Bluebook 2018-2020

An introduction to the

erasmus mundus. Journalism first days

Welcome to the Blue Book for the 2018-2020 class of Frasmus Mundus Master in Journalism, Media and Globalization. This is **Reader**, a Mundus tradition and we are proud to be part of it.

In this 14th edition, 85 Mundusians were divided into 18 categories. These categories were formed from three words: MUNDUSIANS IN AARHUS. Each category is an amazing topic worth reading. It is hoped that these categories will interest future Mundusians, alumni and anyone interested in this Erasmus Mundus programme. In addition, the video team created videos to assist future Mundusians in understanding what makes the only Erasmus Mundus programme in Media, Journalism and Globalization tick. Keep an eye (and an ear!) out for the part where Mundusians spoke in their native languages. You can watch these videos on the official social media networks of the Mundus Journalism progamme.

You will agree with us that whenever 85 Mundusians from 38 countries sit in one room, it can be likened to a miniature United Nations General Assembly. Every class is always a 'hit'. It's a room of diversities- wonderful ideas, professional and academic experiences, different perspectives and learning attitudes. I commend all those who worked on this project for the immeasurable work put into this project. In the end, it was worth the while.

I wish you a seamless read,

Kelechi Okechukwu Amakoh. On behalf of the Blue Book Team

leam

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The Blue Book is a yearly book of the Mundus Journalism Programme created for past, current, and prospective students. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Mundus Journalism Programme.

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Awarm welcome to the 2018-20 group of Mundus Journalism students! We are very excited that you have decided to become part of our Mundus Journalism family.

And this is indeed a big family, with almost 1000 family members. The Mundus Journalism family tree has branches within more than 100 different countries and most continents. Across cultures we aim at sharing the best of world journalism.

We believe that you are already walking very well in the footsteps of our famous, Danish author, Hans Christian Andersen:

'To move, to breathe, to fly, to float, To gain all while you give, To roam the roads of lands remote, To travel is to live.'

[The story of my life, Hans Christian Andersen, 1871]

We wish you all the best for your future travels, while we hope that you will keep Aarhus in your heart!

Inger Munk

Mundus Journalism Consortium Coordinator

Bettina Andersen

Mundus Journalism Programme Coordinator



Hugs from Inger & Bettina!



oving to Aarhus

For Mundusians, the journey to Aarhus started as early as March 1, 2018, when they got informed of their application status.

During this period, students had to apply and get visas to Denmark, purchase flight tickets, stuff suitcases with the needful and needless items and tell their goodbyes to loved ones.



Ruchi Harish Pujari, 22, India

War and Conflict, Swansea University Languages: English, Hindi, Marathi, Tulu Email: ruchi.pujari@gmail.com

on the 1st of March, I avoided opening my email, because I knew that the university selection results would come in. Actually, my friend from work forcibly opened the letter for me," recalls Ruchi. "I read it with a ghastly expression on my face and shouted out. 'I'm selected!'"

After that, time went by quickly. "I had no idea where all those months went," she notes. Not only was she excited, but the journey ahead of her also caused a lot of anxiety. "I always wanted to live alone, I always thought that if I did my masters, I would do it away from Bombay. That was not causing any anxiety. But new people, a new place..."

Now she can look back at it and laugh, but the first weeks in Denmark were very difficult. However, mid-October marked two months since she arrived in Denmark, and Ruchi feels like she has been living in Aarhus for years now. This feeling is hard to evaluate in terms of good or bad, but it definitely means that the anxiety has settled. Moving to Aarhus is something one can do.



Mariana Sales, 25, Brazil

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: Portuguese, English, French, Spanish

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t's a long and exhausting trip from Rio de Janeiro to Aarhus. Especially if you are carrying four suitcases like Mariana.

"I brought a lot of hair products," she says defensively and laughs. It only gets more difficult when the train from Copenhagen to Aarhus turns back ten minutes after it has left the station, and the announcements explaining why are only in Danish. It was hard, but what made it easier was a phenomenon frequently overlooked - Danish hospitality.

For Mariana, the stereotype of cold Scandinavians is not true. She has never had any trouble finding anyone to help her with her bags and translations, and when the train was sent back to Copenhagen, a worried friend came to help. This kindness is something she has experienced continuously. She remembers mentioning to some of her dormmates the other day that she was having trouble with her bike. Soon after, they were armed with toolboxes, willing to help. "It makes you feel at home, they make it easy," Mariana thinks.

Kelechi Okechukwu Amakoh, 23, Nigeria

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: English, Igbo, Yoruba, Nigerian Pidgin Email: kelechi.amakoh@gmail.com

When I came here, I was surprised that there was such a place like this in the world." This is Kelechi's first time in Europe and Denmark feels very different to him. The country's public transportation system comes to his mind first: "It is scheduled, right on time, and reliable." He also notes the organised and individualistic nature of people. He thinks it can't be compared to his home country. However, he remains positive about the Mundus experience. "I still feel homesick sometimes. I am the only person from Africa, there are cliques and you sometimes feel like the odd one out." Kelechi thinks his fellow Mundusians are lovely people but that "you have to learn to understand them."

In the end, he decided to come to Europe exactly to experience something different than what he was used to. He explains: "When you get used to an environment, you become what I call a 'small champion'. I have found out that I might be good in my own area, but there are better people out there I need to interact with." For prospective Mundusians, he suggests two things—bring a lot of good food from home and get ready to challenge yourself.



Business and Financial Journalism,
City University of London
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Denmark has exceeded Sarah's expectations. There is a sharp contrast between Aarhus and Dubai, where she worked and lived before. To her, this made the process of moving to Aarhus easy. The differences have helped her appreciate things others might take for granted.

"I love it. I can see why the Danes are one of the happiest people in the world. The country is beautiful, the nature is amazing. It is easy to bond with the simplicity of life. It's not consumption based happiness, it's experience based. A small picnic or a sunny day can cheer you up and these are the things you miss when you live in a very complex, cosmopolitan and capitalist community like Dubai," Sarah explains.

Prior to moving to Aarhus, Sarah worked for CNN, which sound like a journalists' dream come true, but she craved change. Her feeling towards transforming from work to university life is similar to coming from Dubai to Aarhus. "Teachers always want you to be your best self. They want you to focus in class, do your assignment and perform well in the exams. This is very different from work life which is very competitive and it's not your ultimate best that's sought. Here, I can just invest in myself."

MOVING IS A CUMBERSOME ADVENTURE!

What means of transportation did you use while travelling to Aarhus?

Aeroplane.....63.51%

Bus33.78%

Bicycle.....2.97%

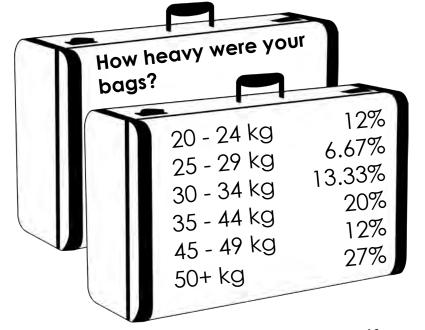
Boat/Ferry2.70%

Car.....28.38%

Total: 74 Mundusians

How many are in a long distance Relationship?

Yes	52.63	%
No	47.37	%



Total: 57 Mundisians

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niversity study culture

It means that everyone experiences the study process at Aarhus University and the Danish School of Media and Journalism a little differently. What are the most significant differences from previous academic experiences? How can you deal with them?

Four Mundusians share their stories.

Yasmine Hassan, 25, Egypt

War and Conflict, Swansea University Languages: Arabic, English, French

Although the study culture at Aarhus university is not that different from what she was used to at The American University in Cairo, Yasmine notes that one of the greatest values of the experience is seeing her own world from a Western perspective.

In international relations classes, the Middle East is a frequent topic, which "has been both a challenge and a blessing," Yasmine explains. It requires a conscious effort to keep an open mind and not to take it personally; but it has also been an opportunity to work on something she says she was never good at—speaking up and being an active part of the debate that touches very close to home.



"Listening to how others think of my region or my country made me realize that I was living in a bubble," she says, adding that this experience is exactly what she needed to pursue her dream and convey a more "correct" image of her region. "To be able to report on the Middle East to an international audience, you need to understand how the world sees it."

The international spirit of this program adds a valuable dimension to the studies. Not only do you learn about different topics but you also get to explore diverse perceptions from all over the world.



Denitsa Dimitrova, 23, Bulgaria

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: Bulgarian, English, some Russian

Although there is a continuous stream of work, the way that some professors and students talk about it can make the workload seem more overwhelming than it has to be, Denitsa shares her experience. The rule especially applies to the exam week and coping with stress throughout it.

Denitsa's advice is to take it all calmly. On the one hand, you have to write an analytical paper on a broad topic in one week, on the other, "it is 4,000 words in a week on things that we had been doing for a month". Taking it step by step, dividing things one has to do in bitesize chunks is a way to make both differences in study culture and differences between undergraduate and graduate level tasks bearable. "I think a lot of students tend to perceive this year as one continuous thing, whereas it is way healthier and way better to take it step by step, day by day, course by course," she says.

Anastasia Park, 23, Uzbekistan

Back home, we never called professors just by their first name, like here," Anastasia notes. However, it is just a single superficial manifestation of a difference in study culture that actually has a significant impact on the way one has to learn to approach their studies.

Anastasia was used to a more authoritative way of teaching, where lecturers fix your every error and point out your strengths and weaknesses, but here "you are on your own."

However, it is not a bad thing, she reasons. To her, it is an invitation to think independently. It can be seen and felt everywhere, even in the way the exams are organized. Students are asked open-ended questions and they have to apply theories to particular countries and issues. This is a great opportunity to link theories learned in class to areas one is interested in. She summarizes: "I was overwhelmed at first, but not frustrated. I am happy and always look forward to work."

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Email: anastasiya-park@mail.ru Languages: Russian, English, Spanish, French, Uzbek



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Azade Kakavand, 23, Germany

Journalism and Media across Cultures, University of Hamburg Email Address:azade.kakavand@gmail.com Languages: German, English, some French and Turkish, learning Danish

uring my bachelor's studies, there were 500 people in my class. Teachers didn't really care whether we attended the lectures and obviously you cannot participate," Azade recalls. If you come from a similar background, you can expect the opposite in Aarhus—there is a strong emphasis on group work and discussion classes. This will not allow passive sitting-in. "I'm pressured and freak out sometimes, but I like it. You test your borders," she says.

The discovery of the libraries in Aarhus has helped her to make it easier to deal with the workload. No matter the working style, there are rooms available for any necessity silent rooms, reading rooms, spaces where you are allowed to talk and eat.

For Azade, finding ways to balance studies with other activities is also important. She suggests seeking out extra-curricular activities. That helps take her mind off studies and enrich her stay in Aarhus. Currently, Azade plays lacrosse, takes Danish language classes, is one of the student representatives and a member of the Mundus Experience team organizing events for other students.



ice to know

Recommendations for future Mundus students

The Erasmus Mundus Master's in Journalism, Media and Globalisation is an amazing opportunity for students to broaden their horizons and build a close, professional network that can make a difference in your career. However, this opportunity involves adjusting to new countries, in some cases far from home, which can be challenging. With this in mind, some Mundusians have shared their recommendations for future students, so that they can make themselves home in Denmark and make the most out of the course as well. We know it is not an easy task, but we promise: it is very rewarding!



Mariana Pereira Camargo, 25 Brazil, Portugal

Journalism and Media across Cultures, University of Hamburg Languages: Portuguese, English and French Email: mariana.pereira.camargo@gmail.com

D efore coming to Aarhus, I had a lot of questions Din my mind and I think this is what happens to everyone when they are digging into something completely new. About the masters, I would say that the beginning is quite challenging, but after awhile, you get used to a new study routine and everything goes in the right direction. Reading all the pre-class texts is my biggest tip because with this knowledge you can go through the lectures pretty well. But please, don't forget your leisure time! It is really important to recharge your energies in order to relax and even learn better. Aarhus is a nice city to explore, so you should definitely do that. Some other things that help me here are all the memories from back home that I have with me—some food that I brought, and a lot of pictures of family and friends, have helped to make me feel at home really quickly.

Junjie Wu, 27, China

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: Mandarin and English Email: echobrook.91@gmail.com

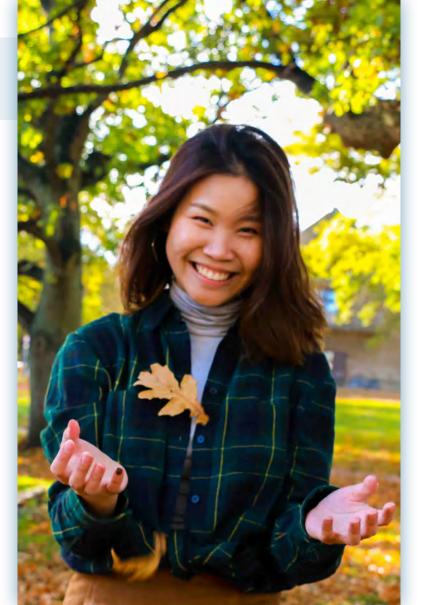
lease, definitely remember to bring your adaptor! If possible, bring two adaptors, as you will need to use them in your dorm, and also in the classroom or at the library for your laptop. For those who come from China, it is a good idea to bring a SMALL rice cooker to comfort your Chinese stomach sometimes, as rice cookers are difficult to buy here. I would say, in order to make the most out of the course, that you should prepare well for every lecture – do the readings, take notes, finish the pre-class assignments. It would help you a lot to take full part in group work and discuss with your classmates. One thing you should not worry about is the weather. Especially for those from China, I understand you-I also worried a lot about the rain in Denmark before coming here, as they mentioned it a lot. But the truth is in Denmark, I have never seen a rain lasting more than one hour and mostly drizzles so far. Plus, there are always beautiful sunshine moments and, sometimes, double rainbows after the rain!"

Kankanit Wiriyasajja (Gun) 23, Thailand

Business and Financial Journalism. City University of London Languages: Thai and English

Email Address: kwiriyasajja@gmail.com

The thing that makes me feel like home is food, so I always bring instant noodles or things that I think that I cannot find in the country that I am going to. Usually just food and maybe some sentimental things, like pictures with family and best friends, gifts that people gave me. I try my best to go through all the readings because I think they are very crucial to class. But I think one major recommendation I have for future Mundus students is to be social! When I studied abroad before, I spent most of my time in the apartment. In Aarhus, I try to go out more and explore the city because they have many interesting places and cute cafés. So, make friends. Be friends with people in the program, hang out with them, go out more, try to expose yourself to Aarhus. Of course, you should always worry about something, but don't make it a priority. You can worry about money, about grades, but try to enjoy most of your time here, because it's actually very short.







enmark & the Danes

So, you want to move to Denmark. What better way to learn about the country and people you'll soon be living with than from students themselves? Here, international students experiencing Denmark for the first time and Danish students share their thoughts on the country of the Vikings.

Galina Borisova, 27, Russia

Business and Financial Journalism, City University of London Languages: Russian, Ukrainian, English Email: borisova755@gmail.com

enmark thinks about everything. I feel good, being a very average person, with no high income because I feel that the government, the state treats me well, and it thinks about me. First, it's a very friendly atmosphere for everybody. Second, I think the way they build the houses and infrastructure tries to adjust houses to nature, and not otherwise. So when you look at these [places], you have a sense that they were here forever.

[The Danes] are not very expressive, like Italian or Spanish people. I like that they are modern and calm. They are not very open, but I wouldn't say that it's very easy to make friends in Russia, for instance. It's normal in every country because they already have a tight circle of friends, family, colleagues and so on. I would say they are open to have a conversation, to like to meet you, to talk

to you. But if you want to be something closer, it's very complicated sometimes.

In general, the Danes that I have met so far are very helpful. I have a lot of them in my dorm and they help me a lot—with my bank account, my bike, my groceries... I like them, but they still stick to each other. They feel more comfortable talking to somebody in Danish than in English. But that's totally okay, it's about everybody, every nation."



William Brøns Petersen, 24, Denmark

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: Danish, English, German Email: wbpetersen@hotmail.com

t takes some time to get closer to Danes because they are a little bit reserved but as soon as you get close to someone then you are friends. There aren't big cultural differences if you move within Denmark, but small things that make a difference.

Generally, the most typical Danish thing is food, especially during Christmas. For example, aebleskiver which literally means "apple slices" but there is no apple in it and it's not sliced. But maybe there was an apple once. Another one is risengrød, what is rice porridge with butter and cinnamon in it. You can also have it for a dinner or ris à l'amande, which is rice with almonds and cinnamon. During Christmas we put one whole almond and whoever finds it will get a present.

But back to cinnamon, when you turn 25 in Jutland your friends throw a pile of cinnamon over you, but I never heard of this before I came to Aarhus. There are also other typically Danish things like not blowing our noses in public, although sometimes you cannot help it, or being keen on dividing the day into five or six parts, sometimes even seven. And don't forget about biking!"

Louise Rasmussen, 25, Luxembourg, Denmark

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: Danish, Luxembourgish, German,

French, English Email: Lbr@pt.lu

am Danish but I didn't grew up here, I grew up abroad. We spoke Danish at home and we lived a very Danish lifestyle. One of the typical Danish things is hygge. It is about being with people you like, the ones you are comfortable with. It is also about doing things. Danish people are very active and enjoy being outdoors, whether it is the forest or the beach.

The way Danes interact with each other is generally very straightforward and honest. This honesty is based on a close relationship. You are not going to be as straightforward with people you are not that close with. Danish people's interactions are not based on status but rather on who the person is and how he/she behaves towards others. For me, it feels like home here. I haven't experienced any culture shock. Riding bikes is also very Danish, although other countries like the Netherlands have a biking culture as well. I really enjoy bike-riding, it gives me a sense of freedom."



DeChun Zhang, 23, China

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: Mandarin, Cantonese, English Email: dominic199563@outlook.com

think I like the North actually. I like Aarhus because it is a quiet city and it is a small city. Although it is a small city, you can live comfortable here and it is not so noisy here. I am from Beijing and I have spent most of my life in Hong Kong. Those cities are very noisy and people are always busy. Here in Aarhus, you can just enjoy your day. I like that, I enjoy living here.

I had a Danish friend in Hong Kong and he told me that Danes are cold and not very willing to make new friends. But I discovered that this is not necessarily true, it depends on the person. In my dormitory, I think all the Danes are really friendly and talkative. They like to communicate with you. But other Danes do not like to talk to foreigners at all.

My roommate and I made some Danish cake, but it was way too sweet. I didn't like it. He forced me to eat it, as we didn't want to waste our food. It's expensive here you know."



nique Selling Point

here are many reasons to choose a grad program. Here a few of our students share what exactly intrigued them about Mundus Journalism and what led them to choosing this particular programme.



Gwyneth Kwai Lam Ho, 28, Hong Kong

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: Cantonese, English, Mandarin Email: sintaneel@gmail.com

Li The Mundus programme is like a dream combination for me. I first read about it while going through the catalog of the University of Amsterdam, where I will specialize in Media and Politics. When I was in my Bachelor's I started considering to go abroad for my Master's so I began to search. I already knew by then that I wanted to do it in English and in Europe. I'm really interested in political communication and I think that the combination of International Relations, Journalism and Politics is what I like the most about this programme and is also what I am most capable of doing. The way they put all of these disciplines together and how they interact is everything I am interested in, especially because I don't want to be just a political scientist or a journalist, but to be able to do it all together: that is what fascinates me. Back in Hong Kong I worked as a political reporter. In this career we face many challenges and I want to be able 30 to solve the difficulties Lencounter."



Juliette Freysson, 22, France

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Language: French, English, Spanish, German Email: freyssonjuliette@gmail.com

want to become a correspondent, and I want to travel all around the world. WIn France, most of the journalism schools are very France-focused. The main reason I chose Mundus Journalism is to have an international masters, meet people from so many different nationalities and build real connections with them. It's something that I could not find in my home country.

My dream is be to be a correspondent for French or English speaking newspapers in West Africa. I did an internship in Togo last year, I fell in love with the people, the country and the politics; it's something not well-covered in the news, especially in Western media. There are not a lot of journalists that do long-term or in-depth journalism. That's what I would like to do.

I take this programme as a very serious thing, and the first step to build my career. I think this is really something I could sell to my future employers: not only the training of journalism, but also international relations and political science."

Lukas Sheid, 26, Germany

War and Conflict, Swansea University Languages: German, English Email: Lukas.scheid@outlook.com

have always been interested in the interconnection between historical events and current political incidents. When I was looking for a way to relate those areas in an academic field, I found out about this program through a friend. It is very international, and it covers a lot of conflicts and environments. I was like 'ok, this is perfect. This is exactly what I want to do'. That is why I choose this specialization of War and Conflict in Swansea.

Before coming here, I had some experience with sports journalism, which I liked but had some issues with. A lot of times it is too related to PR, you are basically just reproducing what somebody else is giving you, not producing any new content. I didn't want to do that anymore. I am very interested in these more political topics, like corruption, doping, that whole sports structure that is going on.

I would love to do stories about this kind of things. I do love talking about sports, but not as a job. I want to do that in my free time."



Mamta Banga, 32, India

Business and Finance, City University of London Languages: English, Hindi, Punjabi Email: mamtabanga@gmail.com

With 11 years of Journalism experience under her belt, Mamta finally decided to pick up on a long-delayed plan and pursue a Master's program outside India. Seeking a unique experience of global exposure, where she'd get to meet and work with people from all over the world, she says the Mundus program had quite an edge over any other option.

"When I saw the curriculum, I was very impressed. I studied journalism before but not much about globalization and how the world works," she says. "I immediately thought it would be a golden chance to learn about what is going on beyond the boundaries of my own and neighbouring countries."

Going back to the lecture halls and tons of readings is definitely a challenge; one that Mamta chose wholeheartedly.

"I wanted to do this for myself. I strongly believe that there's no age for learning. My whole experience in the industry so far has been Asia specific, especially



India centric; and it was about time to take the leap and get to know how it works in the Western world. The Mundus program was the perfect catch."

Sarbas Nazari, 36, Iran

War and Conflict/ Swansea University, Wales Languages: Kurdish, Persian and English Email: sn8884@gmail.com

I'd heard about the program years ago, but I never took the time to search a lot or focus on it because I was busy with my job. In Iran, as a journalist, you suffer from lack of freedom. You have no choice but to work for the state's media which is under censorship and many restrictions. After working for 10-11 years as a journalist, I realized: 'Enough is enough. I have to leave this country if I want to continue to be a successful journalist and continue my career down the right path.'

From a professional point of view, it is the decision I had to make. To be a successful journalist, you have to work in an environment with the freedom to speak out and to investigate. This program opens up a new chapter in my life and a new career in the future. I've always dreamt about working, for example, with BBC, CNN, Washington Post, or the New York Times. We don't know really at the moment what fate has in store for us. I just increase my opportunities so it opens up the new windows.

Coming from Iran creates a lot of problems. I received the visa much later than other students so the relocation took me a long time. I had to bring my family so I arrived late and I missed a few lectures at the beginning. But now I'm back on track. At the moment, I believe we made the right decision although we're facing so many challenges. But maybe that's the best thing about it. These challenges are the things that make your life more exciting and more beautiful."



So, you are really committed to being a part of the Mundus family. We appreciate that! But before moving to Denmark and settling down in Aarhus, perhaps you would like to know some of our survival tips. From saving money to cooking your own meal, shopping for the best options, preparing yourself for the cold and rainy weather or coping with the language barrier, members of our 2018-2020 cohort share with you their best insights on how to make the best of this amazing experience!



Business and Financial Journalism, City University of London Languages: Hindi, Urdu, English Email: manascitizen@gmail.com

Well if you haven't lived or studied in Northern Europe before this, like me, settling in Aarhus can be a challenging task. But before you get nervous, I think I have a few tips that can help.

The first month will make a big dent in that wallet of yours, so be prepared for it. If you need some basic furnishing for your apartment or dorm room, you could definitely visit IKEA. But it can turn out to be quite an expensive affair if you are not really careful. So, I'd suggest finding JYSK on Google maps. A visit there can be a good idea, as they have many offers (like clearance sales) and you'd get almost everything that IKEA has to offer.

The city of Aarhus, and Denmark in general is a beautiful place. The people here are reserved but extremely helpful once you speak to them. The language barrier won't be too bad if you are fluent in English, as Danes surprisingly have a great command of the language as if it were their mother tongue. But you should learn the most important Danish word if you are coming to Aarhus:

Skål, Cheers!"

Arushi Raput, 22, India

Business and Financial Journalism, City University of London Languages: Hindi, English Email: arushirajput01@gmail.com

The first thing I did after coming here was to check out supermarkets because I really wanted to know how much things would cost. People from last year's batch had told me earlier that 'if you actually go to the correct supermarkets, you will get stuff that otherwise would be very expensive'. So, you need to be careful where you go, because a lot of supermarkets have discounts and sales going on most of the time.

I also realized eating outside is really expensive, as I relied a lot on it in the first week because I wasn't really sorted to cook enough food and I didn't know what to buy or where to buy it. Now, I mostly eat home food or the stuff I get from the supermarket.

A nice tip is to also bring some food if you can. Just to give you a headstart. That is why my baggage limit didn't have a lot of clothes, I had more groceries. I brought a lot of lentils, rice, the stuff we usually eat in India. You could probably get these things here as well, but it is going to be expensive."



Tamkinat Tariq, 27, Pakistan

Journalism and Media across Cultures, University of Hamburg Languages: Urdu, English Email: tamkinattaria@gmail.com

A arhus is beautiful in its understated and quiet charm. It grows on you every day. Although the winters may be challenging, the summers are filled with people in parks and endless events.

Keep a lookout for the Jazz Festival in July and the Aarhus Festival in the first week of September. You really get to experience the city and the "happiest people on earth" during these festivities.

Another tip is to manage your money. Aarhus is quite tempting with all its treasures, so make sure to budget. If you're smart, the city has a lot of good deals to offer.

Also, stay updated through social media. You will make friends, so don't stress over that. It's fascinating to see the world come together inside a classroom with people from each corner. You will find yours in time.

And last, but not least, stay warm!

Christine Haoruo Wei, 22, China

- If I could give survival tips for any future Mundus students, they would be:
- 1) Be ready to ride your bike in rainy and windy days, otherwise prepare to pay 375 DKK for monthly public transport tickets.
- 2) Bring your raincoat if possible. Umbrellas don't work here.
- 3) Everything here is expensive, so cook for yourself and buy second-hand clothes or stuff from Facebook or flea markets!
- 4) You will hardly have time for your own life in the beginning, especially in the first month. But be brave, you can make it!
- 5) Lidl is a cheap supermarket, and the cookies there are perfectly tasty.
- 6) Don't expect to gain a large amount of practical journalism skills in this course. At least in the beginning, you will be academic and theoretical.
- 7) The best Asian store I encountered so far is called Far East.
- 8) It is normal to not finish all the readings before the class. Take it easy on yourself.

Journalism and Media across Cultures, University of Hamburg Languages: Mandarin, English, German Email: weihaoruo@gmail.com





A arhus is a city with its own charm, blending a traditional history with urban settings. It boasts of multiple things to do, go to, eat and spend time at. The city is dotted with cafes, restaurants, libraries, parks, canals, astounding buildings, museums and surrounded by a waterfront. Mundusians talk about their ultimate favourite spots here in the town, where thet have fun, chill and to have some thinking time—a home away from home.

Camila Viero, 26, Brazil

Business and Financial Journalism,
City University of London
Languages: Portuguese, English
Email: camilacmviero@hotmail.com

really love animals, so my interesting spot in Aarhus is the deer park. I really miss my dogs back home, so it was so nice to be in contact with animals again. They're so sweet and come to eat from your hand.

I don't know exactly the time that it opens up, but it closes when the sun goes down. The entry is free and it is good to take some carrots with you because they can only eat that.

It's near the Infinity Bridge, in the south of Aarhus, so you can go to both places. You can also do a picnic there. It has a lot of grass, some tables, and you can spend a whole day there."

Ouch...

"I was in the park, video calling my grandmother and was excited because I'd never seen a deer before. I was showing all that to her, and then a deer suddenly came in my direction and hit me on my belly. Maybe he did that because there were some small deer around me and he was trying to protect them. My grandma was like oh my god, what's going on?"



Sabīne Bērziņa, 24, Latvia

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: Latvian, English Email: sabiineb@gmail.com

"When people tell you to get a bike when you live in Aarhus, it's a very sound advice because nothing is as far away here when you're cycling. When I came to this city, I was just cycling around randomly, exploring the neighbourhood, and I found a farm with Scottish cows, really fluffy and brown. It was funny. Finding a nice, quiet spot like this can be very useful when you're stressed out. Just take your bike, find the woods and quiet places close to nature.

Another spot that I really like is the Botanical Gardens, not very far away from the university, and it's very beautiful in Autumn. If it's sunny outside, you can take a walk around it and it'll cheer you up. It's not a place where I go to have fun but to relax and soothe myself.

Another thing that I can definitely recommend for students are the libraries—Dokk1 and Royal Danish library. It definitely makes focusing easier.

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Hanna Paul, 24, India

Business and Financial Journalism, City University of London Email: hannapaul99@gmail.com Languages: Malayalam, English, Hindi, Tamil

"The place I've spent the most amount of time in Aarhus, is the beach at Risskov. It is my thing to do because it's kind of soothing to go out there and get some fresh air. You've to go through a forest, and it's really beautiful at any time of the day. Every time I went to the beach, I met really interesting people. They also told me about winter bathing which is really interesting and something I could do mostly only in Denmark. I don't think any other country accepts this sort of liberation. It's more than just nude beaches, you could talk to



anybody you see inside that place, regardless of what they do in actual life. When I first went there, I jumped into the water and soon the sky turned a really nice pink and the sun was just setting. I felt like the wind kind of stopped to a breeze, and with a beautiful sunset, it became a really nice moment.

Everything is so nice here, any random road you take looks pretty."



Tiago Bianchi, 25, Brazil

Journalism and Media across Cultures, University of Hamburg Email: bianchitiago9@gmail.com Languages: Portuguese, English, Spanish, German

Lookk1, the libraries, but my favourite spot in Aarhus is in front of my room—the trash. I live in the University Park and the thing which most surprised me was that every time I woke up, I saw people throwing a lot of stuff in there and then I thought, let's check it out. I got so many things! Cloth hangers, two portable scanners, party lights, and a yoga mat.

It's actually intriguing because Denmark claims to be such a sustainable country. In Brazil we use our things to the max because things are too pricey for us. And this was perhaps the main shock that I've had here in Denmark, to actually find this trash. To see the real Danish light within itself was an awesome thing to me, and the reflex of it is the trash."



Bridget Dooley, 25, United States of America

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Email: bdooley@gm.slc.edu Languages: English, Spanish

"The best place in Aarhus to do some quiet work is Cafe FolkeVen, a really cute Volkswagen themed cafe. They make great coffee and are open till late on Sundays, with a good WiFi connection.

If you want to spend the day exploring, Godsbanen is the place. This old freight warehouse is an artist's Mecca. There are exhibitions, events, and the outdoor space has a ton to explore. Don't miss reuse and the plant cafe.

To get a good meal, Aarhus street food has an incredible array of food from around the world. It's a cheaper option than the rest, and is so good! My recommendation is the Bánhmi Bandits. To have a beer, Mikkeller is a sweet alternative spot, where they brew their own beer!"

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Diana Langer, 24, Germany

Journalism and Media across Cultures/ University of Hamburg

Email: diana.langer94@gmail.com Languages: English and German

The place I've found to be the most fun in Aarhus is the boulder hall. We have a little group of Mundus students who spend a few hours there each week, work out a little bit and practice bouldering. Doesn't matter if you're good or not, we just get together, have a lot of fun, and afterwards, we often eat cake.

You can overcome fears if you're afraid of heights, or you can practise strength and the way everyone treats each other is really nice. It depends on when you go but if you have your own climbing shoes and other equipment, and if you go in the mornings, It is 80 dkk for one time. After you become a member, the fee is a little less.

One of the guys didn't make it to the top and so when he fell down, he screamed in a very high pitched voice. It wasn't that he was scared, just that he didn't make it as far as he wanted to and so he just started screaming."

Méline Laffabry, 23, France

War and Conflict Swansea University, Wales Email: meline.laffabry@gmail.com Languages: French, English and Spanish

Quarter in the City Centre. I like this part of the town very much because it's filled with small restaurants, bars and small shops. People hang out on the street with a beer in one hand and talk until late night hours. The ambience is really cool!

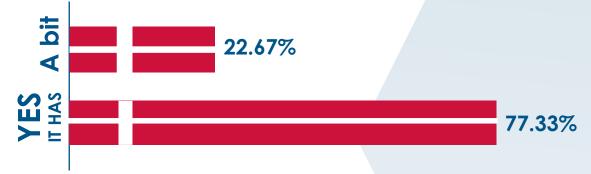
[The Latin Quarter] is the neighbourhood where I first met some fellow Mundusians, shortly after arriving. We still hang out there, quite often. Now I even go there with my Danish roommates. Sometimes, I bike there, but most of the times I prefer walking so I can appreciate it and find new places to go to. I can walk around the area on a sunny Sunday afternoon, looking at the colourful and pretty little houses."



One of the perks of studying abroad is to have an exciting experience

in a new country & a new language

We asked our Mundusians if Denmark has met their expectations so far



And whether they are learning the unique Danish language

Yes ABCDEFGH 27.03%

No ABCDEFGKLMNOPQRSTUV 64.86%

Currently speaking Danish AB 8.11%



ccommodation in Aarhus

ou can choose from a plethora of options—dorms with shared facilities, studios, two-room apartments, and also multiple room houses. There's a range to select from the housing provided by the university (AU Housing), and also the private market accessible to you via facebook groups, and Aarhus housing websites. Read along to know where some of our Mundusians live, how they found their new homes, their experiences and have a better idea about what to

Aftab Bose, 24, India

Business and Finance, City University of London Languages: English, Hindi Email: bose.aftab@gmail.com

Y accommodation type is a studio. I chose it because I'd lived with people before and I knew that with my schedule and job, I needed to have some peace and quiet."

It's very close to the ARoS Museum and to the centre. All the nice parts of town are around, that I like to visit quite often. It's also quite accessible to university and I can cycle to university and back in ten minutes, so I love that about it. I have a supermarket called Føtex just across the road.

I'm really very lucky in that sense and I really don't think that there's anything that I dislike about it. So far at least. It's the ideal conditions—I don't have to share with anyone. I'm very close to all the spots, and am very happy with it so far."



Alena Eichler, 24, Germany

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: German, English, learning Danish Email: alena.eichler@t-online.de

live in Skejbyparken in a dorm where I share my apartment with one other person, using the same kitchen and bathroom. I live with a girl from our master's program and we were really lucky that we fit together so well.

We're a dorm park with five dorms together and have a common house where we hang out and play Mario Kart. A disadvantage of where we live is that it is far out, and you have to go uphill to go home. But I love it. We live on the third floor and have amazing rooms which are really bright and cosy.

It's very green since we are living outside the city. We go for walks and to the beach. For two semesters it's great, but If I would stay in Aarhus for longer I would try to move to the city centre.

I think it's definitely easier to get housing through AU Housing, because you can be sure that you have furniture and cutleries. It will be a lot more expensive to look for something by yourself."



Delia Brändli, 24, Switzerland

War and Conflict, Swansea University Languages: German, English, Spanish, French Email: delia.braendli@gmail.com

from AU housing and I liked that it was a cheap option, but now I live in the city centre in an apartment that I found on Facebook. It was really easy for me to get a private flat, I just texted one day and got it.

I live with my boyfriend. It's a very nice place. The location is amazing since it is in the city centre and has a lot of supermarkets, cafes and restaurants. The apartment is very spacious and bright, kind of big for two people. Almost next to my house is the ARoS museum, and the Latin neighbourhood called the Latin Quarter is nearby too.

I come to the university by bike. It's all uphill so it's kind of tiring but it's not that far. It takes me 15 minutes."

Diana Yunusova, 31, Russia

Business and Financial Journalism,
City University of London
Languages: Russian, English and Spanish
Email: ditvtv@gmail.com

live in Brabrand. There isn't any other dormitory which is further away, but it's quite close to the facilities—Bilka, a huge supermarket with lots of discounts, is really near. I came here with my husband and with my dog. We applied for a two-room apartment and I guess this is the only dorm which accepts pets. I have my small and well-equipped kitchen and a private bathroom.

"I like this location because it's a really green zone, and you feel that you're in a national park. There are two big lakes around my dorm. The week I arrived in Aarhus, I saw a deer 30 meters to my front door. It was unreal and two days later I also saw a fox. I was like, am I living in a National Park?

I ride every day—when it's windy, it's like almost lovely but on a rainy day I'm riding like crazy to get to the university faster. The hills are a huge trouble, because 15 minutes to my place, you're going just up, up and up."

Giselle Silva dos Santos 28, Brazil

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: Portuguese, English, Spanish Email: gi.santos1990@gmail.com

live at the University Park, a dorm with a shared kitchen and shared bathroom. One of the cheapest categories, I chose it because of the price. Nothing is too far, and is also close to the classes.

The area I live in, is in a park, with a big lake having little ducks in it. Under the Sun, it's amazing to just lay on the grass, read or chat with your friends.

I've never lived in a dorm before so it's been a nice experience of getting to know everybody who lives in the same corridor as me. There are a lot of Danish students and it's interesting to learn about their culture. They do common dinners and have an event Tour De Chambre, where people put themes to their rooms, drink and enov.

Applying through AU Housing was pretty simple. I just stuck to the deadlines and mentioned that I would prefer it to be near the university and the centre. They explain the process quite well through emails."

Lisa Lechner, 24, Germany

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: English, German, French Email: lisamarie.lechner@gmx.de

looked for accommodations in the private market via Facebook groups. It was a struggle because you were writing to so many people, but then I found a room where everything just fit perfectly.

I'm living in a room which is sub-rented by another girl so I can use her furniture and other things.

I like my room, with the furnishing and the cosy factor.

The balcony helps me enjoy the shining sun. I'm living with two other Danish students, and we share a common kitchen and bathroom. We have conversations, and cooking evenings together. We respect it when one of us wants to have a closed door. I ended up being so happy in the accommodation and wouldn't consider moving.

It's a good surrounding to take walks, being close to university, coming to the city centre quite fast and oh, what's also worth mentioning is that I'm living on top of a bakery. If I don't have food at home or am lazy on a Sunday morning, I can just go downstairs to get bread rolls."



Shalini Nagarajan, 24, India

Business and Financial Journalism, City University of London Languages: English, Hindi Email: shalini.nagarajan28@gmail.com

live at Skejbyparken which is 15 minutes from college by bike. I really like the area because the houses are like no other and it's like a Lego Block. There's also a basketball court and a football ground.

Sometimes they set up common dinners. We have a common room right with laundry, a fancy TV and a bar where you can set up common parties. We also have two supermarkets—Føtex and Lidl. I prefer Lidl because it's cheaper but Føtex has a lot of variety.

I chose shared accommodation because I think it's nice to come back home and have someone to talk to in a place that is away from home. I like the fact that it's a person from a different course because I get to know what is happening through their perspective as well. My housemate is a part of a lacrosse team, so I hear about that, something my friends aren't doing."



hat is the best way to move around Aarhus? Just after their arrival, all the Mundusians had to answer this question and decide which transport to choose. And while the majority of students have immersed themselves in local biking culture, there are still those who prefer using public transport or simply walking. Now, after some time to adjust to their new city, Mundusians are ready to share their fresh experience of exploring Aarhus!

Nils Tillmann, 27, Germany

War and Conflict, Swansea University Email: tillmann.nils@gmail.com Languages: German, English, Spanish

bike every day and have actually taken a bus one or two times. Biking saves your money, makes you move a lot and be independent," says Nils, who has been biking since the childhood, and even brought his bike here from Cologne. "The average route is not that long. Actually, you can cross the city from one edge to the other just in 40 minutes. Of course, it's less fun when it's cold and rainy so that you can get completely soaked on your way. But still, it's the best way of getting around the city."

Nils is convinced that Aarhus is one of the places to get rid of unconfidence in biking: "Cycling infrastructure is great, and the drivers are very respectful towards cyclists. Everyone is sticking to rules, so I have never seen a better place to learn how to bike in the city."

But most of all, Nils is surprised by fellow Mundusians: "They started biking right after moving here and are always helpful whenever it comes to borrowing a pump, lights or anything else for the bike."



Chara Kotsai, 23, Greece

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: Greek, Albanian, English Email: harakotsai@gmail.com

Back in her native Greece, Chara drove a car and never tried biking at all. However, things changed when she moved to Aarhus one and a half months ago and decided to start learning how to bike. Chara is persistent in this: "I am still struggling with balance and stopping, but soon I'll be biking in the city, you will see!"

She recently bought her own bicycle and can now dedicate much more time for practising new skills. One more reason that keeps Chara's excitement is the second year of studies which she will spend in Amsterdam—the biking capital of the world. Any practice she can get in now will be well worth the work!

Chara's message to the newcomers who have never biked is clear: "Be patient and try to understand that it's ok to fall. Constantly fall." Anyway, with the support of her peers and friends, she continues to masterher skills. See you on the Aarhus bike lanes, Chara!

Aarhus—the city that cycles

o, you're thinking about moving to a city which cycles? Maybe you're asking yourself: "just how many cyclists are there really in Aarhus? And how many Mundusians cycle, too?" Wonder no futher! Out of 75 Mundusians surveyed for this book, 70% either brought or bought bicycles to participate in Aarhus' cycling culture. 17% of Mundusians rely on the buses while 12% walk and the final 1% of Mun-

dusians take the city tram to get around.

Tram Walking Bus































Elsa Maishman, 23, Ireland & the United Kingdom

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: English, Spanish, French, Irish Email: emaishman@gmail.com

11 Vou educate yourself and even can drink coffee on your way," says Elsa, explaining why she prefers walking in Aarhus to biking or busing. She's convinced that the rhythm of walking gives you time to think about life and do useful things meanwhile, such as listening to the podcasts or learning Danish.

"And you can't usually do it when cycling because using the earphones is quite dangerous then. It's better to have 30 minutes of a good time walking rather than 15 minutes of dead time cycling," persuades Elsa.

For those who decide to walk around Aarhus. she advises to always have an umbrella or raincoat and not to relax for a second: "It's easy to watch the birds or listen to the music, but it's wasting time. Maximize the benefit from walking, educate yourself and go to the places where you will never get by car—explore the Botanical Gardens, for example."



Huizhong Pang, 22, China

Business and Financial Journalism, City University of London Languages: Mandarin, English Email: 13580337382@163.com

the dancing studio or the Asian market in the centre," says Huizhong, who moved to Aarhus from Guangzhou—one of the biggest Chinese cities. She walks and uses public transport at least twice a day.

"Usually for me, it takes up to 15-20 min to get around, and it's incredible. In my hometown it's impossible. Guangzhou is, I guess, ten times bigger, and people there mostly use cars or subway, but not bikes like here," says Huizhong. She admits that the adaptation in Aarhus was very smooth for her as the routes are much shorter: "The gym is located just near my dorm, the library is also not far, so I am saving my time here!"

However, Huizhong finds some drawbacks in the transportation in Aarhus: "If you miss the tram or bus, you really need to wait twice as long until the next one comes, but the apps help a lot in planning the route." Nevertheless, she recommends everyone bike in the summer.

Simran Suphanida Thakral, 22, Thailand

Business and Financial Journalism,
City University of London
Languages: English
Email: suphanida.thakral@gmail.com

Simran, who grew up in Bangkok, a city of 10 million people with very heavy traffic and very cheap taxis, decided to change her habits and use the bus to move around Aarhus. "Initially I was choosing between the bus and bike, but then realized that I could easily get cold here, so I simply bought the season bus pass. I was also worried about whether I would manage to bike when it gets dark and cold without any previous experience of biking in the city and decided to wait until the summer and maybe then rent a bike because you still need this experience," says Simran.

For her, it usually takes up to 20 min to get to the university or other places. And although the buses here are comfortable, Simran notes that 375 DKK per month is quite costly. However, she admits that the transport here is punctual: "Just make sure that you checked the schedule in the Rejseplanen app, bought the ticket via the Mobilbillet app, and you can get to any place in the city."





Specialisation Choice

After the first year in Aarhus, Denmark, the Mundus cohort has to split into smaller groups as students move to either Amsterdam, Hamburg, London or Swansea. At these different locations, Mundusians will specialize in one of four areas of journalism: War and Conflict, Business and Finance, Media and Politics, or Journalism and Media Across Cultures. As the choice of specialization seems to be one of the most important decisions that all the students have to make, here are the stories of eight Mundusians revealing their reasons for choosing the field of studies.

Tanushree Basuroy, 20, India

Journalism and Media Across Cultures, University of Hamburg

Languages: English, Hindi, Bengali, Telugu Email: tanushree.basuroy51@gmail.com

recently visited Hamburg, and it feels like home," says Tanushree, who will be studying at Hamburg University next year. With the background in English literature, she chose this specialization to learn more about existing media models and to later apply this knowledge while working as a journalist.

However, for Tanushree, the future of journalism in India is bleak: "The freedom of expression is being curbed by our government.

I hope that studying in Hamburg will help me to learn what journalism is like in other parts of the world so that I pick up the best aspects to use them in my work and initiate changes."

Although this specialization is the most academic of the four, Tanushree plans to do travel journalism afterwards to fight xenophobia. "The more you know about other cultures, the more open you are and the fewer misunderstandings you have," she says. "Journalism is not just reporting the news. What and how you can improve in this field also matters."



Isabela Martel, 25, Brazil

Journalism and Media Across Cultures,
University of Hamburg
Languages: Portuguese, English, Italian, French
Email: isabelamartel@hotmail.com

that cold in my whole life. And I would never think I would live there," laughs Isabela, talking about her next year specialization. She chose the Hamburg program because of her profound interest in feminism and the impact of social organizations. "It's interesting to look at how it all works in different cultures."

At the age from 11 to 15, Isabela lived in Italy: "When I got there I didn't speak any Italian and didn't know anyone. Later when I was 14, I did an exchange to Turkey, and that became another turning point for me. So, probably, these two big immersions into other cultures had a huge impact on me and maybe led me into this path."

Isabela recommends the Hamburg program for anyone who's interested in other cultures: "You should not be superficial. Be ready to learn how these cultures communicate and deal with society's issues and try to understand them even though they're different from yours."

Michal van der Toorn, 21, Netherlands

War and Conflict, Swansea University Languages: Dutch, English, French, German Email: michalvdtoorn@gmail.com

think it's super interesting and important that there are people reporting about the conflict in a balanced way. It's important not only to focus on the problems but also cover structural problems in the country, possible solutions or the progress of the conflict and even the bright side of it," says Michal about her decision to apply for the War and Conflict specialization.

Back in the native Netherlands, she specialized in Middle East studies and did courses about risk reporting on health (how media sometimes misunderstands and misreports the scientific studies related to health), and even was an intern at aTV show on classical music!

Now, while preparing herself for the living and studying in Wales, Michal came up with recommendations for the future applicants: "To report conflict, you have to be able to look critically at the conflict itself, processes behind it and explain these in an understandable way. Then this program is for you."



Dánae Vilchez, 25, Nicaragua

War and Conflict, Swansea University Languages: Spanish, English Email: vilchez.danae@gmail.com

live in one of the most violent regions of the whole world—Central America," says Danae. This is one of the reasons why she is going to study War and Conflict reporting in Swansea. Her country, Nicaragua is now going through a very violent civil rebellion and protests, and Danae was one of the journalists reporting on these social movements.

Danae thinks that this specialization is for people who have already experienced underground journalism and are trying to make their work deeper. "This is not a master's degree that will teach you how to film or edit video," she says. "This is a master's degree for people that already know how to do that but want to have a more broad vision about what's going on in the world and to try and use this information to do better journalism in their own regions and countries."

However, she is expecting some troubles of living in Wales: "Did you know that the Welsh language has almost no vocals? I hope I will be able to communicate in English," she jokes.

Luca Polizzi, 22, Italy

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: Italian, English, Spanish, French Email: lucapolizzi96@gmail.com

uca studied international relations at the university, but got interested in journalism and decided to combine his background with the new skills. While doing an internship in Nepal in the field of the migrants and refugees rights protection, Luca also realized how important it is to be objective and make changes by doing your job. That's how he ended up with applying for Media and Politics specialization in Amsterdam.

"This course gave me the opportunity to do journalism but at the same time stick to the field, I am comfortable in. Even though this is a very tricky field which is quite difficult to cover," says Luca.

He is excited about this "super international" Mundus Journalism course where you can meet people from all over the world, and even more amazed by the city he is moving to next year: "Amsterdam has a vibrant environment, which is great. I am a little bit stressed about cyclists that are literally coming from everywhere! But I will deal with it for sure."

Nivetha Dayanand, 20, India

Business and Finance, City University of London Languages: English, Hindi

Email: nivetha.d95@gmail.com

Financial journalism is about what is happening in today's world," says Nivetha. Together with 19 other Mundusians, she will spend the next year in London studying Business and financial reporting.

Nivetha has just obtained her Bachelor degree, so the London specialization is very important for her regarding practice. "I have no experience in journalism, and financial journalism is something new for me, too. City University, being one of the most esteemed universities in London, I thought I could try experimenting something new," she says.

"This specialization is for people who are looking for a very dynamic form of journalism, not monotonous. Just as a city itself. To me, London is very beautiful and a friendly city, I can't wait to go and start already" says Nivetha. Excited by the very good exposure to international people from different parts of the world, she recommends this program to everyone.



Gustav Højmark-Jensen, 25, Denmark

Business and Finance, City University of London Languages: Danish and English Email: hoejmarkjour@gmail.com

ondon is an amazing city with the special energy that makes me want to come back." Although he is not used to working in the field of finance and business, Gustav hopes to learn a lot in London and thinks that the lack of experience is not an obstacle.

"I heard that people chose not to apply for this specialization because they are not familiar with the topic. I'm not used to it either, but this niche will keep growing," he says. "Even though journalism is facing the falling of sales, people will always want to read financial news. Journalists must know how to find the patterns in the numbers."

Gustav is convinced that anyone can apply for the London specialization as it's not only extremely interesting but also the most practical among all courses. "It's going to be way more intense than the year in Aarhus, so I hope that there will be some room for leisure activities," he laughs. "I just can't wait to get started."



Alrun Bernhard, 22, Netherlands

University of Amsterdam Languages: Dutch, German, English Email Address: alrunbernhard@gmail.com

After the first year of studying in Aarhus, Alrun will be returning to her native Amsterdam to continue the program within the Media and Politics specialization. "Those who want to study in Amsterdam during the second year must be ready to live in a very vibrant and really liberal city. Here you need to deal with a lot of tourists. So, maybe it's for the most extrovert people on the program," says Alrun.

After an internship in investigative journalism, Alrun became interested in the politics: "I am curious about how certain decisions made by politicians have their real outcome in the world and what role journalists play in this."

She thinks that politics is a good point for journalists to start. "Journalists are like the watchdog in between the government and the public. And I think to criticize something you need to understand it first. So, to fully understand it, I chose this specialization," says Alrun.



nside Journalism

More than 50% of this year's cohort hails from either an academic or professional background in journalism. Here, we provide the inside scoop on what it takes to be a journalist as we chat with five Mundusians, who have dabbled in different kinds of media and journalism, about the ups and downs of their careers and what thrills them about this profession.

Joosep Värk, 28, Estonia

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: Estonian, English, some Russian and German

Email: joosepvark@gmail.com

Joosep has been working as an investigative journalist in print media for nearly five years. Although he is now known for being one of the journalists to have helped unearth the Danske Bank scam, he feels his more notable contributions have been in the field of political and crime reporting. The story that satisfied him most in his career was the discovery of Estonian electoral fraud.

His inquisitiveness about the world and its workings is what infuses his work with excitement. Yet stories of Estonian gangs and court trials although gripping didn't always create an impact, thus turning him to politics. Referring to the investigation as a "game", he divulges that it's all about "tactics" and "finding

secrets behind leads". Interviewing was his favourite part where a "power play" ensued between him and his subject.

He also enjoys role-playing to pry information out of politicians. His advice to himself and aspiring journalists is "when you have a hunch about a big story, work on it".





Juan Manuel Gari, 30, Uruguay

War and Conflict, Swansea University Languages: Spanish, English, some Italian Email: juanmanuelgari@gmail.com

Juan has been in the industry for the past seven years of which he spent four and a half years as a video journalist for El País, a national newspaper in Uruguay, not to be mistaken for its Spanish namesake. Besides covering the latest news scoops, he focused a great deal on filming documentaries for their website. Juan has always preferred consuming news that adopts a narrative approach since it's not just entertaining but also zeroes in on the compassionate facets of the story. He claims, "journalism is all about empathy".

A wizard behind the camera, he was also invited to correspond with CNN, Spain. He collaborated with them for 18 months but felt that the job didn't hold the charm of his former work. He recalls that his best story has been the documentary of a child with autism and how the family dealt with it. He further adds that "time is necessary for good journalism". On the El País website, frequent posts were unnecessary since good content automatically attracts attention. He also cherishes being able to cover the FIFA World Cup in Rio, 2014.

Oleksandra Hrybenko, 24, Ukraine

War and Conflict, Swansea University
Languages: Russian, Ukrainian, English, some German
Email: alekshryb16@gmail.com

Neksandra's connection to journalism has been rather Unconventional. She luckily managed to graduate with a bachelor's degree in linguistics despite war breaking out in her town in eastern Ukraine. Initially working as a translator and teaching English and German, she was approached by a Norwegian journalist, with whom she works to-date, to help translate his coverage of the war. She then began advising him as a stringer from the Separatist side of the frontline. Seeing through the propaganda, she felt responsible to convey the message of the people with whom she also identified as a victim, longing to return to normalcy. Although not a war correspondent she is interested in seeing how "post-conflict societies rebuild their lives". In 2017, she decided against simply pitching stories to international media agencies and began writing independently while collaborating with international photographers. Two of her most inspiring articles have been about the militarization of children in Separatist areas and the situation of schools running on the Ukrainian side of the front. She was also a nominee in the News Fixer category of the prestigious Kurt Schork Memorial Award presented 76 by Reuters in 2017.

Salma Bouchafra, 30, Morocco

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: Darija (Moroccan Arabic), French, Arabic, English and Spanish

ews is no longer being given to the audience, they are creating it".

Salma's journey as a journalist began 8 years ago as one of Morocco's youngest TV presenters on a program discussing finance and economics. It was here that she discovered her passion for broadcast media. However, she believes the turning point in her career was moving to Senegal to work with BBC Africa as a radio host. She began viewing herself more as an international journalist, realizing the importance of "connecting cultures" as the only representative of North Africa on the team. It drove her to be more involved in African affairs not limited to the stories of terror in West Africa where she was "living the threat". Her work usually took on a more cultural angle. Her time at BBC London enriched her experience as a "global journalist" encouraging her to present a "composite Africa". Identifying primarily as Maghrebian, she strives to "introduce North African stories to the sub-Saharan context".





Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: Thai, English

Email: world.wirada@gmail.com

World Wirada Saelim, 27, Thailand

fter her graduation, World worked as a Amultimedia journalist with the Thai Public Broadcasting Service for 3 years. Her focus was news documentaries that covered social issues in Thailand and South East Asia. Some of the issues of import have been the impact of globalization, education and inequity within society which she claims may not be something novel in the western world but is revolutionary in Thailand. She was part of a pioneer group of journalists who engaged in "backpack journalism", where the onus of filming, reporting and editing was all on the individual. World's style combined the scoop and storytelling formats to stress the humanitarian aspects of a news piece. Her view is that data and figures while important "[don't] make changes". The aim is to be different by bringing "humanity to journalism". It was challenging to work under the coup regiment with press censorship and the fear incited among the public. She believes the press is pivotal to empower citizens to be more politically active.



ext Plan **After Mundus**

There is a kind of excitement that comes with being a Mundusian - having the opportunity to study and exchange ideas with nearly 90 other students from 40 different nations around the world is incomparable. In the midst of this, however, future plans still loom overhead. Here, some Mundusians of the 2018-2020 cohort share what they are thinking of for life after 2020.

Po Wen Wang, 26, Taiwan

Business and Financial Journalism, City University, London Languages: English, Chinese Email: chriswang614@gmail.com

Po Wen is a journalist from Taiwan. He worked for two years as a local judicial reporter, mainly understanding the judicial procedures and disclose state scams. He also produced projects series on Taiwanese police development, drug invasions on school campuses, and the Philippine Drug War.

He says he is convinced he wants to be a journalist so he can "make the world a better place." The idea of interacting with a diverse group of people and sharing their stories are two aspects that Po Wen enjoys the most.

On asking his plans after Mundus, he says he wants to be a foreign correspondent. Po Wen says, meeting new people every day inspires him to gain new knowledge every single day. 'One day, I will tell these stories in my own country'. He advises the next cohort to "stay both positive and negative". He says 'Only when you accept the worst possible position, you will become open-minded and realize life is not that hard if you make the first move.'



Arthur Huxham, 26 Belgium, Britain and Italy

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: English, French and Italian E-mail: arthurhuxham92@gmail.com

Arthur is a journalist from Britain. He worked in the EU Institutions and with companies associated with the European Union.

He took up this program to brush up on the basics and to gain new skills and disciplines needed to become a competent journalist or a communications campaigner. He says the program has "opened his eyes to what he really wants to do professionally - a communications campaigner."

Arthur wants to make unconventional videos, communicate a clear message to people and help people make a difference in this world. He adds by telling "Mundus has provided me a stepping stone towards that goal." He suggests the next cohort stay busy, bold and to try new skills every day. He says they should "be daring, ask lots of questions, stay motivated and be yourself."



Photo Courtesy of Arthur Huxman



Louisa Esther Mugabo, 23, Germany

War and Conflict, Swansea University

Languages: German, English, French, Spanish, Kinyarwanda,

Hausa, Kiswahili

Email: louisa.mugabo@gmail.com

ouisa is a freelancer for some local media and African outlets.

She was also working for a political foundation amongst others.

She pursued two Bachelor degrees, one in Political Science, the other one in African Studies, both from Leipzig University with study and research stays in Rwanda, DR Congo and Spain.

On asking her plans after Mundus, she says that she will live and work in the Great Lakes Region, "hopefully freelancing for international media to bring forgotten crises as in the North-Kivu and in Burundi to the international attention." Besides that, her biggest ambition is to create the Great Lake's first press agency with various journalism networks and friends that she has worked with so far. This agency will finally produce news for a local and international audience about the region, in the region, hence being an alternative to Westernized and Euro-centric media.

She further says "Mundus is giving her a perfect education for this and keeps her striving for this dream." Her advice to the next cohorts is to "remain open for new opportunities. No doubt, Mundus will come up with such and it is a nice way to live and study with an open mind—but don't forget that it is also very legit to already have plans and hence to use Mundus exactly for the realization of those."



part from Journalism

Part of the requirements needed to be a Mundusian is at least a three-month journalistic experience. Among the Mundus class of 2018-2020, some have worked for the minimum of three months as a journalist while some others have worked for years as international journalists. However, Mundusians still have a life outside journalism.

Martin Johaim, 28, Austria

Journalism and Media across Cultures Languages: German, English, Italian Email: dimaboju@gmail.com

Martin has a bachelor's degree in Theatre, Film & Media Sciences and worked for a newspaper in Vienna. He has also worked for a non-profit organization called European Forum Alpbach.

On asking about his hobbies/passion other than journalism he says that he is interested in "any kind of sports, climbing and bouldering in particular." He says what interests him the most is that it opens a gate to be outdoors and connect him with nature: whether it's a misty, mossy forest or



approaching the face of a rock. Martin says "it frees up his mind and gives him a much grounded, earthly feeling. The only alternative comparable to that is standing on top of a mountain enjoying the tranquillity and breathing in the freshest air imaginable."

He recommends the next cohort set priorities in order to balance their passion as well as academics. He says that "even if it is not always easy to do so, deciding in terms of what to focus on and what to neglect can lead to a very beneficial and clear way of living."

Mia von Hirsch, 25, Germany



Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: German, English, French, Italian

Email: miavonhirsch@outlook.de

Mia worked as a producer for an afternoon TV talk show. Her job role was to find suitable guests, pre-interview them and prepare them for the show. During the show she took care of the hospitality of guests and got to learn a lot from them.

On asking about her interests other than journalism, she says "something that never ceases to amaze me, is art. In any form, really. I love to visit museums and wonder what the artist was thinking while creating their piece of art. Even if I don't understand a sculpture or an abstract painting, it's always nice to see that someone

put in time and effort to create something. In my free time I also love to draw, paint, try new techniques and mix media. It's a nice distraction from everyday life."

On asking her the act of balancing studies and passion she suggests everyone take time off from studying and pursue their hobby or passion instead. Mia says "it makes it easier to concentrate on academics if you are well-balanced and content."



Roza (Triantafyllia) Ismailaj, 24 Greece and Albania

War and Conflict, Swansea University Languages: Greek, Albanian, English, German Email: triantafylliaism@gmail.com

Roza is a freelance journalist and human rights activist from Greece. She was a part of a think tank in the city of Thessaloniki. Her projects were based on documentary making and human rights.

In 2016, she covered the refugee crises in the Greek island of Samos, and is still following up with the case. On asking about her passion other than the mainstream media, she says "she likes to conduct small personal projects on camera." She will start one of these in Aarhus soon. "I like tuning into the radio," she says. "I'm a bookworm with a tendency towards post-apocalyptic movies."

On asking her about her act of balancing passion and student life, she says "this journey is all about balancing. What I would advise is do your readings! The level of academic requirements is high, this is a well thought theoretical approach and it is going to take you a while to get used to it, especially If you come from a practical video making background like I come from."

Yuliia Mishyna, 25, Ukraine

Journalism and Media across Cultures,
University of Hamburg
Languages: Ukrainian, English, Russian, Polish
Email: yuliia.mishyna@gmail.com

Yuliia worked as a PR Manager for Ukrainian NGO, an international volunteer program which aims at teaching foreign languages. This educational and multi-cultural volunteer project helped Yuliia in gaining a lot of knowledge.

Her escape from the real world is music. Yuliia spends a maximum amount of time listening to music. She says that the very idea of music is to get lost and have a time for one's own self. She said music helped her cope with everything so far. Yuliia loves going to live concerts and listening to live bands. She's desperately looking forward to the Northside Festival, Aarhus 2019.

Yuliia suggests everyone to listen to music and spend time for themselves, she thinks it's important for everyone to at least have one day for themselves when they can cook, dance, go out and do whatever they want to keep the week going. Yuliia also advises the next cohort to listen to the local music as it enhances the process of connecting to the local people and get used to the local environments.



Atypical day as a student

What is a typical day for Mundusians in Aarhus? Five Mundusians share their experiences as a student on a typical day.



Veronika Halamková, 22 Czech Republic

Business and Financial Journalism, City University of London Languages: Czech, English Email: veronikahalamkova@gmail.com

There is no such thing as a usual study day. For the first few weeks it was just school, school, and recently I started to work as well. So a study day now is not really a study day.

My working hours are very flexible, so I change my hours depending on our schedule at school. Some days I go from school to work and then back again, or I go from work to school and back to work.

I have a quick morning. I'm not an early bird, so I usually sleep in and then I get ready. I bike either to work or school, then I have a quick lunch and then I bike to either school or work again. At the end of the day, I just go home. I try to do my readings on weekends or whenever there is free time during the week. I live in Skejby, which is at the end of the town, so I get quite lazy during weekends."



Jesper Gynther, 27, Denmark

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: Danish, English, understands Swedish and Norwegian

Email: jespergynther@gmail.com

66 can tell you what this past week looked like: on Monday, I went to class and after that I went back home to finish the readings for that class. Tuesday morning, I read on my way to work. It took me three hours to go to work that day, so I had a lot of time to read on the train. I worked from 11 to 16 and got a ride back to Aarhus with a colleague. In the evening, I read from 20 to 2:30 am for our class and then went to bed at three in the morning. The next day, I got up at 10, went to class at 11 and met up with my study group after that. In the afternoon, I relaxed a bit, had some food, did some grocery shopping. Thursday morning I read about two hours and then went to class.

Most of my weeks look similar. I work 10 - 15 hours a week. I work either Tuesday or Friday and then do the other half from home. During the weekends, I need to prepare myself for the week so I do the readings because we usually meet in our study group after class on Mondays to discuss our assignment."



Dana Hajek, 25, Germany

Business and Financial Journalism. City University of London Languages: German, English, French, Korean Email: dana.hajek@hotmail.de

11 A y typical week as a Mundus student is Valguite chill. I'm not doing that much and it's super nice. I think Aarhus has given me the opportunity to organise and structure my life better compared to my life before in Berlin, where I felt stressed out 90% of the time with social life, finances, uni life and work pressure. There was always so much going on that I couldn't really focus on one thing and that's what I really learned in Aarhus: to take time for dinner, to take time just for myself, to cook for myself, to enjoy walking along the canal in the city without feeling the pressure of having to be somewhere. I personally became more relaxed even though we have a lot of things to do for university, but it's nice to focus on that actually and to not have 55 other problems on your mind. I also like to go to the street food market sometimes and I spend a lot of time





Relaxing in Aarhus

ith marathon-length lectures at the Danish School of Media and Journalism in September, meetings for group work every other day, writing academic papers and two additional courses in October with a heavy reading load, stress levels can skyrocket easily. Here, a few Mundusians share how they find time to relax amid all the pressure.

Marina Sánchez Castelo, 23, Spain

Media across Cultures, University of Hamburg Languages: Catalan, Spanish, English, French Email: 95sanchezmarina@gmail.com

ow do I relax? It depends on my mood really. I like to just stay at home in my PJs and watch a movie or a show. I share a kitchen with other students, so sometimes we also watch TV together there or just hang out and talk. "I was especially stressed for the exam. September was a very busy time for me as we had a lot of readings and lectures at that time, and I am also working.

I work 10 hours a week, so I concentrate most of my work on the weekend, and then I do all the readings for the course during the week. I work best in my own room, because I get distracted when I go to the library. So when I've worked a lot in my room, I just go to the kitchen and talk to people to get everything out of my head, and have a cup of tea. There is always someone in the kitchen."



Vanessa Fujihira, 27 Brazil

Journalism and Media Across Cultures, University of Hamburg Languages: Portuguese, English Email: vanessa.fuj@gmail.com

have to be sincere – I sleep a lot and I eat a lot. But I also try to explore the city with friends. I enjoy going downtown after class just to see life happening. I enjoy going to the stores, drinking coffees. I like the city centre because there is so much life and so many different people. I often eat something there and have a coffee – I think that's hygge! I really enjoy the canal in the city. The cafés and restaurants there are very expensive, so I don't eat there, but the place and the atmosphere is very nice.

At the beginning of the programme, we had so many different activities all the time, both academic and social. So it was good to balance it a bit and relax, especially now when we have a bit more time."

Valerie Krall, 24 Germany

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: German, English, some Spanish Email: valerie.krall@tu-dortmund.de

are two ways of relaxing for me; sometimes I need some time for myself, and then there's relaxing with friends. So far, I've mostly been doing the second one! But then they are all people that I am already close to and that I have a lot of fun with. So I relax with them and it takes my mind of studying. If I relax for myself, I need lots of tea and cookies. So basically I sit back with a show on Netflix and eat sweets!

I live in Skejby, which is really far away. So when I was studying for the exam, I just took a walk in the area because I wanted to get some fresh air. There is this place with a bench, it's kind of a secluded spot. So I just sat and enjoyed the sunshine, listened to music and sang out really loud. There is also a board game café that's quite different from a bar. It's very calm and nice, everyone is just playing board games and enjoying it."





Petra Vrablicová, 24, Slovakia



Journalism and Media Across Cultures. University of Hamburg Languages: English, Slovak, Spanish, some German

Email: vrablicova.petra@gmail.com

11 There are three things [I do to relax]. The first I one is baking and cooking. I like to cook and share food with other people. Especially, when I'm stressed (like before the [last] exam). I also love to go for a coffee in town—my hobby is to find new cafés every time with a new atmosphere. I also love taking pictures in Aarhus. I love the city, it's really beautiful. Then there's a fourth one, the most important one actually. I just go somewhere and talk to people. I think it is really important to share your emotions and thoughts and to know that you are not the only one with certain feelings. I also like to learn from the people here; we come from so many different backgrounds, so we have a lot to learn from each other.

I come from a background in law, which was a lot more stressful than this. Almost all our exams were oral. We had 15 minutes to prepare before the exam, and 15 minutes in the exam. So now I enjoy having more time to prepare things."



ygge

s you may have read from lots of websites or books hygge is Danish concept of a cozy mood which goes hand in hand with good feelings and contentedness. However, it's better to hear from people who have already experienced it and can share what it's like for those who are not familiar with the concept.

Nanna Vedel-Hertz, 24, Denmark

War and Conflict, Swansea University Languages: Danish, English Email: vedel-hertz@outlook.dk

like it."

It is always so hard to explain what hygge is, because it is such a personal feeling and I do think that it's something that is not exclusive to Denmark, but everybody does it. The funny thing is that a lot of people associate hygge with candles, cozy blanket or hot cocoa, which can surely be hygge, but it is more about feeling comfortable and just being with the people with whom you feel completely relaxed.

You can also do it alone, although I think it's not so fun. Just take your time to not feel pressured or obliged to be anything you are not as self-love or self-care. It could seem that we invented it here, in Denmark, but I don't think so. However, it was hyped as a trend which is going against things we otherwise do in daily life as Instagram perfection and others. But I don't completely understand this hype because it's misleading in the sense that it's something which takes a lot to do. I don't think you have to. It's natural to most people in different ways as a lazy morning, movie night or creative day with friends and I really



Kathryn Lam, 24, United States

Journalism and Media across Cultures, University of Hamburg Languages: English, French Email: kathrynw.lam@gmail.com

don't know enough Danish students to fully understand hygge from their point of view, but somehow it happened that the daughter of my mom's neighbor had an au-pair from Denmark 25 years ago who is living now with her family 20 minutes away from Aarhus. So, I wrote to her and met her family. Thus, I experienced Danish hospitality and warm welcoming which I associate with hygge. For me the concept of hygge is very similar to the Hawaiian aloha spirit—an open armed welcoming environment which I grew up with, and it was one of the reasons why I didn't hesitate to contact these people. It's normal to want to help [people] out and give them connection to a new place where they've never been before.

I have experienced this type of hygge my entire life, every single day with my family and friends. It follows me the whole life. I don't necessarily think it's only a Danish thing. Every country has something like that, you only need to find right people who embrace the concept. Plus, I love candles and baking for people, what I do at least once a week."

Kim Yánez, 25, Venezuela

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Languages: Spanish, English Email: kimyanezolivero@gmail.com

ygge for me is coziness, but it is also comfort, relaxation and minimizing the issues you have, once you are at home with some candles and people that you care about. We have something similar in

Venezuela—"tertulia". Every Friday, we stay inside, talk, relax, and see each other. But still I think that the way the hygge is in Denmark is so unique. I don't think you can find it anywhere else. It means lighting some candles, listening to music and having a good time, but the energy is unique. I cannot even compare it. I think Danes like comfort and schedule the time for it.

In most countries, we don't have that! We prioritize work and don't pay attention how to spoil ourselves. Actually, I think my first encounter with hygge was when we entered the cafeteria in the DMJX and it was decorated so nicely. It was not so much a cafeteria for me but a five star restaurant. But the most "hyggely" moment for me is having dinner with friends here. But I do hygge also for myself, especially if I need to bike and I am exhausted, then hygge is natural think to do. I will make some tea or coffee, wear cute socks and light candles. I do it almost every day now."

Mundusians came from far and wide...

What were the most important things they brought with them from home?

Lucky underwear Play Station 4 **Books** Bible Pillow **Decorations Huge blanket** Raincoat **Decorations** Bike Tiger onesie Guitar Hair dryer Hair dryer Camera Souvenir from Nicaragua's Moroccan tea set Speakers current revolution Notebook and pen **Photographs** Car Sanitary pads Large mug Play station 4 Coffee machine **Rock-climbing shoes** Clothes

Togster Venezuelan flag

Hair products

Some advice from our "hyggely" Mundusians:

Nanna: "This course is not the only thing in the world, although it's so intense. **Don't lose perspective** even if you don't understand [what's going on], because there are other things in which you are good at."

Positive attitude

Kathryn: "It's all about you and your attitude to the people around you. You can always invite people and cook something from home for them. You'll feel less

homesick because, you'll be sharing something with them and bond with them and look—you have your "aloha-hygge" spirit there!"

Kim: "Be open to change and love, even if you are stressed, because the safest place is this international bubble we are in and we need to enjoy it. And buy vitamin D!"



Bernarda Carranza, 25, Ecuador

Johanna Pankow, 25, Germany



Journalism and Media across Cultures, University of Hamburg Email: bernicar93@gmail.com Languages: English, Spanish

Sometimes it's easy to think that your opinion is better, but you should take the time and understand why the person chooses to work this way or has a particular opinion.

The experience so far has been great, and I learned a lot. The most important thing is that I met so many people from different countries and different backgrounds. The study culture in Ecuador is completely different, you have a lot of work during semester and final exam and all of that counts to grade, but I haven't had so much experience in groups actually, because I used to work on my own. So, the experience here is interesting for me, because I am learning from other people. At first, it was a little bit annoying because you need to find time for meetings and it isn't always a time which works best for you. But it's important to be open for working in the groups and not closing yourself off, because otherwise you cannot see contribution, what's there for you. Also, don't get lazy, if you think that only final exam counts, because group work is there for you to understand how to approach the exam. More importantly, the main point of group work is the group so realize that there are people who count on you and you need to care."

Time management is everything! And also, don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and admit that you were wrong.

I love the academic environment here, it's very inspirational, warm welcoming and diverse! I had only one library back home with chairs and tables, but nothing colorful was there. When it comes to the people here, everybody is super helpful and study groups are very nice because of the different approaches. Everybody wants to help you and share some insights from his or her own country. So, you get to know other people way better, because with 80 people it is hard sometimes to talk to a person. But, in a group, you have time for small chats about life, which is amazing. The group work with strangers is also new to me. The groups are formed not according to your preferences like in Germany, where you work mostly with your closest friends because you can form a group on your own. Instead, you are thrown into a group whether you already are friends with the people there or not. But there is not a single person who I wouldn't like to work with."



Journalism and Media across Cultures, University of Hamburg Email: pankow.johanna@gmail.com Languages: English, German, Spanish, Swedish



Cady Annette Rasmussen, 23 Denmark, USA, Canada

Media and Politics, University of Amsterdam Email: cady@cajo.dk

Languages: English, Danish, knows some German

The first month may seem very hard, but once it is over you will have a lot of time to feel that you can breathe again and you find group work really handy.

We are so different that this mixture makes the programme very dynamic as I found. To compare with my previous studies of communications in Copenhagen, here the group work is placed mostly in your free time. During the first month you have very long days, [but] you get to know what is considered a "normal way" of working with others", although it can be strange for you. You get a lot more feedback also, than if you were on your own. You simply cannot get stuck in your own way of thinking. But if the group work is something what you don't get used to, it can be overwhelming and therefore try hard not to step on others' toes. It can take some time to figure out the way of working together in a comfortable way, so don't hurry with jumping over the first moves in getting to know each other. It's fun, so my advice is to not forget about the social part of being in the group, although you will have short deadlines. It's a good opportunity to learn about new places rather than read the textbook. So, allow yourself to be happy."



Laura Naïma Kabelka 23, Austria

Journalism and Media across Cultures, University of Hamburg Email: laura.kabelka@gmail.com Languages: English, German, Spanish, currently learning Danish

Try your best and be patient. You only need to go on the meeting and find out what will function.

There is a 100% difference between my previous studies in Vienna and my current studies in Aarhus. Back home we had different components of the grade, but here only the final paper counts, so some people can feel less motivated to do the readings and group work on full blast. So maybe don't think about grades so much but rather about what you want to learn and

develop. You should bear in mind that everybody is from a different country, so you shouldn't be offended by something or offend somebody. The difficult part about study groups is also to find balance between speaking too little or too much and between people, because usually there are one or two more dominant people and then people who don't want to make clashes at all, not even in a debate. I personally always take the role as mediator between people, if necessary, so we can produce good results and so everybody feels comfortable. One recommendation is to be prepared for the group work, because otherwise it's just not fair for the group and another one is to prepare yourself [mentally] - it takes longer but jib9 isn't wasting of your time in any case."



Shocks & surprises

No matter how well travelled one is, living in a new city in a whole new country in a completely different continent (we'll stop there) comes with its own set of pros and cons. We're giving a sneak peek into the lives of a few Mundusians who were in for a pleasant (and sometimes unpleasant) surprise on their arrival in the "City of Smiles".

Melon (Dan Zhang) Cheung,22, China

Business and Financial Journalism, City University of London Email: meloncheung01@gmail.com Languages: Mandarin and English

★ oving to Aarhus has been a "challeng-Ving but good opportunity" for Melon, who moved from the bustling city of Beijing. What she recollects as disappointing rather than shocking upon first arriving in Aarhus was the lack of signs and public information boards in English! Thank God/Google for the Google Translate app, right? In big metropolitan cities like Guangzhou and Beijing, she was used to a different kind of energy and vibe so the second largest city of Denmark came across a bit as a "small village". Yet, Melon reasons that living in a foreign country is unlike travelling there as a tourist. It's not all a sad story. The upside is that once you find something familiar it's easier to adapt. Locating IKEA in Aarhus helped anchor her. Besides that, she is pleasantly surprised about the welcoming nature of Mundusians and their warm style of greeting one another—"you don't just wave and go. You have to engage in small talk. I especially like the hugs."

Karem Nerio Benavides, 26, Mexico

War and Conflict, Swansea University, Wales Email: karemnerio@gmail.com Languages: Spanish, English, Italian and some Latin

At 26, you don't start all over again. It's hard...
but it's worth it. The programme is dreamy." Karem has been out and about the world since she was 15. She jokes: "We don't have a family doctor; we have a family travel agent!" Coming from Mexico, she has much to contrast with life in Denmark which she fondly refers to as a "fairy-tale country". What has amazed her most is the public transportation system which is entirely trust-based (no bus conductors to check your tickets!). Not to forget, the biking culture which also allows children and mothers with their infants to cycle safely. The overall sense of security shared by the society is admirable. She is also delighted to see how self-sufficient the Danish students in her dormitory are. It is incredible that students younger than her were baking their own bread and cooking so well. Talking about eating habits, she is impressed that the university cafeterias like the one at the Danish School of Media and Journalism serve proper and healthy meals—no greasy burgers and pizzas, like back home.

Judith Fortunova-Russell, 22 United States of America, Bulgaria

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The first day I came here, my immediate reac-I tion was 'I hate this place'," Judith recounts. She was upset by the "formalities" and the strict deadlines for everything. Time was her biggest culture shock. The inflexibility of timings for offices, stores and customer service was something that bothered her greatly. She isn't a fan of the weather either with the ominous rain being a "sign that [she's] going to hate this place or that [it] is going to hate [her]." But she has decided to try and make her peace with it as she says "you are the foreigner here so you're expected to adjust". There wasn't really much of the American-European culture clash as some would expect either. However, she is still trying to wrap her mind around the "friendly yet cold" demeanour of most Danish folks and finds it difficult to interpret this "distant friendliness". At the same time, she feels a kind of safety and comfort within this society as she adds that she wouldn't feel in danger at all if she walked down a dark street at 3am!



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