and living in Uganda. I got involved with many research projects such as, studies about LGBTIQ rights and press freedom in Uganda. Moreover, I was an intern at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Kampala. The last two years showed the beauty and possibilities of journalism. I hope that the Mundus programme can give me a wider theoretical background and more knowledge about other cultures.

**Age:** 24

**Specialism:** War and Conflict  
(Swansea University)

**Favourite quote:** Everything happens for a reason.

I've been working in journalism for a few years, mainly as a multimedia journalist implementing new ways of telling stories. Apart from that, I was teaching multimedia journalism at the Swiss School of Media & Journalism as well as at the University of Applied Sciences in the Swiss capital city, Bern. As the world of media comes together on the internet and thus erasing borders, I was very interested in doing journalism on this next level and getting away from nation-centred or even region-centred journalism. Especially by using other forms of media, which is much more developed in English-speaking parts of the world, enrolling in this programme was the logical step to take.

**Age:** 28

**Specialism:** Journalism and Media across Cultures,  
(University of Hamburg)

**Favourite quote:** "And a word carries far - very far - deals destruction through time as the bullets go flying through space."  
- Joseph Conrad

## LIVIO MARC STÖCKLI

Swiss





## BERNHARD BUNTRU

Mexican



I was contributing editor for the Front News section of Reporte Indigo, a nationally-distributed newspaper in Mexico. I was also producing multimedia content for Código Magenta, a new online media outlet based in Monterrey, Mexico. I liked working alongside great people in the newsroom. I also enjoyed working with multiple sources of information and being able to make important editorial decisions. I disliked censorship and the inability to work on more in-depth topics due to time constraints and the nature of my position. I was a contributing editor for the Front News section of Reporte Indigo, a nationally distributed newspaper in Mexico. I was also producing multimedia content for Código Magenta, a new online media outlet based in Monterrey, Mexico. I liked working alongside great people in the newsroom. My professional experiences only strengthened my interest in pursuing journalism at a higher level and the Master should serve as a stepping stone towards that goal.

**Age:** 28

**Specialism:** Journalism and Media across Cultures (University of Hamburg)

**Favourite quote:** "Don't let it end like this. Tell them I said something." – Pancho Villa, Mexican revolutionary

Right before coming to Aarhus, I was part of an Australian magazine, Inside Retail Asia, as the editor of its Philippine arm. I also worked for different magazines and Standard & Poor's, collaborated with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), put up my own travel magazine, and taught at a university. I liked that my job allowed me to meet all sorts of people in the most curious places in the past decade: Pakistani CEOs in a 5-star hotel in Saigon, backpackers in a Bangkok hostel, scientists at IRRI headquarters, budding entrepreneurs in Manila's sleek offices... the list goes on. Right before coming to Aarhus, I was part of Australian magazine Inside Retail Asia as editor of its Philippine arm. I also worked for different magazines and Standard & Poor's, collaborated with the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), set up my own travel magazine, and taught at a university. If there's something I dislike, it's those people who won't cooperate to tell a story that needs to be told.

**Age:** 32

**Specialism:** Business & and Financial Journalism (City University, London)

**Favourite quote:** 'To be yourself in a world that is constantly trying to make you something else is the greatest accomplishment.' – Ralph Waldo Emerson

## AILEEN MACALINTAL

Filipino





A photograph of a group of students sitting in a lecture hall with wooden tiered seating. In the foreground, a student's head and shoulders are visible, looking towards the right. Behind them, several other students are visible, some looking at the camera and others looking towards the right. A projector is mounted on a shelf in the background. The overall atmosphere is that of a modern, well-lit educational environment.

# Studying in Denmark

Arriving in a new country, picking up its language, adapting to its cuisine, all this can be fun, but when it comes to understanding and excelling at a new educational system, things might become tough. Some are struggling with the workload, others see group work to be an issue. However, one thing that everyone agrees upon that in the Erasmus Mundus Master's in Journalism, Media and Globalisation: diversity is the key to personal growth.

The Danish education system pushes your comfort zone and makes you think beyond the obvious. Let's see what that means in detail...



# CAMILLA LINDNER

German



**Age:** 25

**Specialism:** Media and Politics  
(University of Amsterdam)

**Favourite quote:** "I actually do not have a favourite quote. I could come up with some points that are important for me on a daily basis: broaden your horizon - trust in your own talents – be generous to every single person – help those in need – enjoy the small moments – be part of making the world a good place to live."

**How is education system and examination pattern in Denmark different from Germany?**

The Danish educational system is quite different from that of Germany because I never did as much group work as we do here. One needs to speed up as you have to write a paper in 3-7 days.

If we talk about the readings we get before each lecture, they are very time consuming but important too. If you want to read each text closely, you probably won't get much of sleep unless you know how to read fast. I think it would be better to have one core text that is labelled to have deep insights in the topic concerned.

Since we don't have much time to write our class assignments, it is good to have one final exam that is graded. Although back home I had much more time for the finals.

# FATIMA IMANI

Pakistani



**Age:** 25

**Specialism:** Media and Politics  
(University of Amsterdam)

**Favourite quote:** "Tears begin in the heart but sometimes the heart denies itself for so often and for so long that when it speaks we hear not one but a hundred sorrows in the heartbreak." – Gregory David Roberts

**Which assignment did you like best so far, Fatema?**

My favourite assignment was when we were asked to go in groups to Bazaar Vest and ask people for their perspective on globalisation. We got some interesting answers and it was fun to put it all together in the form of a multimedia piece.

**The Erasmus Mundus class brings together a lot of different perspectives as well, doesn't it?**

It's an education all on its own. It's astounding to remember we have 52 nationalities in our class.

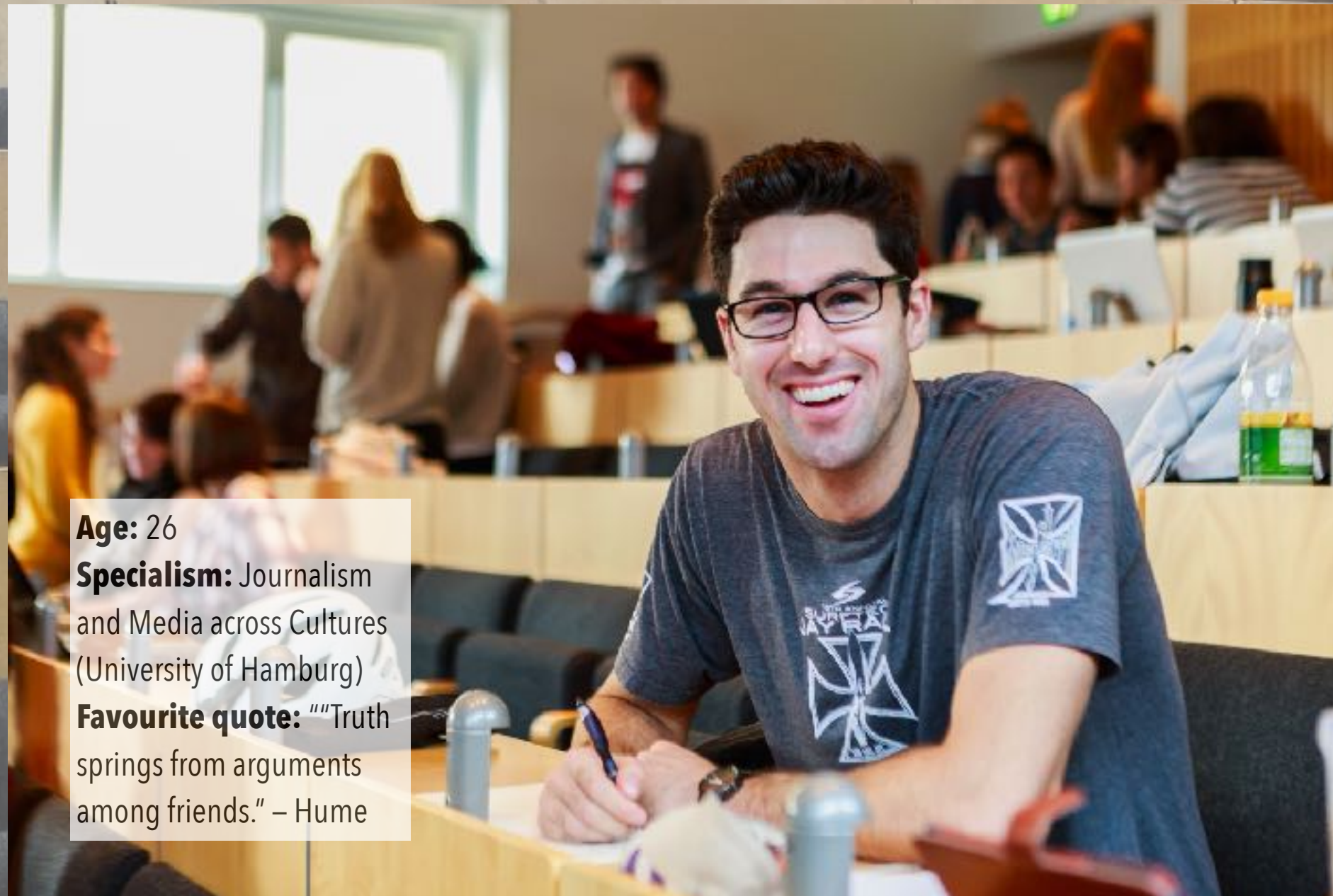
**How about being graded based only on your final exam?**

I would have preferred to be graded on other things as well. It's a little intimidating to be graded based on just the final exam.



# AARON MCKINNON

American



**Age:** 26  
**Specialism:** Journalism and Media across Cultures (University of Hamburg)  
**Favourite quote:** "“Truth springs from arguments among friends.” – Hume

**Aaron, what do you think about being graded based only on your final exam?**

My whole grade depends on one essay? At first I thought it was a bad idea, but once I got started on my essay I realised how all of the discussions and readings had stuck to my own thought process, which not only helped my final essay but gave me confidence in my education, and that's why I am here.

**What was your favourite assignment and why?**

My favourite assignment was participating in class, if that counts. The professor doesn't even need to encourage participation; With so many perspectives and strong willed journalists, everyone has something unique they can, and do, add to the conversation.

# JINGYU GUO

Chinese



**Age:** 22  
**Specialism:** Journalism and Media across Cultures (University of Hamburg)  
**Favourite quote:** "O ever youthful, O ever weeping."  
 – Jack Kerouac

**What surprised you about the Danish education system?**

The Danish educational system is quite different from that of China, atmosphere here is really open and equal. You can call your professor by his first name, which will not be considered as impolite, and you can even eat in the class. While in China these actions could be regarded as disrespectful.

**How about the workload?**

When it comes to the assigned readings, I would say there are too much for me. Before coming here, I never had to read academic English essays like this. Although I think most of them are useful, it would be better if the professors would point out their emphasis before we read the texts to help us save some time.



VICTORIA MROSEK  
German



**Age:** 23  
**Specialism:** Media and Politics  
 (University of Amsterdam)  
**Favourite quote:** "Nothing is permanent in this world – not even our troubles." – Charlie Chaplin

**What has been your favourite for the "Reporting Global Change" class?**

For one of the lectures, we had to come up with our own agenda of global problems. I really enjoyed the topic because it was interesting to see we all set different priorities and emphasised various global issues. I believe it's one of the greatest assets of this programme that people from all over the world can share their opinions.

**Isn't that also challenging sometimes?**

Yes, especially group work it can be challenging, since we all have different political views and are used to different educational systems. While some people like to share their personal experiences, others want to stay as neutral as possible.

JULIJA SVEDE  
Latvian



**Age:** 28  
**Specialism:** Journalism and Media across Cultures  
 (University of Hamburg)  
**Favourite quote:** "Good things come in small packages." (English Proverb)

**Do you think that group work can be challenging?**

Group work is my favourite part of studies: opinion exchange and mutual support is extremely helpful.

**In what way do you feel challenged by the Danish educational system?**

In the very first class I realised to what extent the Danish and the Latvian academic systems differ.

In Latvia, and I assume in other Eastern European countries, the learning process is based on memorising and reproducing information. In Denmark you are taught to analyse and understand, which I find much more efficient and useful. There are no "wrong" answers – student's own opinion and analysis is valued the most.



# Funding



Erasmus Mundus students have to find a way to finance their master studies, which cost up to 16,000 Euro in total.

Danish students can rely on the state to fund their education. Their non-Danish classmates have to find a way to finance it themselves. Some students successfully apply for a scholarship from the EU or organizations in their home countries; others can rely on savings or a freelance job. The rest might take out a financial loan or find a part-time job.

In this section Thales, Anna, Estefanía, Pratik, Kate, Uday and Anders give away how they fund their master studies in Denmark and what makes it worth the money.



# THALES TRENCH DE CAMARGO

Brazilian



Thales thinks living in Denmark is more expensive than back home in Brazil, although the costs of living in cities like Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo are also very high.

Thales will be paying for the programme out of his own pocket. Lucky he had some money saved prior to coming to Europe but he also intends to work during the masters.

He believes the masters will provide him with networking opportunities, the experience of living in at least two different countries and knowledge about many aspects of international politics, which will help him to get his dream job in the field of communications "... especially because it is hard to find that a job in Denmark without speaking Danish."

**Age:** 24  
**Specialism:** Media and Politics (University of Amsterdam)  
**Favourite quote:** "We are what we repeatedly do; excellence, then, is not an act but a habit." – Aristotle

# ESTEFANÍA ZÁRATE ANGARITA

Colombian



According to Estefania, Denmark is one of the most expensive destinations for Colombians; Colombian peso is a very low currency compared to Danish krone.

A Heineken beer in Colombia costs around 9 DKK, and in Denmark it costs over 10 DKK in supermarkets and around 40 DKK in a bar.

Therefore, Estefania is lucky to benefit from an Erasmus Mundus scholarship for non-European students.

She believes that she was selected for the scholarship because of her work experience in the field of journalism and broadcasting, her level of English and her application essay as well as the fact that she has already held a scholarship during high school and her undergrad studies.

**Age:** 25  
**Specialism:** Business and Financial Journalism (City University, London)  
**Favourite quote:** "Cuando vayas subiendo, saludá a todos. Son los mismos que vas a encontrar cuando vayás bajando." – Papa Francisco



A portrait of Uday Kapur, an Indian man with a beard, wearing a dark blue hooded jacket. He is smiling and holding a 500 Euro banknote in his right hand. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a white railing.

# UDAY KAPUR

Indian

Uday has taken a student loan from a bank back home in India and is doing freelance work for Indian and Danish magazines to pay for his living expenses. He thinks the new unique opportunities and experiences that are offered by the Erasmus Mundus programme are worth paying for them. That is also the reason why Uday only applied for this master programme – there is no plan B. He believes Denmark is more expensive than India. He tells: “We've got lower rates back home for everything except beer.” Uday is not planning to find himself a job in Denmark unless it is something really interesting since he is quite busy with his freelance work.

**Age:** 24  
**Specialism:** Journalism and Media Across Cultures, Hamburg  
**Favourite Quote:** “Pick your poison tell me what you do, Everybody gon' respect the shooter, But the one in front of the gun lives forever.” – Kendrick Lamar

A portrait of Anders Bo Andersen, a Danish man with short brown hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark blue jacket over a red and black plaid shirt and a grey scarf. He is holding a 500 Euro banknote in his hands. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with green foliage.

# ANDERS BO ANDERSEN

Danish

Anders is a Danish citizen, which means that the state of Denmark is paying for his education from primary school to his university master’s degree. Before starting the Erasmus Mundus Master, Anders studied European studies at Aalborg University for his masters, but he quit the programme because he found the Mundus programme more interesting. As a Dane, the best advice he has for foreign students is to “try and apply for jobs that do not necessarily fit your profile. Maybe you are the unique candidate the given company did not know they are looking for – regardless of your Danish language skills.”

**Age:** 25  
**Specialism:** Business and Financial Journalism (City University, London)  
**Favourite quote:** “People from Northern Jutland have two favourite things: red wine and transfer-free football players.” – Lyng Jakobsen



# KATHERINE MARIA TOBAR MANOSALVAS

Ecuadorian

Kate finds the public transportation in Denmark more expensive than in her home country Ecuador. Luckily, Kate holds an Erasmus Mundus Scholarship which covers all the education fees as well as her living expenses. She thinks the fact that she has a double bachelor, one from her home university and one from the USA is what made her application stand out. She tells, “I have gained academic and working experience not only in my country but also abroad.” Kate admits that she would not be able to attend the program without the scholarship. Since Kate’s parents already paid for her undergrad studies at a private University, she would not want them to also pay for her master programme.

**Age:** 23  
**Specialism:** Business and Financial Journalism (City University, London)  
**Favourite quote:** “Success occurs when opportunity meets preparation.” – Zig Ziglar

# PRATIK TANDON

Indian

Pratik is financing the programme through an education loan from his home country India. He believes that the globalized perspectives he receives in return are worth paying for his master studies in Europe. As an aspiring journalist, he understands globalization to be of major importance and is willing to pay some money to find out more about it. Pratik is planning to find himself a job in Aarhus to support himself financially. As a non-EU student he is only allowed to work 15 hours per week. Pratik says “there are some things that are cheaper in Denmark than in India, such as beer and chocolate milk, whereas vegetables are more expensive.”

**Age:** 24  
**Specialism:** War and Conflict (Swansea University)  
**Favourite quote:** “To be or not to be.” – William Shakespeare

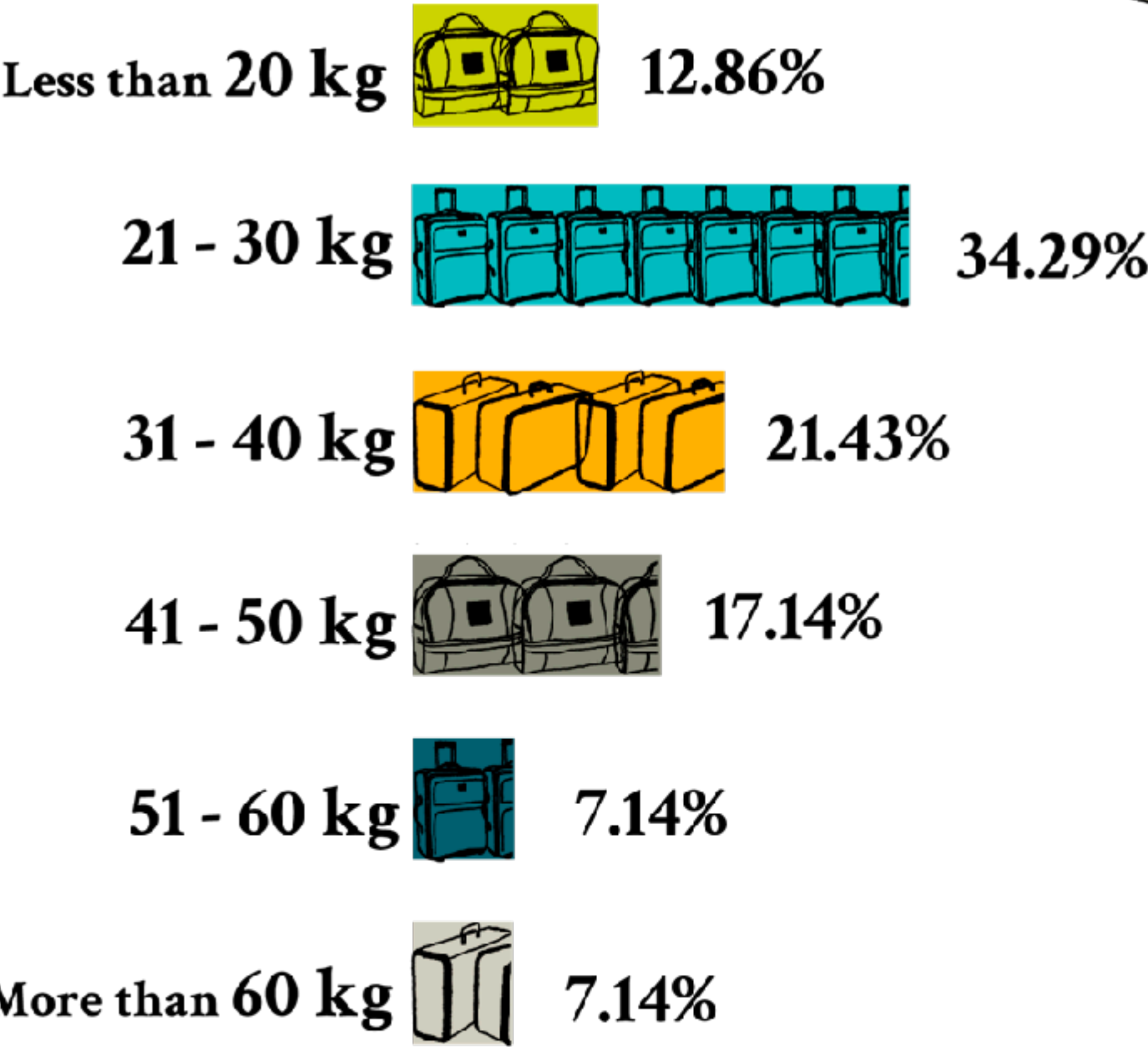


ANNA DITTRICH  
German

Anna holds a scholarship from the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, a German political foundation, for which she had already applied during her bachelor studies. She is not sure what made her application stand out and win her the scholarship, but she thinks that “the worst one can do is not try at all.” She considers the Erasmus Mundus Master in Journalism as a great chance and would have attended the programme even if she had to pay for it because she considers it to be worth in the end. What she finds most interesting is the possibility to study at two very renowned Universities in two different countries with students from all over the world.

**Age:** 22  
**Specialism:** Media and Politics  
(University of Amsterdam)  
**Favorite quote:** “Nolite te bastardes carborundorum.” – Margaret Atwood

How many kilos of baggage did the Mundusians bring to Aarhus?





# Specialisms

After the foundation year at Aarhus University, students choose one of four specialisms that blend globalisation and journalism in multiple ways. Media and Politics in Amsterdam or Journalism and Media across Cultures in Hamburg – which of these specialisms would you choose? Or would you prefer to go to the UK? Business and Financial Journalism in London or War and Conflict in Swansea are also an option. Find out what motivated this year's Erasmus Mundus students to choose their specialism.



## PARIS BETHEL

American/Swiss

Paris is particularly interested in climate change. She studied environmental communications and sociology at Syracuse University in New York for her undergraduate degree. For this reason, she chose Media and Politics as her specialism, which will provide a specialised look “at the relationship between citizens, media, and politics from a communications perspective”.

From this specialisation, Paris expects to develop tools to analyse “one of the most pressing global issues of our time”, particularly emphasising the way journalist report on climate change: “My expectation is to identify new, more efficient, ways in which to communicate climate change and sustainable action.”

**Age:** 24

**Specialism:** Media and Politics (University of Amsterdam)

**Favourite quote:** “It is better to have a short life that is full of what you like doing than a long life spent in a miserable way.” – Alan Watts

## PHAM TRANG NHUNG

Vietnamese

How can journalists affect change in international politics? This is one of the questions that Pham Trang Nhung will address at the University of Amsterdam, where she will study the specialism Media and Politics.

After Trang Nhung studied International Relations for her undergraduate degree, she worked for the Press Department of Vietnam's Foreign Ministry. With this professional and educational background, Trang Nhung expects to “learn how to apply academic knowledge in journalism to produce influential journalistic works” adding that she aims to expose as many different points of view as possible. She says: “I believe in the power of the diversity of knowledge.”

**Age:** 25

**Specialism:** Media and Politics (University of Amsterdam)

**Favourite quote:** “We are what we think.” – Buddha





# MARISSE GABRIELLE PANALIGAN

Filipino

Marisse has been always interested in learning about other cultures. In Hamburg, she will study Journalism and Media across Cultures. Asked about her specialism, Marisse explains: “I think culture is a factor in shaping the journalism milieu of countries.” The role of media building identities, communities and nations is particularly interesting to Marisse, who has been working as sports reporter for two years. “Sports is a global phenomenon where many different cultures converge”, she said linking her professional background with her ongoing graduate degree. Germany is also an exciting country of destination: “I am curious about how today’s Germans deal with the aftermath of World War II.”

**Age:** 23  
**Specialism:** Journalism and Media Across Cultures, Hamburg  
**Favourite quote:** “When you want something, all the universe conspires to help you achieve it.” – Paulo Coelho

# ELIZABETH CLAIRE WAIND

British

Culture is shaping journalism in different regions of the world. This fascinating process is what Lizzie wants to investigate and understand. “The course in Hamburg looks at how journalism and the media are shaped by culture and how reporting differs in different regions of the world as a result”, she said exposing the most interesting aspects of her specialism choice. Her undergraduate degree in history and her experience as a travel journalist were the springboard for her interest in this field. “In order to be a good international journalist, a worldwide perspective is essential”, she said. Not least, Lizzie is looking forward to Hamburg’s Christmas markets: “Bratwurst and Glühwein galore!”

**Age:** 23  
**Specialism:** Journalism and Media Across Cultures, Hamburg  
**Favourite quote:** “Our most basic common link is that we all inhabit this planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children’s future. And we are all mortal.” – John F. Kennedy





# JOCYLIN (HSIU-CHI) FAN CHIANG

Canadian/Taiwanese

Jocylin is looking forward to study at London City University since she believes that the university “is a great school for journalism and business, which will teach us more practical tools in reporting.” She is expecting to gain a better knowledge about finance and business reporting, which will help her to successfully enter the business world. In addition to that, Jocylin is excited to be living in the city of London: “London is the cosmopolitan dream. I cannot wait for the activities, the symphonies, the plays, the musical theatre and the museums. I want to visit the highlands in Scotland and all the beautiful estates you see in Downton Abbey.”

**Age:** 26  
Business and Financial Journalism (City University, London)  
**Favourite quote:** “One could not count the moons that shimmer on her roofs, or the thousand splendid suns that hide behind her walls.” – Khaled Hosseini

# DINFIN MULUPI

Kenyan

Dinfin has been working in business journalism in Africa for over six years. “And I have enjoyed it,” she exclaims. That’s why the specialism Business and Financial Journalism was her first choice. With this specialism, Dinfin is expecting to not only learn about theoretical concepts in political economics and global finance but also gain practical skills in reporting and data journalism. “I found myself increasingly writing and talking about the influence of the world on Africa and its economies,” Dinfin said highlighting the skills that she is expecting to improve during her studies in London. Last but not least, the city of London is attracting her as “a global financial hub.”

**Age:** 28  
Business and Financial Journalism (City University, London)  
**Favourite quote:** “There is nothing noble in being superior to your fellow man; true nobility is being superior to your former self.” – Ernest Hemingway





## NEUS PASTOR PASTOR

Spain

“We communicate because we want to solve, express or generate problems and this is really interesting for me,” says Neus, who chose to study War and Conflict in the second year of her master studies.

Taught at the Swansea University, this specialism aims at analysing and understanding the historical context of international controversies, terrorism and risk reporting. Neus points out that this track “is closely connected to the other specialisms: culture, global politics and international economics.”

She expects that by the end of this program, she will be prepared for risky coverages but also understand “why and how conflicts arise in order to report about these topics with honesty.”

**Age:** 27

**Specialism:** War and Conflict (Swansea University)

**Favourite quote:** “i love myself.”

the quietest.simplest. most powerful. revolution. ever.” –  
Nayyirah Waheed

## KATJA MARIE SCHEIBLER

German

Katja sees herself as a foreign correspondent in the future, reporting abroad about controversial issues. For this reason, her specialism choice is War and Conflict at Swansea University. “The program gives an overview about former war reporting and how conflict reporting was developing”, she said, hoping that the Erasmus Mundus Master will teach the tools to understand political conflicts and the skills to cover them.

However, the contents of the program were not her only motivation: “I always wanted to live in the UK, especially Swansea seems to be a very lovely place at the sea with a long beach to chill and to learn windsurfing.”

**Age:** 23

**Specialism:** War and Conflict (Swansea University)

**Favourite quote:** “Have no fear of perfection, you’ll never reach it.” – Salvador Dali





# Future Perspectives





# WELCOME TO OUR FUTURE

We once dreamt of becoming Mundusians, and here we are. We believe that dreams can come true and our future lies in the power and beauty of our dreams.

In this section, Marie, Giang, Danford, Sophia, Teddy, Punvi and Zahra share their plans after this masters, their dream jobs, their fears about the future, what inspires and motivates them. Enjoy, and be inspired to dream and look into the future with courage and hope. As Caroline Pitre-Oaks says, “Hope is hearing the music in the future.”



**Age:** 25  
**Specialism:** Journalism and Media across Cultures (University of Hamburg)  
**Tweet about yourself:** A quiet Saigonese, who see the world with the sight of a kaleidoscope and feel it with the taste of a coffee

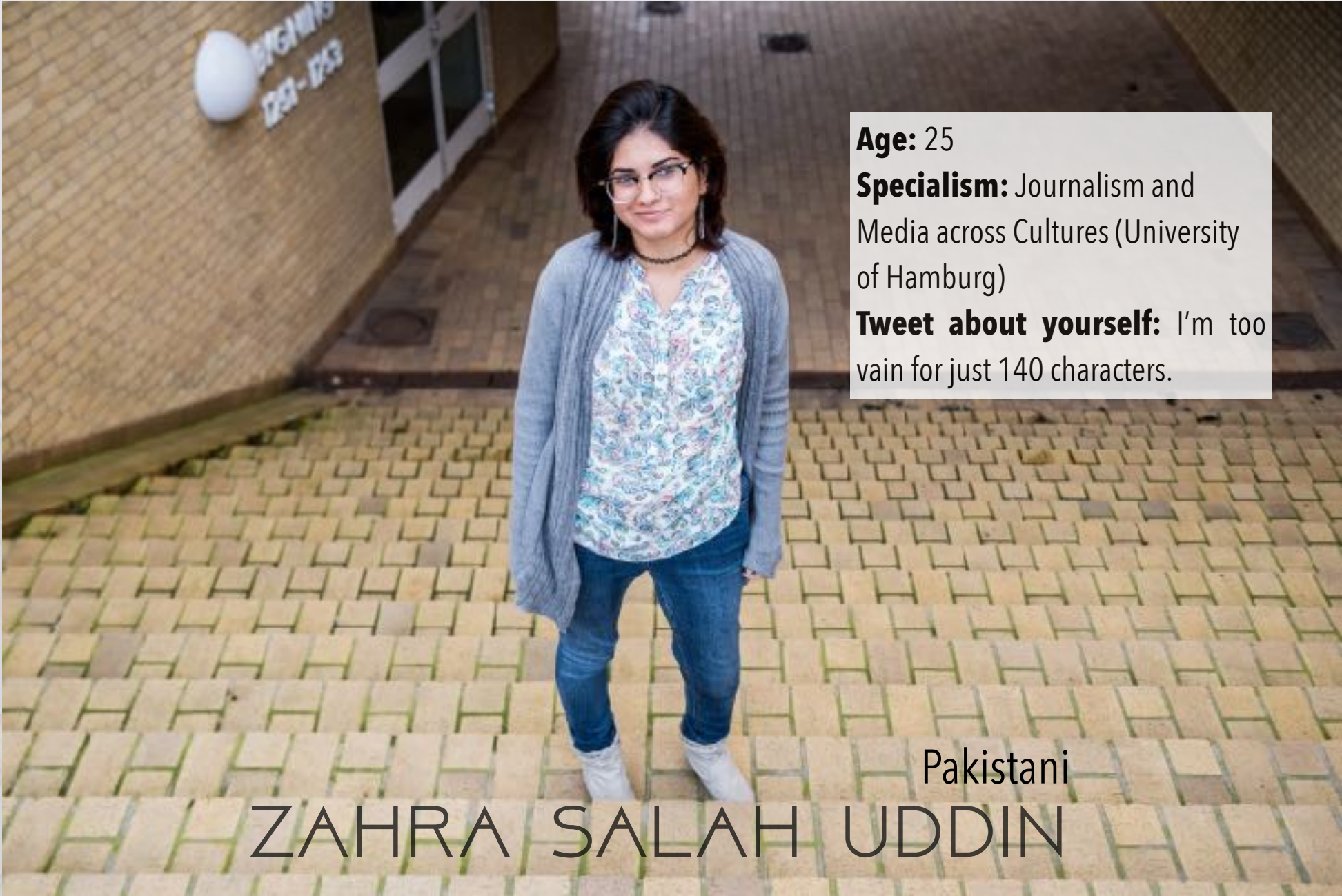
Vietnamese  
GIANG VU HOANG PHAM

After completing his masters, Giang hopes to continue working as a freelance photojournalist and documentary photographer. That's why he wants to travel around the world for a few years in order to gain some experience to bring to Vietnam.

He believes that being a freelance photographer will give him the freedom to go wherever he wants to, motivate him to explore cultures as well as inspire him and somehow earn his living.

Giang is a fan of the work and style of the American photographer David Guttenfelder. He also admires photojournalist Sean O'Connell, a fictive character in the movie 'The Secret Life of Walter Mitty', because of his travel life and his perspective of art.





**Age:** 25  
**Specialism:** Journalism and Media across Cultures (University of Hamburg)  
**Tweet about yourself:** I'm too vain for just 140 characters.

Pakistani  
ZAHRA SALAH UDDIN

Zahra loves to teach people new things and hopes to continue to share her knowledge with those who might find it interesting. Zahra’s dream job would be to work as a music journalist for Rolling Stone magazine. Although not her role model, Zahra admires the American writer Cameron Crowe because he has done everything she has always wanted to do. He started his career as a music journalist and went on to making great films with music as a crucial theme in them. Zahra's biggest fear is the love of her life dying before her, and her biggest motivation is life itself. She desires a world where conflicts can be resolved for the greater good and not financial gains of those in power.

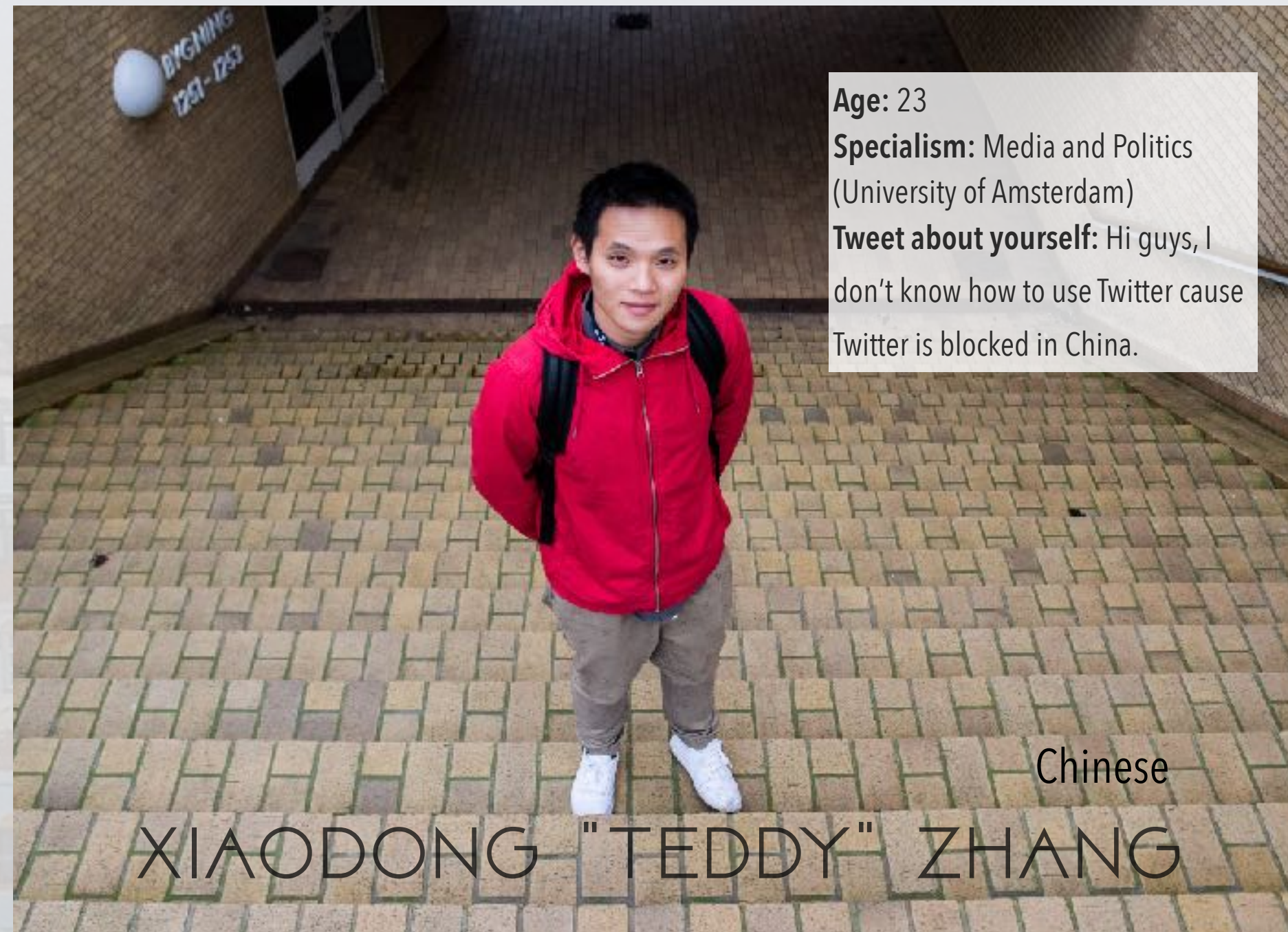


**Age:** 32  
**Specialism:** Business and Financial Journalism (City University, London)  
**Tweet about yourself:** Dan is a very quiet man. An indoor specie. Very reserved but still believes these qualities can produce quality journalism.

Zimbabwean  
DANFORD ZIRUGO

Danford is afraid that one day he will “look back and see missed targets.” He is therefore determined to ensure everything falls in place now and is done well. For Danford, studies never come to an end, as he hopes to be a business and financial journalism trainer and researcher in Africa. He would love to be a journalism lecturer at Wits University in South Africa or Namibian Polytechnic University. He is highly motivated do the unexpected against all odds. Danford is driven by self-inspiration, desire and motivation rather than a role model. He hopes to live in a peaceful, happy and prosperous world.





Teddy does not know what to do after completing his studies but he is considering going for a PhD. He would also love to support a politician's election campaign as a media coordinator because he feels it's an amazing opportunity.

His role model is the TV character Will McAvoy from CAN and his ideology à la Don Quixote: "The vast majority of our readership is stupid, and it's our responsibility to educate them."

Teddy's biggest fear? Aging. His biggest motivation? Exploring - what life really mean. In the future, he hopes to live in "a more globalised world where you can travel from Beijing to New York in 30 minutes."

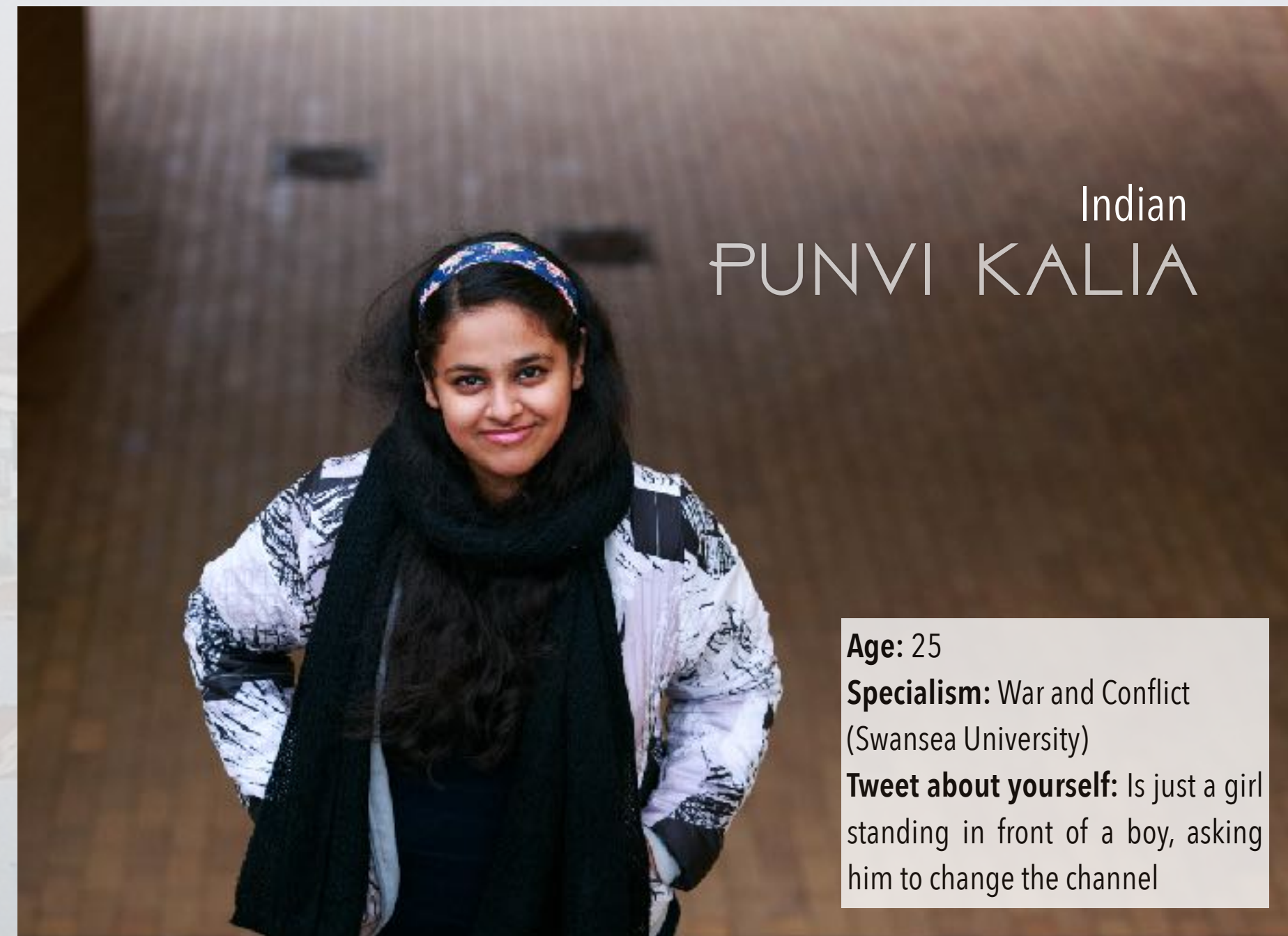


Sophia hopes to work as a freelance journalist and cover the changes taking place in the Middle East or Africa. She would love to write for international and Danish newspapers. Or she just might end up being an entrepreneur.

Her role model is film director Nagieb Khaja, whom she admires for his recent work on the war in Syria.

Sophia fears for the future of journalists in general. "In Denmark, we see how the newspapers are struggling to keep their readers and trying to keep up with the constant news flow from the internet while downgrading high quality journalism and foreign news coverage", she explains.





Punvi believes that an ideal world would offer everyone food, shelter, education, employment, healthcare and the right to marry anyone they love. Her biggest fear is gender inequality remaining a problem despite women becoming more educated, vocal, richer and independent and men more aware of this drawback.

Therefore, Punvi hopes to work as a freelance journalist in the future and produce documentaries about women, their achievements and struggles, especially in Asian and African countries.

Her role model is the Pakistani journalist Sharmeen Obaid-Chinoy, because of her confidence and bravery in choosing boundary-pushing subjects for her films.



After completing her master studies, Marie would love to work as a journalist, covering different topics in-depth. She finds podcasts a very fascinating way of reporting and intends to use it extensively in publishing contents.

She is mainly inspired by the American journalist Sarah Koenig for her in-depth research and reporting style. She also admires the American writer Stephen Dubner for his creative mind and unique way of analyzing issues in a different light. With regard to the future, Marie is concerned about the loss of privacy and the ongoing climate change. When asked about her biggest motivation, Marie says “to explore the world and the weird wrinkles of human nature.”



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