

2025-2027

# THE MUNDUSIAN





# CONTENTS

## Introduction

Credits - 1  
Editor's Note - 3

## Fashion & Functionality

Between rain and color:  
Finding home through  
fashion - 07  
Swapfits: Rediscovering  
Identity- 11  
Functional Fashion: Nothing  
is sexier than being safe -  
29  
The 10-Krone Closet: Living  
Danish on a  
Student Budget - 41  
Commodified Culture: When  
Minimalism and Appropria-  
tion Collide - 45

## Belonging

Where is home in Aarhus?  
- 56  
Growing Outwards, Growing  
Younger:  
Aarhus's Quiet Evolution -  
62  
How to make friends in  
Aarhus - 64  
Call a friend - 67  
We cannot turn back in time  
but we can return to  
university - 69

## Deep Cuts

Circuskroner that bar that  
brings out the clown in you  
- 73  
Game. Set. Mundus Tennis  
Club. - 75  
How to survive Friday bars  
as a Mundusian?- 77  
Øst for Paradis, Where Cine-  
ma Meets Culture - 83  
Finding calm:  
Sauna 85 - 84  
Inside Aarhus Dorms: Shared  
Kitchens, Shared Hearts- 85

## Culture

From Silence to Friday Bars:  
The Cultural Journey of-  
Mundusians in Aarhus - 92  
A Journey Through  
Aarhus's Food - 97  
The Dizziness of Freedom:  
Søren Kierkegaard's Philo-  
sophy  
Applied to Journalism - 105  
FOLKLORES Across Cultures  
- 107

## The Mundusians

20 years of EMJ - 112  
Who are we? - 123  
If you want to find us - 173

# CREDITS



*Design: Ana Klara  
Anna Drew*



*Social Media: Martha  
Mathias Leo Betty Mahak  
Luísa Saadain*



*Writers: Shahmir Bia  
Lara Yash Mahak Saadain  
Fernanda Sara Vadim Max  
Faisal Reema Habibe Anas-  
tasia Himadyuthi Shubhangi  
Andrea Kaitlin Salomé Lin  
Sarah Shreya*

*Photography: Til  
Nicolas Nora Shreya  
Emma Ayush Yash  
Faisal*



# Dear reader,

We are so happy to see you on our pages and to welcome you into our little Mundusian world.

With this Blue Book, we invite you to explore the multifaceted and dynamic world of the Mundus Cohorts 2025–27 in Aarhus. Think of it as a window into the life of the Mundus Family—an opportunity to glimpse the everyday moments, challenges, and discoveries that shape this year’s cohort as they settle into their new home. When we first learned about the BlueBook, our classroom of more than forty students came together to create a project that would represent the eighty-eight incredible souls who make up this cohort, channeling their passion and dedication to capture their first impressions and evolving understanding of life in Aarhus.

Aarhus is becoming a place that will define us before we head off to our specialisations. From discovering the best hot dog spots to embracing hygge and finding a home away from home, we have truly championed the notion of a “found family.” This year’s cohort is unlike any other. While we represent 39 nations, we all share a strong journalistic spirit and an unwavering zeal to shake things up.

With this thought, we created The Bluebook, a reflection of our journey and our shared spirit, with the goal of giving a good representation of what the first year as a Mundusian will look like, hoping to offer an insightful guide for you to better anticipate your first Mundusian journey. We embraced the intertwined cultural fabric of Aarhus, weaving it together with each of our own cultures and traditions.

We didn’t try to simply fit into Aarhus or the Danish way of life; instead, we aimed to create a unique blend that beautifully represents all of us. Through the stories and voices in these pages, we’ve tried to capture how each of us has interpreted Danish life in our own distinct way, sometimes with curiosity, sometimes with awe, but always with heart.

As the Editors-in-Chief, we are immensely proud of the work our team has put in after weeks of relentless effort. This year, we strived to be systematic while nurturing the collaborative spirit that defines our cohort. We hope this edition reflects the excitement, joy, and sense of wonder we brought to Aarhus, and we’re thrilled for the world, especially the next cohort, to experience it.

We wish you a wonderful read – and if you’re an applicant, good luck on your journey! You’re about to embark on two incredible years filled with enthusiasm, inspiration, collaboration, and friendship you will never forget.

# EDITOR’S NOTE

YOUR BLUE  
BOOK TEAM



TERESA BIGIOLI  
&  
ANKITA BAJANYA

*A myriad of cultures bring a myriad of styles. Clashes of grey with orange hues, the balance of flow versus the rigidity of shape, the beauty of patterns against the stability of solids. Welcome, to the Fashion and Functionality section!*

*In this section, we take you on a journey of ideas, emotions and vibes all over the world! We start with the infamous Scandinavian style and how our fellow Mundusians add their glitz and glamor into the grey skies of Aarhus. Then, we head into an experiment to further explore the differences between cultures and individuals. We discuss the functionality of fashion by veering into the territory of road safety and the importance (and glamour) of the essential helmets. We then explore the ubiquitous "help yourself" shops which offer the bounty of Scandinavian fashion for affordable prices and we finally end it back where we started by discussing the ramifications of cultural appropriation in Scandinavian style.*

*You will gain insights and first-hand accounts of how fashion and style help us express who we are - a language unique to every individual. But most of all, you will go through a vibrant and engaging journey with each page offering you a glimpse and profound epiphanies into the soul of lifestyle art. A journey that will illuminate your perspective of design and change how you view fashion forever.*

# FASHION & FUNCTIONALITY

# BETWEEN RAIN AND COLOR: FINDING HOME THROUGH FASHION

On a grey morning in Aarhus, the streets are filled with picture-perfect silhouettes. If Denmark had a national uniform, it would look like this: an oversized coat, grey or white comfy sneakers, and lots and lots of layers. Shoes are another giveaway of a Danish wardrobe. White sneakers are everywhere, and Birkenstocks (with wool socks, of course) are a favorite. Not to forget the Hawaiians paired with wide, blue Adidas pants and a chunky, big sweater, even if it rains.

Rikke, one of the two Danish students in our cohort, describes her style as “Bratzy, quirky-meets-feminine, and color-coordinated.” Her style is less “Danish” than the prototype Scandi-style we think about. Rikke finds inspiration in playful, nostalgic, and slightly exaggerated fashion, reminiscent of the early 2000s with a modern twist. “A lot of my Danish friends say: ‘That’s so Rikke’ whenever they see something Bratz-like or in my style”. Her unique style is reflected in her hobby: thrifting. “It’s different in the way that most of my clothes and items are thrifted, so it stands out in a unique way, it’s not something you can just go out and buy.”

*“A lot of my Danish friends say: ‘That’s so Rikke’ whenever they see something Bratz-like or in my style”.*

Thrifting and second-hand shopping are a big part of the Aarhus student culture, where beautiful high-neck knits and coats are golden finds. Her love for second-hand fashion started back home in South Denmark, where she began collecting unique pieces. “Some of my most treasured items are the ones I found while thrifting in my hometown,” she says.

She’s also noticed how fashion from the Erasmus Mundus cohort differs from typical Danish student style. “A lot of people from the cohort dress like the youth and young adults from places like Berlin, especially the kind of style that’s really trendy in Copenhagen’s Nørrebro,” she observes.



08

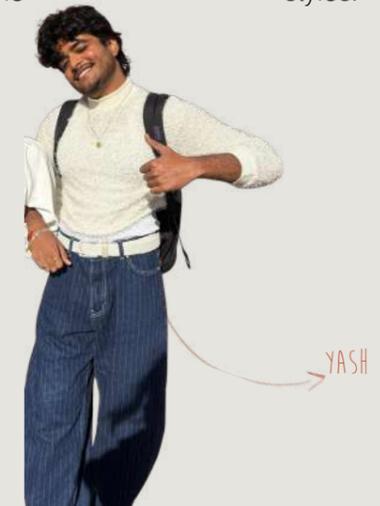
With international students in town, you’ll see fashion that blends into the scandi-style: traditional patterns paired with a trench coat, football jerseys under padded jackets, or berets floating over colorful shirts. The Berlin-inspired aesthetic adds yet another layer of style diversity to Aarhus’s fashion landscape.

While some choose to become a “scandi girl or boy” in the fashion sense, others embrace their bright colours and patterns from home. The mix of cultures makes Aarhus fashion an ongoing conversation between styles.

One example of breaking through the beige sea of coats and Denmark’s grey weather is Maram, who describes her style as “colorful and driven by joy”. Usually, Maram wears bright colors and patterns, and when moving to Denmark, she noticed people staring at her a lot. She mentions that she found herself checking whether she had something on her face. But then she realized, it’s “really just the shock of color” in a grey and beige landscape. Even if something stands out a lot, like a big green ring her grandma gave her, Maram said she still keeps wearing it, because it holds too much feeling to leave behind. To her, it is to carry a piece of home and connect her to her roots.



Yash, another Mundusian, is “really attracted to colors” and feels like he can represent them through his fashion. Fashion for him is also a sense of liberation: “I felt like in India I had to hide my queer identity, so I dressed in muted colors like black and white, and here I feel like I am free to express my identity, so I just want to be as free as I can possibly be. I like to try out things I would never wear in India, to blend both the masculine and feminine styles.”



*“I felt like in India I had to hide my queer identity, so I dressed in muted colors like black and white, and here I feel like I am free to express my identity, so I just want to be as free as I can possibly be.”*

Ruth, too, embraces color in her everyday style. “Expressive and colorful,” she says, when asked to describe her fashion in a few words. “As a woman of color, I love to rock popping colored dresses. I express my art and sense of fashion through prints with my African fabrics called Ankara, typically found in the Western African region.” In Aarhus, her style naturally stands out. “The African style and fashion are alien to a typical Dane,” she explains. One of the most meaningful pieces Ruth owns is Aso Oke, a traditional fabric from Western Nigeria, often worn during celebrations by the Yoruba people. “It’s made of different weaves and thread types, and it can come in a variety of colors and styles,” she says, while adding that these unique prints “match and accentuate her skin shade”. While it’s traditionally worn at ceremonies, it’s recently found a place in more contemporary fashion, even in office wear. “It connects me deeply to home,” Ruth adds.



RUTH

*“As a woman of color, I love to rock popping colored dresses. I express my art and sense of fashion through prints with my African fabrics called Ankara, typically found in the Western African region.”*

Another Mundusian, Clara, lived in Copenhagen before moving to Aarhus, and for her, vintage shopping has become her all-time favourite. Clothing from Argentina, where she is from, never made her feel comfortable. As a younger person, it was either too low quality or simply didn’t suit her. Shopping was a struggle, especially online, because you never really knew what to expect when ordering. “For the longest time,” she says, “I took fashion as something you just had to do, because you have to wear something.”

Moving to Denmark changed that. “The biggest and most beautiful change about moving to Europe was finding so many options and brands that are playful and nice, and that actually fit.” Here, she finally felt like clothes could be fun, not just necessary. For instance, she started wearing skirts in Denmark because they fit nicely, something that never felt right back home. Vintage stores, in particular, helped her discover and build her own style. She still wears jeans but has learned the art of layering, and now loves pairing oversized shirts with small tops underneath.

Her Argentinian identity and style have adapted to Danish trends, but she still holds on to some classics: “Argentines are known for wearing all black,” she says, “and I definitely keep that style.”

**Written by Sarah Baksyte**  
**Photos edited by Nora Chen**



CLARA

***“Argentines are known for wearing all black,” she says, “and I definitely keep that style.”***

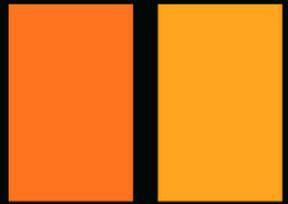
*Written by Yash Shingan*

# SWAPFITS: *REDISCOVERING IDENTITY*

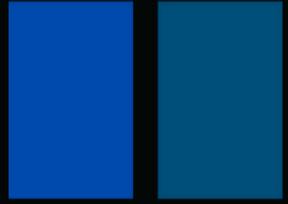
**F**ashion is more than just the way we look; it's the way we navigate the world. Our clothes describe the things we like, the things we hate, the colors, shapes, and patterns that attract and mesmerize us. Our wardrobes are mirrors that shimmer and reflect parts of us. What we choose to wear in the morning gives a glimpse into our very souls and who we believe ourselves to be. This is precisely why everyone has their own unique sense of style, even those who claim not to care about fashion.

But what would happen if we switched our styles in favor of someone else's? Would we learn something new about them? About us? This is the question that I sought to answer with my little experiment. You have no doubt heard about the popular bike rental "Swapfiets". I decided to take inspiration and name my experiment "Swapfits" where I got 8 people in our cohort (including me) to swap fits with someone who has a different sense of style than them. Curious how it turned out? Let's find out!

# GREG'S STYLE



SCRUFFY CHIC



SUBTLY ELECTIC

EFFORTLESSLY ICONIC

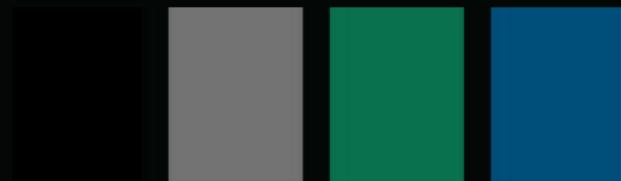


*"I lowkey f\*\*\* with cargo pants." - Greg, UK*



SURFER

DANISH ACADEMIA



STREET STYLE

# TIL'S STYLE

Til and Greg's styles are pieces that represent the environments that shaped them. Til's colors are muted and elegant, representing the effortless beauty of his home in Bonn, Germany whereas Greg's style is loud and bold, showcasing the beautiful chaos of London and Dublin. As Til told me, "My clothes tell a story about the places I've been. I like to buy things from wherever I visit because it's another way for me to connect with my experiences. I got a lot of cool stuff in California and I honestly had a blast there. I truly feel my best when I'm wearing something comfortable that I feel confident in. I mostly get my clothes from thrifting and I really like to combine used pieces with new ones."

Greg, on the other hand, likes to turn the ordinary into extraordinary. "I painted the shirt I brought for Swapfits myself. I also like to thrift sometimes, and I don't like online shopping because you can never know how it will fit you. Honestly, shapes play a big role for me when I style my fits. I feel my best when I have freedom of movement and most importantly, when I feel like I've made an effort in how pieces from my wardrobe look together".

I knew that this Swapfit was going to be electric. And boy, was I right! Immediately, I could feel Greg embracing the elegance of Til's style and Til becoming bolder by the second while dressed as Greg. It was impressive to see how much switching clothes had changed the way Til and Greg presented themselves. In the end, Til told me that he will incorporate more flowy elements into his clothes going forward. Greg told me that his takeaway was that he "lowkey fucks with cargo pants".

16

# POST-SWAP



What better way to show how our clothes reflect our identities than to have two people who dress like polar opposites swap fits? This was exactly the case with Luisa and Clara, which made them a fun pair for the experiment. Luisa from Brazil celebrates her heritage by utilizing every color in the rainbow while Clara from Argentina embraces the sleek and stylish shades of black.

When selecting her clothes, Luisa likes to focus on the colors and quality of the material. "I used to dress in mostly black until I had my color analysis done, which opened a whole new range of colors for me to play with that suited my skin tone. I got a lot of my clothes back home in Brazil, but I also love going to department stores and shopping online. I truly feel like myself when I wear clothes that express my personality, fit the occasion and keep a part of me in every look. Everything that I wear is carefully thought through and curated."



EXPERIMENTAL

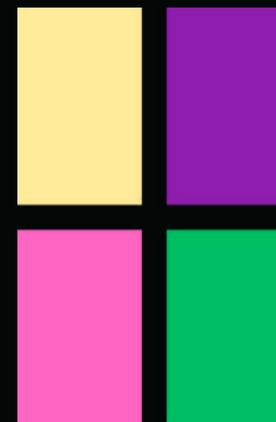
A LIL' CLASSIC A LIL' TOMBOY A LIL' SEXY



CLARA'S STYLE

LUISA'S  
STYLE

COLORFUL SPRINGTIME COTTAGECORE



FLORAL ELEGANT COMFORTABLE



Meanwhile, color is the last thing that Clara looks at when deciding on her clothes. "I always prefer to focus on the shape when creating my fit and I love making it interesting by layering different types of clothing. That's why I prefer to get my clothes from Scandinavian brand stores and a little bit of thrifting because I believe in buying less and using them more by styling them with different pieces. I feel like myself when I'm combining both masculine and feminine elements in my clothing, like a skirt with combat boots, because it helps me to flirt with the line between being edgy/alternative and conforming to social style."

# 19

The intensity of this Swapfit was apparent in my dumbfounded expression as I saw Clara and Luisa walk out of the changing room. It was so disorienting to see them in each other's styles, a complete 180 from their original styles. Clara's appearance became the physical embodiment of sunshine and Luisa's became the sultry femme fatale. Luisa told me that this change made her feel out of her comfort zone but empowered at the same time. She said, "I feel very sensual and like I'm rediscovering myself. I am definitely going to give black clothes a chance in the future. I've learnt that I need to be more open-minded to trying new types of clothing and I feel like I've learnt a lot about myself. I'm going to incorporate more oversized coats, skirts and tight tank tops in my aesthetic now."

The comfort of Luisa's aesthetic was not lost on Clara. "This outfit is so comfortable and playful, it brings me a lot of joy. You can't help but be happy after seeing these colors; I feel like I'm in Brazil! Luisa's aesthetic has transported me there directly. I feel like I've learnt that it's okay to try something new every once in a while. Who knows, you might see me wearing more colors in the future."

## POST-SWAP



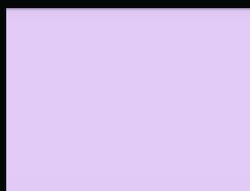
# 21

Rikke and Lara have styles that don't quite contradict each other but also don't exist in the same worlds. It can be said that their styles are complementary, but their origins are completely different. Rikke, from Denmark, has a very distinctive style that doesn't match the usual Danish lookbook. "When choosing a look, I focus on the color first and the shape second. I usually get my clothes from thrift shops, flea markets, Zara, Bershka and Pull&Bear. I love dressing like the Bratz dolls; they have a really unique and edgy sense of style that resonates with me. I feel my best when I'm wearing something comfortable that combines both old and new pieces."



BRATZCORE QUIRKY + FEMININE

METALLIC

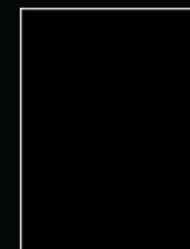


## RIKKE'S STYLE



## LARA'S STYLE

SLIGHTLY ALTERNATIVE SKATER



8 YEAR OLD BOY DIVINE FEMININE

Lara, from Spain, also likes to focus on shape opting for pieces that are either very tight or very loose, accentuating the silhouette. "I always focus on the shape first rather than the color, because I like to play with dramatic differences. I get all my clothes by inheriting them from family and friends, as presents or stuff I buy from thrift stores, Bershka and Zara. I have this idea of the duality of confidence – the 'Hunter' confidence that I get from wearing feminine pieces, like a lioness on the prowl and the 'Bro' confidence that I get from wearing masculine pieces where I feel like one of the guys. I feel my best when I have a mix of these confidences where I feel attractive and feminine while also looking a bit masculine."

# POST-SWAP

The result of this Swapfit was like a breeze of fresh air. Rikke and Lara's outfits complemented each other extremely well and I could see their eyes sparkle with new revelations. Lara felt like a real-life Bratz doll. She said, "I feel both powerful and fabulous because this outfit is giving me both 'Bro' and 'Hunter' confidence. The mix of masculine and feminine is perfect for me and it has opened my eyes to alternative ways of expressing my signature style. I think I am going to take more risks with my outfits and combine different colors and patterns. I love these clothes that are striking, because of their intricate details and patterns."

This love for patterns was echoed by Rikke who commented, "I love this lace frill and design, I want to incorporate these 'blondas' into my fashion. I feel like I'm on vacation on a beach in Spain and I love this vibe. I have learned that it is really nice to be cute and comfortable. I feel very cutesy in this flowy dress, like I'm made of sunlight."

*"I feel both powerful and fabulous because this outfit is giving me both 'Bro' and 'Hunter' confidence."* - Lara, Spain



After seeing three Swapfits, it was time to immerse myself completely in the experience and take this journey of rediscovery to the next step – by doing a Swapfit myself. For this, I chose Naz, a fellow Mundusian from Iran known for their signature style which is super cool. To Naz, clothes are more than just fashion; they are a way for them to affirm their identity. “I truly feel like myself when I’m wearing clothes that feel aligned with my perspective of gender. I usually get my clothes from my dad’s closet, thrift stores and Reflect studio in Istanbul. When choosing an outfit, vibes are important to me because I like going for old man vibes or little boy vibes.”

This was very different from the way I approached my outfits where I would go for the most outrageous thing I could find and incorporate it into street fashion. For me, fashion is all about making a statement, and I love standing out from the crowd. Growing up as a queer person in India, I often felt like I had to restrain and subdue myself to avoid being mocked or abused. That’s why I feel the need to take every opportunity I have and enjoy the freedom I have earned. You can always find me at a thrift shop buying the most unique/weird item possible. I like to buy clothing that can be versatile and go with many different pieces in my closet but every once in a while, I will splurge on an extravagant piece.

## YASH'S STYLE

ACCENTUATED SILHOUETTE  
MAXIMALIST EXTRAVAGANT



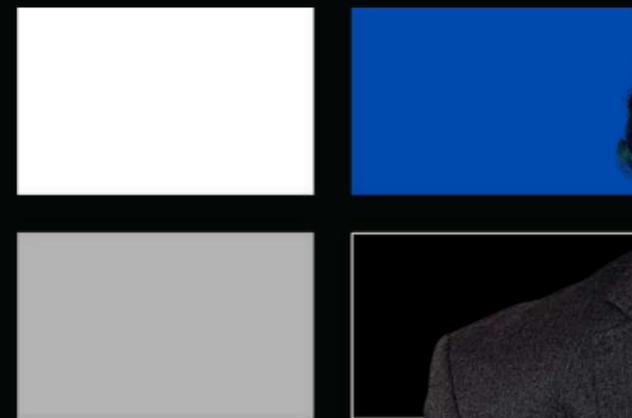
FLORAL INVENTIVE CREATIVE



25

## NAZ'S STYLE

GRANDPA SITTING OUTSIDE HIS SHOP DRINKING IRANIAN CHAI



LITTLE BOY ALWAYS RECTANGLE



# POST-SWAP



After the Swapfit, I could feel the comfort and elegance in Naz's clothes washing over me. I learnt that there is a subtle beauty in grey, a color which I usually avoid like the plague. I felt very elegant and dignified. Naz, on the other hand, felt both pretty and pretty uncomfortable. "I didn't feel the best because I knew that deep down, it wasn't me. This experiment made me realize that I like the clothes I wear for a reason. But it was interesting to try something new. Maybe I might include a pop of red in the future in my outfits. Not anytime soon, though."

And I agree with Naz. Our clothes are essential to the way we feel about ourselves. Fashion is the language through which we communicate with everyone who sees us. Some of us scream to be heard, some of us just say a quiet 'hello', but one thing is for certain – this language will always be unique to us and our self-expression. Throughout the experiment, fellow Mundusians discovered what styles suit them, how the other person styles their outfits and navigates the world. But the biggest takeaway for everyone was rediscovering themselves and their identities through someone else's eyes. And what is fashion, if not a way to find ourselves in the chaos of society ?

# 29

I have lived in multiple cities and have always been a passionate biker. It has to be the most European means of transport. But before moving to Aarhus, I rarely saw anyone wearing a helmet on their bikes (with the exception of middle aged men on biking tours). Here though, everyone wears one. It only took one ride from my student dorm down to the city center (flying downhill with zero control) to realize why. If a car had suddenly pulled out from the side, I wouldn't have stood a chance!

However, when I started wearing my helmet I felt so silly. Like a child learning to ride or one of the aforementioned middle aged men. Some of my classmates making fun of my new accessory did not help the situation. Regardless, I persevered. And, as I found ways to feel cool while wearing my new helmet, I couldn't help but notice more and more of my peers following my example and getting themselves a helmet.

Instead of depending on my own experience, I decided to ask my fellow Mundusians: What makes you feel sexy when wearing a helmet?

**FUNCTIONAL FASHION**  
**- NOTHING IS SEXIER**  
**THAN BEING SAFE**



***“I feel sexy when wearing a helmet by adding a pop of colour to it. My helmet’s pink and I happen to own a lot of pink clothes. Wearing a colour that I really like and sort of like playing around with matching it with different things that I’m wearing. I have a pink watch, my phone is pink, and I have this little pink bow attached to my bike, which not only looks cute but also helps me identify my bike among all the Swapflets.” - MARAM, JORDAN / PALESTINE***





*“I decided to buy a helmet after Klara told me that she’d witnessed a crash where someone got seriously injured. They weren’t wearing a helmet, and you know a helmet could really make a difference if you had a serious fall. It was absolutely worth it.” –  
JACKLYN, AUSTRALIA / THE  
NETHERLANDS*



*"I think that safety is always sexy. You know, you look silly for a little bit wearing a helmet. I'm not going to deny the fact that it's not a particularly chic accessory. But you would look even sillier if you were to get a brain injury because you weren't wearing a helmet. Short-term pain for long-term gain."*

*"Within a day of me buying a helmet, I was cycling home, I fell, and skidded across the roadway. While I was okay, I was so thankful that I was wearing a helmet because I was really injured. It was really nice to know that I didn't have any head injuries. You know, your skin will heal, but if you get a concussion or a brain injury of any form, that's a lot more serious."*





*“I think feeling sexy and wearing a helmet is a contradiction in itself. But I think it is one of those things that you have to learn and grow from. In the beginning I was very apprehensive and I did not really want to buy a helmet. I lived in the Netherlands for a long time and there only German tourists wear helmets. But yeah, as it turns out I am German myself, so I cannot fight the urge to be correct and fit into the crowd. It was made very easy for me since all the Danes wear helmets too.” – MAX,*

*GERMANY*

*"So after three weeks I decided to go with the majority and started wearing a helmet. The helm is kind of a symbol of bridging my German side with Danish culture. Now I really like my helmet and I wear it with pride. It actually upgrades my outfit and adds a little bit of a flair."*



In the end, to my surprise, there were (and are) numerous ways to feel sexy when wearing a helmet. Sometimes, it helps to change your look by matching your outfits to your helmet. But oftentimes, it's really just a change of perspective. Wearing a helmet doesn't have to be nerdy and uncool. It can actually be quite the opposite! Helmets may never win a fashion award, but they do win where it really matters – safety. And honestly, nothing feels sexier than being safe.

*Written by Vadim Martschenko  
Photos by Klara Sachsenhauser*

# THE 10-KRONE CLOSET: LIVING DANISH ON A STUDENT BUDGET

Imagine walking down a Danish street when you spot a cozy sweater hanging on a rack, priced at just 10 Danish Krone, about the cost of a coffee! If you're a student on a budget, would you resist the urge to try it on? In Denmark, thrifting isn't just trendy; it's a clever way of life. Those clothes hanging on street racks? They're not for drying but part of Denmark's vibrant community second-hand markets. Locals hang their gently used clothes with price tags, and you can grab your favorites using mobile pay. Perfect for students looking to stretch their budgets!



**Written by Hanson Jiang**  
**Photos by Nicolas Lieback**

You might also come across charming wooden sheds along the sidewalks, which are second-hand resource houses. Inside, shelves are stocked with books, kitchenware, and more, all available for free – take it or leave it. By shopping here, you're not only saving money but also contributing to waste reduction and a smaller carbon footprint. It's a simple yet impactful way to adopt Denmark's eco-friendly mindset.

Beyond the practical savings, these practices reflect Denmark's spirit of community and sustainability. For international students, jumping into this culture isn't just about saving cash, it's about feeling at home. So next time you spot a sweater or browse a resource house, remember: you're not just shopping. You're living like a local and catching the Danish art of mindful living.



# COMMODIFIED CULTURE:

Written by Shreya Nair

Photos by Emma Szilasi

## WHEN MINIMALISM AND APPROPRIATION COLLIDE

Fashion has always been a creative outlet, a way for many of us to express identity, culture, and individuality. In recent years, Scandinavian fashion has gained massive traction, especially through the advent of platforms like TikTok and Instagram, where creators can showcase their minimalist yet experimental styles to global audiences.

These aesthetics have spread, and with that comes a wave of criticism. Communities across the Global South have begun to question how certain culturally significant garments have been rebranded into “Scandinavian fashion”, essentially stripped of their roots and repackaged as the next viral aesthetic, a label, or a “fashion statement.”



# A PERSPECTIVE ON EMBRACING MINIMALISM

Balancing practicality and experimentation is key in Scandinavian fashion. Comfort matters, but so does style and self-expression. As Rikke Huan Clemmesen explains, Scandinavian style is about “elevating the basics with layers.” Outfits like dresses or skirts worn over jeans have recently resurfaced and embody that spirit: creativity, grounded in simplicity.

However, this idea of “elevating the basics” sometimes crosses into borrowing from other cultures without any mention of its roots. What’s troubling isn’t the inspiration itself, but the lack of credit, the blatant deletion of cultural significance in the name of aesthetic innovation.

While appropriation isn’t always intentional, rebranding culturally significant pieces as “Scandinavian fashion” begs an uncomfortable question:

*Does fashion have to be European to be accepted or considered stylish?*

Many Danish and broader Scandinavian brands adopt non-European designs but overlook the stories attached to what they adopt, reinforcing the idea that validation in fashion only comes when the West approves.

# WHEN DID THE DUPATTA BECOME EUROPEAN?

Ankita Baidya best put it when she said, "Every time Western media rebrands a piece of fashion that's existed for centuries in my country (India) as something 'new,' it feels like watching someone erase its brown roots in real time. It's not innovation but aesthetic amnesia."

Fashion houses and social media influencers frequently present garments like the dupatta as newfound inventions rather than deeply rooted cultural symbols. This kind of rebranding echoes colonial patterns, only now it happens on runways under better lighting.

If you're going to borrow from another culture, acknowledge it. Don't erase the story behind it. As Ankita said,

***"Cultural appreciation is like being invited to dinner and complimenting the chef. Cultural appropriation is breaking into their kitchen, stealing the recipe, and selling it back to them for triple the price."***

Scandinavian brands can, and should do better. Instead of extracting, they could try collaborating: work with South Asian designers and immigrant communities within Scandinavia. That's how you can make fashion that's truly global and worthy.

# 49





# HAVAIANAS ARE NOT “COPENHAGEN SANDALS”

Scandinavian, particularly Danish, fashion has long been praised for merging aesthetics with accessibility, celebrating designs that are both functional and stylish. But sometimes, this “fusion” feels more like reinvention with selective memory.

As Mariana Passuello shared, Havaianas now seen as a quirky Scandinavian summer staple have been worn across Brazil for decades. To her, watching Danes treat them as exotic or novel is oddly amusing:

*“It’s funny to see people here act like they discovered Havaianas. We’ve been wearing them forever. Europeans are not the groundbreakers they think they are.”*

In Brazil, flip-flops aren’t a fashion statement; they’re a way of life. They symbolize ease, community, and comfort. They are worn at the beach, in the city, and at home.

As she explains, “Havaianas represent that transition between the sea, the sand, the city, and home. They’re not luxury items; they belong to everyone. I just wish people here understood the context before repackaging them.”

It’s a sentiment echoed across the Global South: while there is pride in seeing local culture recognized, there is also this sense of frustration in watching it stripped of meaning for aesthetic gain.

## ***APPRECIATION VS. APPROPRIATION- WHERE DO WE DRAW THE LINE?***

### **REALITY CHECK**

#### **Buy Local — Your Wallet Will Thank You**

In Denmark, when you order goods online from a business outside the EU, the price doesn't stop at checkout. You'll have to pay customs duty, VAT, and a carrier's fee on top of the product cost. On certain items like spirits, coffee, and sweets, special duties apply as well. In other words, shopping abroad can quickly become more expensive than expected. The smarter choice? Buy local. Goodbye Shein, hello thrift shop!

Appreciation means acknowledging and respecting the origins of fashion.

Appropriation means rebranding, repackaging, and reselling these origins for profit.

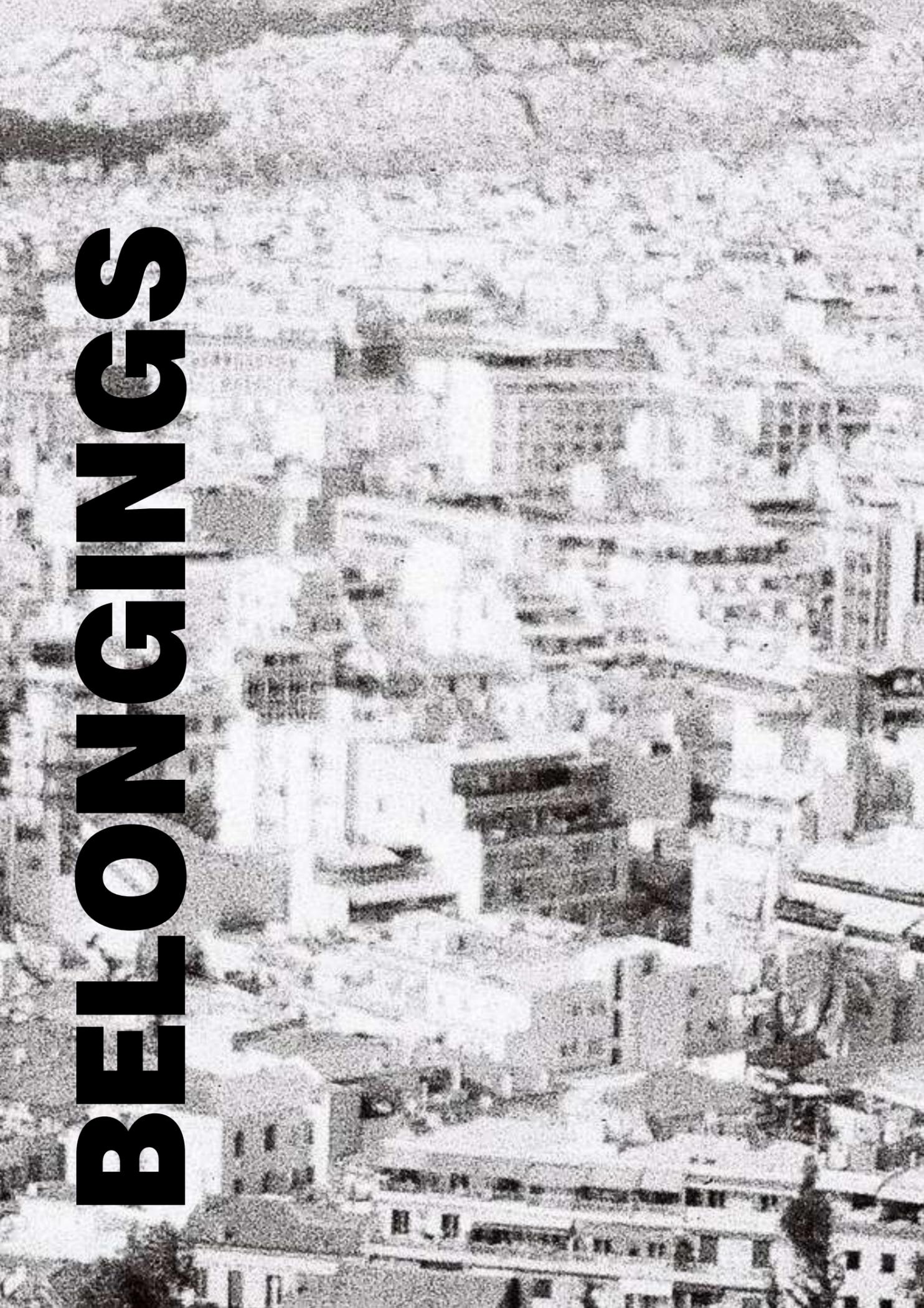
Some argue that these global reinterpretations celebrate diversity, that seeing Indian dupattas or Brazilian flip-flops on European runways is a sign of progress. But others see it for what it often is: the Western fashion industry redefining and profiting from underrepresented cultures.

So, the question remains:



*Are we going to let algorithms and trends dictate what shines in fashion, or will the Western world finally learn to look deeper, find meaning, and credit the roots that make fashion truly rich?*

# BELONGINGS

An aerial, black and white photograph of a city with a clear grid street pattern. The buildings are densely packed, and the perspective is from a high angle, looking down on the city.

— *take me home*

where is home in Aarhus?

MOVING TO ANOTHER CITY IS NOT EASY. IT MEANS LEAVING BEHIND FAMILY, FRIENDS, FAMILIAR STREETS, AND EVERY LEISURE CLUB YOU JOINED - EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER KNOWN IS GONE. MOVING TO ANOTHER COUNTRY IS EVEN HARDER, ESPECIALLY WHEN IN ANOTHER CONTINENT. OFTEN, IT MEANS YOU WILL CALL HOME A COUNTRY YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN TO, AND MOST LIKELY NEVER IMAGINED VISITING EITHER. LIKE DENMARK, FOR EXAMPLE, AND SPECIALLY ITS SECOND BIGGEST CITY, AARHUS. BUT TO THE NEW SURROUNDING YOU MIGHT ADJUST. PERHAPS THE HARDEST PART IS THE LANGUAGE. WITH SOME LUCK YOU CAN UNDERSTAND A FEW WORDS HERE AND THERE, OR THE GENERAL CONTEXT OF A CONVERSATION. BUT MOST OF THE TIME YOU ARE FAR FROM UNDERSTANDING LET ALONE SPEAKING IT. EVERY INTERACTION BECOMES A SMALL CHALLENGE — ORDERING COFFEE, ASKING FOR DIRECTIONS, EVEN GREETING A NEIGHBOUR. HOWEVER, OVER THE PAST 20 YEARS, MORE THAN 2000 MUNDUSIANS HAVE BEEN BRAVE ENOUGH TO START THIS NEW ADVENTURE — EXPERIENCING ALL ITS HIGHS AND LOWS, EXCITEMENT AND FEARS, HOPES OF SUCCESS AND RISK OF FAILURE. ENTHUSIASM AND NEW-MADE FRIENDSHIPS BECAME THE POWER THAT PUSHED THEM TO MASTER DAILY CHALLENGES AND UNCERTAINTY. EVENTUALLY, THE NEW CITY SLOWLY BECAME A HOME WHERE THEY COULD FIND COMFORT AND SHELTER. BUT AT SOME POINT, DESPITE THE EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES, EVERYONE MISSES THEIR FIRST HOME.

To face the distance from home, many found a way to recall their cities and countries within the many corners a versatile and international city like Aarhus offers. With you, we now share the places Mundusians of 2025-2027 embraced to fill the void of distance. We share the places that most feel like home - in Aarhus.

JACKLYN: DEN PERMANENTE BEACH

As an Australian, I'm used to eternally sun-soaked days - which is something I sorely miss in Denmark. I have found the shock of the cold plunge into the water at Den Permanente, then sitting in the sun sheltered from the wind, to be a moment of the warmth I crave, when it's seeping into my bones. The water around Aarhus feels deeply connected to me. Also, no matter how I'm feeling, when my body submerges in it, my whole mind clears. Sometimes, this is all the space it needs for a new perspective.

PLACES  
THAT  
FEEL  
LIKE  
HOME

CAROLINE: HARBOUR / DOCKLANDS

Coming from Boston, a maritime city in the United States — much like Aarhus — I find the docklands to be what reminds me of home the most. Back home, I would go to the harbour every day, especially because I've always been kind of fascinated by the weird beauty of the docklands. Aesthetically, they're not particularly attractive — they're usually quite run-down and industrial-looking. I kind of love the way that juxtaposes against the natural beauty of the water. In Boston, I would spend hours just walking up and down the docks, thinking, watching the ships go by, the cranes move boxes around, and the workers yelling. It became a place I could go to think, sort of calm down, and be in the moment.

NORA: THE FIELDS AROUND MELLERUP SKOV

The fields around Mellerup Skov reminded me of China, because, just like back at home, when the scene becomes vast, I appear small within it. And when the north wind howls, filling my ears, the restlessness within my heart can instead be heard more and more clearly.

ANNA: DOWNTOWN AREA

Something unique about Port Townsend in Washington State in the USA - where I am from - is that, unlike many other cities in the US (which are relatively new), it actually has really well preserved architecture from the 1800s in its historical districts, including the downtown area. I love beautiful old architecture. That is something that has struck me about Aarhus. Some of the 1800s architecture and buildings in downtown Aarhus look very similar. Whenever I am there, it brings me a sense of familiarity, peace and happiness, and it makes me feel like home is actually not as far away as it really is.



# dear reader



When I first arrived in Denmark, I felt calm, cool, collected, like I had it all figured out. Everything seemed new and exciting, and I was ready. Wide-eyed, wandering the streets, imagining the adventures I was going to have. I felt... ready. Then, classes started.

Slowly, that calm began to crumble. I started feeling overwhelmed. The confidence I carried in my suitcase seemed to vanish. Imposter syndrome crept in, whispering: *What have I done? What am I doing here?*

I started to miss home—not just the place, but the comfort of knowing where I belonged. How far I was from everyone I loved, living in East Jutland, a corner of Denmark I had never even visited. Looking at the map, it feels impossibly small, as if crammed into a tiny crevice, while everything else is so big and foreign.

At first, I tried not to think. To dissociate from my own feelings. To keep going. In my head, I was living the dream—moving to a new country, surrounded by all these cultures, given the chance to learn and grow. But the more I disconnected, the lonelier I felt. I wasn't sure anyone else felt anything other than excitement.

*I wasn't sure  
anyone else felt  
anything other than  
excitement.*

Was I the only one? It sure felt like it. In rooms full of strangers from over forty countries, it's not easy to shout from the rooftops: Is anyone else struggling? Sometimes my own anxious, scared thoughts just take over, screaming: I'm overwhelmed. I'm scared. I'm lonely. I don't know how to make friends. I want to do everything, but I can't. All I could really manage to say was... ahhh. Or nothing at all.

Some days, walking through the streets, everything looks beautiful. Almost post-card perfect. But inside, it feels messy, heavy, loud, like my thoughts are echoing in an empty room. And maybe that's just how it is. Part of moving, part of starting over. Learning to carry excitement and fear at the same time.

Then, slowly, I started to actually say something to someone about it. And what I noticed was that everyone else was feeling the same kind of everything-is-too-much way. Not exactly the same, but similar.

And it was like... oh. Okay. Maybe I'm not actually failing. Maybe this is just normal.

And that's how it felt more than anything—realizing that what I was thinking was shared by other people. Even though we all have to figure out friends and routines and classes and everything else, it's not a sign that you're bad at it or bad at life.

It's just... humans, I guess.

— Kaitlin Hlywa



# Growing Outwards, Growing Younger: Aarhus's Quiet Evolution

— *Salome Moneirat*

Aarhus used to be written Århus until 2011 when the mayor decided to change it to make it easier for international use. This change in the city's name reflects the impact the growing international population, especially young people, has on the city. Indeed, Aarhus is the city in Denmark with the largest proportion of young people.

According to the news outlet *The Local*, over fifty percent of the city population was under the age of thirty in 2019, with residents coming from over 120 nationalities. Factors that seem to have an important impact on the city development and reshaping.

"I would say that young people shape the city quite a lot and you can feel [that Aarhus is] a beautiful place, a beautiful city – just in the faces we see on the street, but also in the number of cafes, bars and concert venues," said Liam Nilsen, the manager responsible for community radio and communications at *Frontløberne*, an organisation supporting young people in their creative work by offering networking events, workshops and available radio stations.

But *Frontløberne* is not the only place that was created with the goal of helping twenty-somethings develop their ideas. If you are a student in Aarhus and have ever attended any student fair, you probably have already heard of the *Kitchen*: a startup hub where students, investors, and researchers meet to discuss potential cooperations.

If you are a student in search of cool cultural places, *Institute for X* and *UKH* are the places to go. *Institute for X* organises a calendar full of artsy, musical and cultural events happening all year long. *UKH* is another example of a place tailored to the needs of students and young people; the youth cultural centre aims to create a space where people can come together and foster their creativity through workshops in ceramics, videos and photography.

Yet, Aarhus is also bursting with small communities where people can meet and do all sorts of activities, starting with football — a sport well-known and highly appreciated in many countries, and the perfect activity to gather very different people around one same passion. Nonetheless, according to Lone Jensen, *UKH*'s cultural consultant, this is not just the result of young people's presence, but also a long-standing custom in Denmark.

However, for Jensen, more creative places where young people can meet and express themselves are necessary, especially places where both "internationals and Danes can be active [together]", she said. One of the solutions for making the city more youth-focused, according to Jensen, would be to raise the voices and concerns of the young people towards politicians. With the local election coming up in mid-November, she said: "I really hope that a lot of young people will go and vote for the young politicians, so we can get more young people into the city council, because I think that will matter more if we have young people in there."

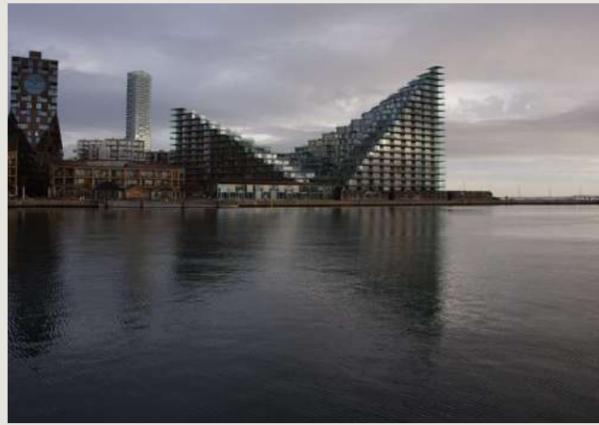
Nonetheless, according to Nilsen there is a divide between the cultural events happening in the city centre and the students. The cause? The Friday bars, keeping the students up on the university park and making it harder for Frontløberne and other student-orientated institutions to be discovered by young people. Next year, Nilsen hopes to establish a one-night partnership between Frontløberne and the student Friday bars to attract students to the centre and help them discover by themselves some of the cultural opportunities the city offers.

## A city growing outward

Young people are not only opening new start-ups and shaping cultural organisations; they are also shaping the city's infrastructures. Indeed, in the last few years, many buildings have been repurposed, while new ones emerged from the ground to accommodate the growing number of students coming to study in Aarhus.

In 2019, one of the old hospitals in the city close to the university campus was renovated to make room for nearly 170 students. In 2020, the southwestern district of Viby Syd in Aarhus saw the development of the Rosenhøj Student Housing, which offers accommodations to over a hundred students. Private markets and investors used their growth to make money through the introduction of the BaseCamp and Unity infrastructures - private housing buildings offering over 600 accommodations and proposing high-end services, including common study and fitness rooms alongside inside cafés and other facilities. But both their locations and the high prices, compared with publicly owned student accommodations, have posed challenges to those companies, which experience a low occupation rate.

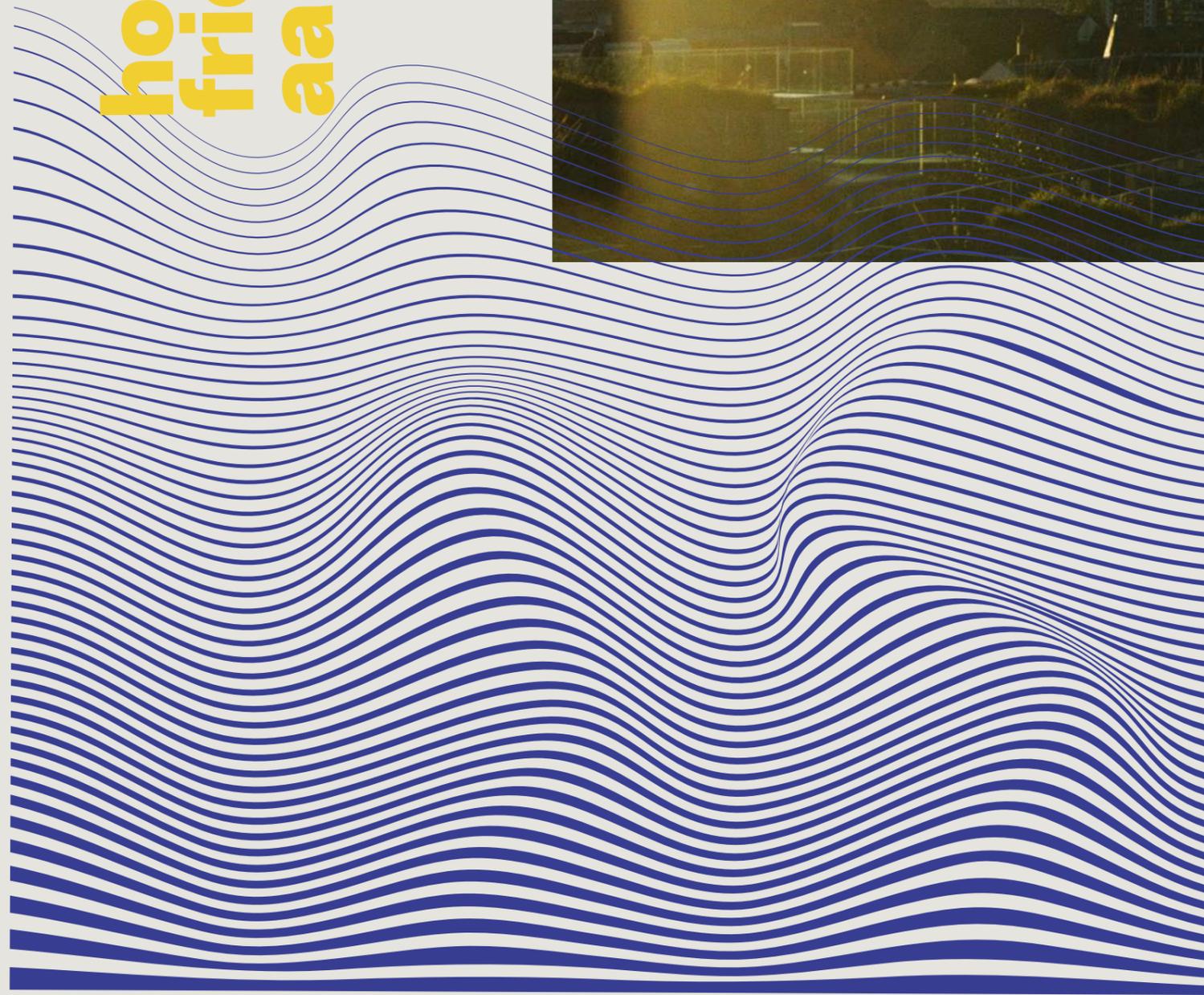
With housing projects spreading across the city, Aarhus is quietly reinventing itself to become a city growing upwards and outwards, while remaining rooted in the energy of the young people who call



# how to make friends in aarhus

In Aarhus, the city of smiles and Denmark's most youthful city, making friends shouldn't be a task; after all, the Vikings built entire communities from scratch here! With its cobblestone streets, mesmerizing bike routes along the coast, jogging tracks running through forests, and cozy coffee shops, it sometimes feels like stepping into a postcard. So, how do you make friends here? Let's start with the basics.

by Shahmir Niazi



## Studenterhus

The student house in Aarhus always has a lot of activities going on that you can volunteer in. You can get into event management, cultural programs, and sustainability campaigns, and bond over teamwork. Through this experience, you get access to a lot of events, meet locals and international students, and often get invited to a lot of hangouts after your shift ends, too. Basically, you're instantly becoming a part of a big social family.

## Study cafés

Danes are obsessed with coffee. So, where to find them? Yes, you guessed it right: visit the cozy study cafes spread across the city. These are the places where you end up talking to random people and, who knows, you might become friends! Some recommendations: try La Cabra Coffee, Mellefolk, Street Coffee, or Lynfabrikken.

## Kollegium life

If you're living in a college dorm, you already have a good chance for your dormmates to potentially turn into good friends. Say yes to food clubs, Tour de Chambre, Tour de Friday Bar, and more! When there's nothing else, just hang around in the kitchen and talk to your dormmates for hours over (once again) coffee.

## Fredagsbars

Aarhus has a very unique student bar culture, one that thrives on the international students. On Friday afternoons, the same buildings in which you have your classes turn into student bars and dance floors. From the biology bar to the medicine bar, DMJX to the political science bar, these activities are a source of reminder for how social you need to be. There are a variety of fun activities once you're inside, including beer pong, live music, student DJs, pub quizzes, and spontaneous karaoke, among others. A tip, just in case you don't know already: the trick to surviving the Fredagsbar isn't stamina but curiosity, so make sure you try a new bar each week!

## Sports clubs

Join the sports clubs in Aarhus, which offer a variety of activities including football, yoga, rowing, badminton, swimming, and more. It doesn't matter if you're good or not – just show up. There are almost 18 different clubs at Aarhus University for you to participate in and connect with students from diverse backgrounds.

SAY  
NO TO  
FOMO



# Call a friend

by Anastasia Kabanova

Why is it so hard to phone your grandmother after you move to a new city? Or to answer friends you've been ghosting for a day – sometimes even longer? It's counterintuitive, but after moving out, forcing yourself to stay in touch with family and old friends is vital.

The brain's primary task is to produce adaptive behavior in accordance with the surrounding environment. Adaptive behavior (or our strategy for adjustment) is necessary to bring the brain to a state of homeostasis, a balance among all our environments. After moving to another country, it may seem – and it would be entirely correct – that balance can be achieved by socially integrating into the new culture and country by communicating, building new friendships, and finding small joys in a completely new place. Put simply, we construct new everyday environments, and this truly fosters neuroplasticity and helps us cope with the disorientation that throws us off course.

*I suspect that the invisible final pillar is family and friends back*

But home –in the broad sense of the word–, and the loved ones who remained there, are also among those environments that often slip into the background after moving.

I know people who have built full lives abroad: careers, soft lamps, dinner tables full of new friends, maybe even love. And yet something is missing. I suspect that the invisible final pillar is family and friends back home, because for the brain to achieve full homeostasis, something stable and constant is required. These people should still have a place in your heart, even when it feels like there isn't enough time, and making friends with the possibility of physical presence seems easier.

your to-do list. It's the same kind of respect and the clearest sign that you're investing your time.

Include their images in your daily life. I've often seen photos of parents, siblings, and best friends on the lock screens of phones and laptops of my friends abroad. It really helps you feel that, every day, there are your people standing behind you, who are proud of you from the very beginning. Cork boards or simple photo prints in your room are great, too.

Be useful and helpful at a distance: offer support, send a small gift or postcard, walk them to the subway over the phone when they're heading home from work. And thank them – gratitude is a scienti-

Make time and schedule online meetups. How are they different from going to a bar with new friends? Agree on a call at a specific time, add it to

IF YOU CAN DREAM IT  
YOU CAN DO IT



Stay in context. Right now, you're living two different lives and in two parallel contexts, but for them, nothing has changed. Sometimes discussing the news or what's in the information cycle brings you just as close as talking about something personal.

Tell the truth. Explaining your feelings to someone who hasn't experienced immigration and moving can feel impossible. Tell them anyway. Even if they can't fully share your feelings, because their lives are moving forward too, believe that these honesty and sincerity maintain the bridge. And of course, listen and truly hear them. After all, they miss you very, very much, too.

I hate being asked about my age after turning thirty. But luckily, that's no longer a problem after coming to Denmark for my Master's. Every day at university we meet so many people, hear so many names from all over the world, that it's just impossible to keep track. Most people I meet can't even remember my name, let alone my age! I can't expect others to do what I can't do myself. Many Chinese friends use English names to avoid this awkwardness. One of them once told me he got his name simply because it's easier for others to remember. I decided not to. I flew nearly twenty hours to Europe—not to come up with a catchy name to make things easier for everyone else.

# We can return to university

— Honglin Lyu

Actually, I'm tired of pleasing others. My decision to return to university as a "mature student" is, deep down, a declaration of independence from that habit—something planted in me long ago by Asian education. I'd wanted to study abroad since high school. For various reasons, I didn't. When I finally applied for this program and got accepted, I was already thirty-three, and until then procrastination had been my most loyal companion – and not in a good way. Studying abroad for someone who is in their twenties sounds full of hope and possibilities. For me, what's left are opportunity of new expenses and the quiet panic of financial pressure. I rented out my lovely apartment, gave my car and most belongings to family and friends, dodged a marriage proposal from my high school crush, and brought only my hiking gear, a few clothes, and some essentials to a continent I had never set foot on. It was the bravest decision – or perhaps the dumbest decision I've made since landing on Earth – still hoping it's the former. My first challenge here was learning how to survive as an illiterate person. Yes, Danes speak excellent English—but most supermarket labels, hospital signs, local apps, magazines, and newspapers are in Danish. Not knowing the language feels like living on a floating island, high above the ground—you can see the ground, but you can't quite reach it. Ironically, we're studying journalism—a field so deeply rooted in language, culture, politics, and society. And for the first time, I begin to understand how my grandparents once lived—navigating the world through practical experience rather than written knowledge. I used to take for granted how much I relied on my professional mastery of Chinese, how much of my confidence came from it. I once prided myself on being a lan-

**we cannot turn back in time but**



—guage pro but now English and Danish in my head keep bumping into each other. It wasn't until I embarked on my studies abroad that I fully understood how much my mother tongue shapes me—at work, in friendships, and in my sense of self. The English-speaking version of myself? Clumsy, slow, and often wandering. Part of my old self feels like a crumbling foundation, while the new part is still too unsteady to bear the pressures of study and social life. I've realized that language is never just a tool. It's the framework of thoughts, the thread of memory, the mirror of self. Back home, I didn't just speak Chinese—I thought in it, lived in it, was carried by it. Now, here, in this foreign tongue, I find myself asking: Which parts of me belong to Chinese, and which are simply me? And sometimes, in those quiet moments when my words stumble, I catch a glimpse of the curious, awkward, bilingual hybrid I am becoming—a version of myself that feels both lost and, in a strange way, more alive.

Returning to university after more than five years of work feels like time travel— revisiting my twenties and making up for all the missed chances. Considering how many people die with regrets, I find my own consolation: my current life might be hard, but at least it's regret-free. If given a second chance, I would make the same choice and wouldn't trade it for comfort or certainty. Let's be honest—no one studies journalism for the money. Those who do should probably head straight to BSS, School of Business and Social Sciences at Aarhus University. To be fair, I'm not sure even BSS graduates can "hit the jackpot" these days. Times have changed, the world is slowly sliding backward – especially politically and economically – toward conservatism and populism. The worth of human life appears to decline even faster than that of currency, while great powers play their games and some regions burn, it is ordinary people everywhere who bear the consequences. In times of turmoil and economic decline, journalism may not make you rich—but it allows you to witness history, to observe,

to understand, and ultimately, to be seen—in ways that matter far beyond money. In that sense, perhaps we are wiser than the business students who swim against the current chasing big money.

As I write this article, autumn has come to Aarhus. The trees outside the window are slowly blushing yellow and copper-red, the season unfolding like an oil painting. It's time for mushrooms, chestnuts, and apples again. Aarhus, wrapped in parks and nature, feels beautiful, calm, and quietly healing. Autumn has arrived, but sadly, winter is not far behind. I once came across an article by an international student offering tips on surviving the long Nordic winter. One suggestion stood out: "falling in love." That sounded... dubious. Falling in love just to endure the cold months? For me, the truest remedy for loneliness lies in studying, in work, and in the company of genuine friends—the most precious companions on this journey.

I've always loved the Japanese phrase *ichigo ichie*—"one encounter, one chance." It speaks of the fragile beauty of impermanence, of how every meeting is both the first and the last. In Western culture, there's a similar expression: Summer Camp Theory, the fleeting yet profound nature of connections formed in emotionally charged, time-limited environments. For a while, we live as if time has paused: laughter echoing through long afternoons, friendships forming with the ease of breathing, a closeness that feels almost like family. But all summers end. When the season turns, we return to our separate lives—different paths, different callings—and the ties once so vivid begin to fade. We tell ourselves we'll stay in touch, but life, quietly and kindly, moves us along. And yet, not everything is lost. "In the depths of winter I finally learned there was in me an invincible summer." Somewhere deep within us, an invincible summer remains—bright, unyielding, alive. All the genuine friends, you are forever part of that invincible summer.

Already, I find myself missing those early summer evenings by the sea, laughing and talking with new classmates, and the first frantic, exhilarating days of September we shared together. Thankfully, our journey together is still unfolding. I take a breath and tell myself: just enjoy the journey, and everything will turn out fine.

71

In the Deep Cuts section, Mundusians explore different sides and corners of Aarhus, and through the discovery of their soon-to-be favourite spots spread around the Danish municipality, they get to examine themselves alongside. Interacting with The City from a new-comer perspective, they immerse themselves into a new culture, embracing a new, exciting reality and introspectively analysing their personality and character that are changing alongside their geographical position.

# DEEP CUTS

# CIRCUSKROEN THE BAR THAT BRINGS OUT THE CLOWN IN YOU

— *Max Heermann*

Usually, Thursdays are some of the busiest nights at Circuskroen in Aarhus. Students mostly have the next day off and are therefore celebrating the “little Friday” in one of Aarhus’ most iconic bars. But today the whole bar is closed for the yearly cleanup. The afternoon sun shines over Aarhus Ø, which you can see from the bar’s terrace as the first group of students tries to enter. After a short conversation in Danish, they understand that there’s no way to talk themselves in, and they trot off to find another bar. Circuskroen, though, is not just any “other bar.”

I sit between a group of Danes, all between the ages of 20 and 60. They are taking a break; a new floor has just been placed inside the bar, and the walls got some fresh color. More important than painting or carpentry, though, is the task of cleaning the approximately 1298 puppet clowns that are hanging in the bar. The elephant (or clown) in the room at Circuskroen is the fact that you can not escape clowns; they’re everywhere. To understand this peculiar interior design, I ask Alan, sitting across from me, smoking a cigarette. Alan is the husband of Pernille, who owns the bar in the second generation, following her father’s purchase. The couple runs the bar with a family spirit, and both can be seen behind the bar on a regular basis. Alan tells me that the bar has been around since 1898 (which would make it the oldest one in Aarhus), but got its name in 1960. A famous circus family bought the bar and branded it accordingly with the name “Circuskroen” (The Circus Inn). In 1997, Alan’s father-in-law took over, and the clownmania began. Alan tells me that his father-in-law worked as a truck driver delivering beer before, and went by “The Clown” among his co-workers and friends, always trying to entertain everyone around him. So when he took over the bar, his friends gifted him a clown; from that point onward, they just continued to flow in.



During the cleaning week, all 1298 clowns get taken down, cleaned, and hung up again. Alan tells me that there are so many that they had to put all the duplicates down in the basement, which means that every clown in the bar is unique. This becomes evident once Alan starts telling me some of the stories behind the clowns. “People just bring them,” he says before telling some of the stories. Once, a man from Miami texted Alan on Facebook, telling him that he had found out about Circuskroen online and liked what they were doing. He flew in for two days, brought a clown with him, and then headed back to Miami. While one could put it down as a crazy American, I get the feeling that this place just attracts interesting people. The clowns also make people come back. Alan tells me about international students who spent some time in Aarhus and came back years later with their families to see if their clowns

Arnas is sitting down next to us. He is the neighbour of the bar and a friend. “Arnas has 40 pave stones to come down to the bar, and 70 when he goes back home after some beers,” Alan says as we all burst into laughter. Arnas brings up the concept of Hygge. While finding one definition is tricky, we all quickly agree that this place is very Hyggelig. It’s about togetherness, kindness, and chilling as well as “a bit of alcohol from time to time.” Very few places fit that description as well as Circuskroen. Whenever you pass by the bar in the evening, you see people sitting inside and outside the bar, chatting and laughing beyond the invisible borders that usually exist between tables. Everyone, old and young, Danish and international, talks to everyone. The bar also invites people to talk; it’s a very cozy environment, with no TVs or other distractions. Especially, the inter-generational aspect stands out to me. While you see many students sitting in fancy bars in the center, which can sometimes turn them into a real-life echo chamber, here, people can engage with those from very different walks of life. That’s what bars are there for in the end, to provide a meeting spot for everyone. Alan puts that perfectly: “I don’t care if you’re a millionaire or poor, as long as you have the 20 Kroner to pay for your beer, and if you don’t, we will also make it work.”

When I ask Alan if he thinks that Circuskroen will face some issues in the future, like other bars in the center, he shakes his head. For him, Circuskroen has done many things right by focusing on the people first, not the money, and sticking to a concept. He points out that he doesn’t want to brag by saying that, it’s just the way they are doing things. For Alan, it’s also no big secret behind it; he simply “treats people the way you want to be treated, yourself.” At Circuskroen, you are certainly being treated well, so make sure not to miss out on a beer among clowns while in Aarhus.



# Game. Set. Mundus Tennis Club.

— *Shahmir Niazi*

It was during the campus tour in early September that Til, Max, and I were sitting together at the Botanical Garden when Max told us he had brought his tennis racquet along with him from Germany. I had played the game with my father during my teenage years, but had not really gotten the chance to make time for it for a while now. Even as it always remained my favourite sport. Til loved the game but never had the chance to play. All of a sudden, the three of us got really excited to play. The very next day, Til and I bought our racquets from Storcenter Nord. It was there that we found the fourth member of our Mundus

*Spending an entire day playing alongside your classmates, having drinks, and enjoying some fun music.*

Anna was just casually shopping when she ran into us, and we somehow convinced her to get a racquet as well – maybe the tennis racquets in our hands made us more persuasive? But anyway, this is how the game began in the Mundus cohort. From then on, it was no going back. It is, after all, dubbed the healthiest sport, so all the more reason to play.

We began playing the game every week, and it became an integral part of our Mundus journey. So much so that on one occasion, I went directly from the match to a party at the Institute for X with my Tennis racquet (Yes, it's crazy). Many times, Til's lovely housemates joined us as well, and our Tennis community kept growing bigger and bigger. At the time of writing this article, we are organizing the first-ever Mundusian Open in the doubles format of the game. Based on the interest people have shown, we are expecting it to be a big event comprising 8 teams in two groups, with three rounds, quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals – all competing for becoming the first ever Mundusian Open Champion. And guess what? There is a trophy for the winner! But more than that, the event is for the experience. Spending an entire day playing alongside your classmates, having drinks, and enjoying some fun music.



Playing sports is a helpful activity, especially during times when you're feeling down or depressed. Winter is coming, and staying healthy & active would really help us all in navigating it, all the more reason to join the Mundus Tennis Club. Through this beautiful sport, let's meet new people, stay fit, and bring some sunshine to the darker months ahead!

# how to survive Friday bars as a Mundusian?

78

— Lara Zofio & Shreya Nair

At Aarhus University, Friday does not just mark the end of the week; it also marks the beginning of a long-standing tradition. Across campus, students turn their common areas into buzzing hubs known as fredagsbarer (Friday bars). Each faculty or department runs its own, and they all have their quirks: some lean into nerdy board games, some go full party mode, and others keep things low-key and hygge. What unites them is the chance to grab a cheap beer, meet people outside your study bubble, and kick off the weekend.

Here's a tour of the Friday bars we have explored, each with its own character, rules, and signature drinks. Below, you will find the Mundus favorites, our personal picks from across Aarhus University's fredagsbar scene.



## KURT STRANDBAR | DMJX

Run by the journalism students at DMJX, Kurt Strandbar starts slow but turns into a dance party as the night goes on. For the music, you can expect a mix of international hits, dance tracks, and a bit of EDM/techno to keep things moving. Their signature moment? When the night ends with the nine-minute version of "Taj Mahal" and everyone joins the classic dancing train. The highlight here though, is the spinning wheel! For 25 DKK, you spin for the chance to win different kinds of drinks, but they usually shut it down later in the night once things get rowdy. Add in draught beer and Englefisse (their unique house mix), and you've got one of the most memorable bars on campus. *Payment: Card or MobilePay*

## KATRINES KÆLDER | ENGINEERING

Looking for something a little pricier? Katrines Kælder is known for having the most expensive shots of the lot. But with that comes a more polished vibe compared to some of the other faculty bars. *Payment: Cash, MobilePay, or Card*

## ESPERANTO | LINGUISTICS

Looking for something a little pricier? Katrines Kælder is known for having the most expensive shots of the lot. But with that comes a more polished vibe compared to some of the other faculty bars. *Payment: Cash, MobilePay, or Card*

## KOMMABAR | LINGUISTICS

Often ranked among the best in Nobelparken, KOMMABar is known for its playful party traditions. Their notorious Vodka Lussing (a shot and a slap) is one we recommend for those brave enough to venture. It's as easy as going on one knee, downing the shot, and choosing a number from 1-10 to lock in on the intensity of the slap! This wacky tradition is sure to wake you up and keep the adrenaline going for the rest of the night, making it a student favorite in the area. *Payment: Cash or MobilePay*

## UMBILICUS | MEDICINE

Med students have a reputation: they study hard (we are sure), but they drink and party harder, and working behind the bar can be a competitive sport. Rumor has it that in the past, volunteers had to pull stunts like eating pig liver to gain entry into this coveted inner circle. Whether that's still true or not, the energy is definitely there. Expect a lively atmosphere, lots of shots, and a crowd that goes all out. Oh, and if you get there early enough, you might even get yourself one (or more) free beers! *Payment: Cash, MobilePay, or Card*

## KALKULER BAR | MATHS

The mathematicians know how to keep things affordable: shots for just 7 DKK make this one of the cheapest options on campus. Bars in this area (Nobelparken) tend to close earlier, around 10 PM to 12 AM, so it's more of a pre-party stop than an all-nighter. *Payment: Cash or MobilePay*

## FYSISK FREDAGSBAR | PHYSICS

If you are looking for a place to chill, Physics is the place. It's small, nerdy, and unapologetically cozy. You will often find students playing board games, and sometimes there is even pizza if you sign up early (the list opens at 5 PM). The only catch? You need an AU card to get in or a friend to let you through. It's the most laid-back Friday bar we've been to, and definitely not one for the party people! *Payment: Cash, Card or MobilePay*

## ALKYMIA | CHEMISTRY

This bar is where science gets social. Sometimes, drinks are served from lab equipment for aesthetic reasons. The vibe is more open than Physics, and while the shots aren't the cheapest, you'll find board games, a welcoming crowd, a large space, and the occasional big party that stretches until 2 AM. *Payment: Cash or MobilePay*

## THEOS BAR | THEOLOGY

A smaller bar with a warm atmosphere, good music, and nice vibes overall. It doesn't over-complicate things, but it's a reliable option when you want a friendly spot to hang out. *Payment: Card only.*

## NANORAMA | NANOSCIENCE

Nanobar brings the hype. Think karaoke nights, colorful lighting, and a proper setup for games like foosball and bospil (a Danish classic)! It's social, energetic, and one of the livelier options in the area if you're looking for more than just quiet drinks. Our personal favourite in terms of the beauty of the setting! *Payment: Cash, Card or MobilePay*

## EFOREN | FINAL ACT

*This isn't just a Friday bar, it's the Friday bar afterparty or "the final act". Eforen is tied to the nearby dorms and stays open until 3 AM, making it a natural endpoint once the faculty bars close down. It's smoker-friendly, gets going by around 11 PM, and is where the night either winds down or goes on*

## KASERNE | AESTHETICS

Hidden away near the old barracks, Kaserne Baren feels like stepping into an artsy retreat. Indoors, the lighting is warm and flattering, and the crowd has that effortlessly cool aesthetic vibe. Outside, you'll find twinkling fairy lights and a chill campfire-like atmosphere, which is perfect if you are looking to chat the night away. Later in the evening, one of the rooms can transform into a concert hall with live performances! Think energetic gigs and plenty of talent. One of our personal favourites for both vibe and setting. *Payment: Cash or MobilePay*

## CRISBAR | MOLECULAR BIO

Home turf for Molecular Biology, CrisBar is famous for 5 DKK Fisk shots! They also love a good theme night, with events ranging from "Protein Party" to a full-on Mr. Worldwide evening. The vibe is cozy and hygge, with students gathering for both cheap drinks and relaxed company. *Payment: Cash or MobilePay*



We know most of you are probably not used to an academic environment where drinking and partying are not only allowed but encouraged and you've probably never dealt with drunk Vikings before so don't worry, we have got you. We have prepared a few tips to help you make the most of it.

## timing

Some bars open as early as 3 PM and close around 9 PM, while others start and close later. The latest one stays open until 3 AM. From our experience, most people usually head there in the early evening (around 6-7 PM), with the peak time being between 9 PM and 11 PM when the crowd is at its best. Keep in mind that not all bars open every Friday, so check their Facebook pages to see which ones are open and hosting special events (like costume nights, Oktoberfest, or other themed parties). Also, if you like to party all night long, follow the herd that goes downtown.

## games

Beer pong is the main game you'll find at almost every party. Many Friday bars also have board games available if you're in the mood for something more relaxed. Dice games are quite popular too, especially one called Maia, which you'll probably see people playing at most tables.

# tips

## ID card

Bring your student IDs just in case. Keep in mind that some faculties are closed and require both a card and a password for access. If you don't have them, your only option is to wait for someone to notice you and kindly let you in.

## transport

Some Friday bars are close to each other, especially those in University Park and Nobelparken, which are within walking distance. Others are farther away, so if you don't feel like walking, public transport is a convenient (and safe) option during the day. However, at night, public transport becomes limited, so plan ahead. Bringing your bike is an option, but we really don't recommend riding it after drinking. To get back home, Uber and taxis are always available especially if you've had too much but they can be pricey. Check the night bus schedule instead; they usually run every hour.

## money

Keep in mind that not all Friday bars accept payment cards; several only take MobilePay (which requires a Danish bank account) or cash. Your budget will depend on your alcohol tolerance, but you can expect to spend around 50-100 DKK per Friday.

## clothing

The most important thing is to dress comfortably and warmly. Don't wear fancy clothes or shoes; it's almost guaranteed that someone will spill a drink on you or step on your feet. Bring something warm for when you're outside, moving between bars, or having a smoke. Inside, however, it'll get warm quickly due to body heat. Go for sneakers or other comfortable shoes that let you dance and walk long distances. Bonus tip: Cargo pants with lots of pockets have proven to be a great choice, practical and party-proof.

## music

Some Friday bars are so chill, like the one at the Physics department, that they barely have music. If you actually want to dance, go to the Medicine or Social Sciences Friday Bars; the Science ones are usually more of a sit-down, chat-over-a-beer kind of place. With that being said, do not expect great dancing music. They mostly play pop classics like Hot n Cold by Katy Perry or I Want It That Way by the Backstreet Boys and Danish songs. Still, if you keep an open mind, you might discover some really good ones. The best music is usually at Esperanto, where, if you're lucky, you might even get to dance to Shakira or Bad Bunny.

## drinking

Beer is the most popular and budget-friendly option. If you're not a fan, cider is a good alternative with a similar vibe. You'll also find mixed drinks with stronger alcohols like vodka, though usually only around 4%. Be careful with a drink called "Shaker", as it contains caffeine, and if you have too many, you might find yourself wide awake later, regretting some of your choices that night. Keep an eye on your bag or purse; if you discover a "Smirnoff Ice" hidden inside, tradition says you have to kneel and chug it. And don't forget to drink water between rounds, it's the best way to avoid a terrible hangover. If you don't drink

## touring around

If you want to do a Friday Bar tour, start early, pace yourself, and stick to lighter drinks like beer and don't forget to include some water along the way. For the sake of both your health and your wallet, it's best to limit yourself to one drink per bar. Begin with the more relaxed bars that close early (usually the ones in the Science faculties), then move on to the livelier ones in Social Sciences, which start as chill bars but later turn into dance floors. If you're still standing by the end of the night, finish at the after-party Friday Bar: Eforen. And last but not least: visit as many as you can!

# Øst for Paradis, Where Cinema Meets Culture

— Max

There are certain places that real locals from Aarhus know and cherish; One of those is Øst for Paradis, an arthouse cinema in the old town. Old is a good cue here because the cinema has been around for almost 50 years. It was founded in 1978, and one of the founders is still on board. The primary motivation back then was to introduce cinema culture to Aarhus, which was previously mainly found in Copenhagen.

Up until present day, Øst for Paradis has persisted through the shift away from cinema to DVDs first, and now to streaming. To do so, it also offers some of the big movies (at the time of writing, “One Battle After Another,” alongside many independent films, which makes for an interesting mix). Before and after watching a movie, one can have a drink in the café and philosophize about the movie’s meaning. This point in particular makes Øst for Paradis so special. Movies have been a social product for a long time before the rise of DVDs and streaming. At Øst for Paradis, they value the social aspect surrounding the movies and focus on creating a hyggelig atmosphere for that. The entire place and its people reflect this attitude, making one feel comfortable in no time. The cinema has regular events such as “French nights” on Mondays, where you get a glass of red wine with your ticket, or talks around movies. Everything invites you to come for a movie and stay for the vibes.

Øst for Paradis shows movies every day of the week. Before 4:30 p.m., there’s a 10 Krone student discount, and their café is also a great place to study. Therefore, Øst for Paradis is one of my favorite spots in the city, and a must for cinema fans who want to upgrade the cold Danish winter evenings.



**AARHUS FAVOURITES**

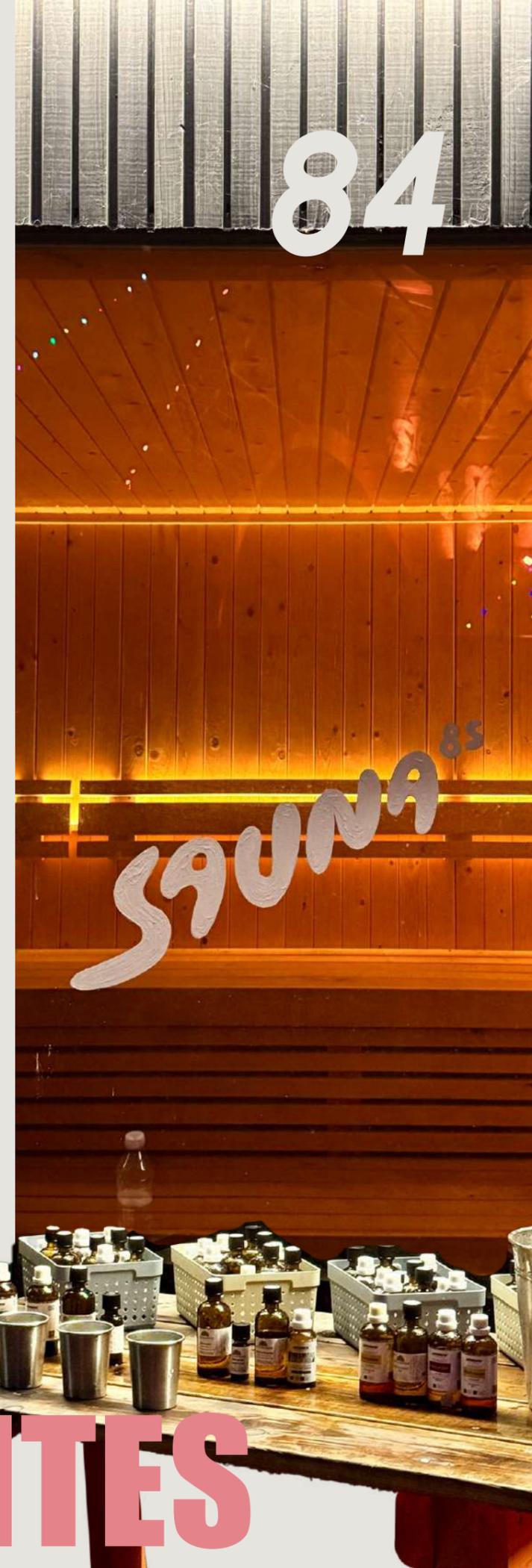
# Finding calm: Sauna 85

— Kaitlin

You’ve probably heard that saunas are a central part of Nordic life. More than hot rooms — they’re spaces for pause, quiet, and presence. For me, they’ve become a refuge from the constant rhythm of studying and adjusting to life in a new country.

At Volume Village, Sauna 85 offers Saunagus, a form of sauna aromatherapy. The Gusmester, or sauna master, mixes water with essential oils and pours it over the hot stones. The rising steam carries the scent through the room, and the heat settles into the body, slowing thought and drawing attention to breath. Each session lasts about 75 minutes, moving through three rounds of heat with cold plunges or showers in between. It’s not the usual sauna experience, where you go at your own pace — here, you follow the rhythm set by the Gus. And in that structure, there’s a kind of relief. I can simply focus on breathing, noticing, and letting go, without needing to plan or perform.

Visiting Sauna 85 has become an anchoring practice for me. It helps me manage stress, find moments of calm, and connect with others seeking the same pause. In the warmth, my thoughts go quiet, and the tension in my body eases. For that hour, there’s space to just simply be. If you’re looking for a way to slow down, breathe, and let go, you should try it.



**AARHUS FAVOURITES**

# **INSIDE AARHUS DORMS**

**SHARED KITCHENS  
SHARED HEARTS**

**A  
GLIMPSE  
INTO  
THE  
DORM  
LIFE IN  
AARHUS**

Is it possible to acquire new “brothers and sisters” in two weeks? And what if there are thirteen of them? It is the last thing you expect when you move into dormitory Børglum Kollegierne on the outskirts of Aarhus, but the Danes have a way of surprising you.

What’s it like living in a dorm with 15 people? And what if they are all Danish and you are the only international? Living in a Danish dorm can mean different things, from the structured chaos of Parkkollegierne to the cozy rhythm of Børglum Kollegierne, but both share a spirit of connection and shared traditions.

# Life in Parkkollegierne

That's exactly what life looks like in Parkkollegierne Number 5 floor 1 (or as we call it: "Kolle"). In this dorm I have my own room and share the kitchen and bathroom with the other students. And even though we only have two toilets and two showers – it works surprisingly well.

The social calendar of Kolle is packed. Every semester we have four main parties – Tour de Friday Bar, Tour de Chambre, Tour de Kitchen and Friends Party. Every party always has a theme, and we go all in. In the Tour de Friday bar we visit the bars that belong to the faculties we study at. Around 30 minutes in each bar, at least one drink, and on to the next. We start at 4 pm and are back at 1 am. It is definitely a lot of fun and you get to know Danish drinking culture at its finest!

In the Tour de Kitchen every floor in Kolle has a theme and the whole house moves from one floor to the next. We usually play some games and of course – drink! Tour de Chambre is only on our floor where every room has a specific theme, game and drink. Here we spend one hour before moving on to the next room.

And lastly, we have a friends party where we invite all our friends and have a big party in the hallway and kitchen. These parties are a great way to connect with your fellow dorm mates but also get to know many of their friends – who are mostly Danes.

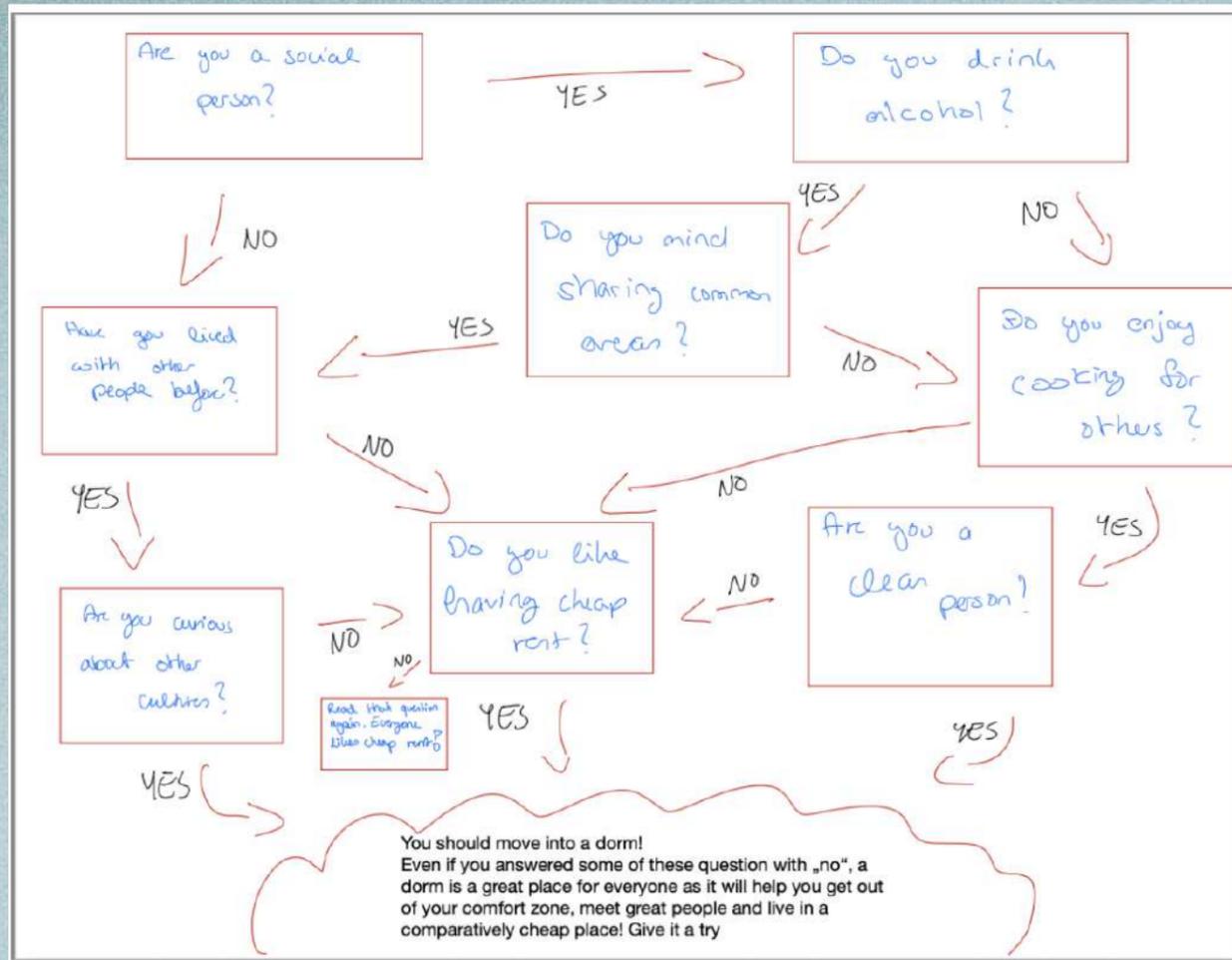
Next to the parties we also have common dinners twice a week. The food ranges from traditional Danish food to summer rolls and homemade pizza. Usually, two people cook for the rest of the dorm and four people do the dishes. After the common dinners we often have our kitchen meetings where we discuss upcoming parties, make a shopping list or talk about rearranging the living room.

Living in a dorm like this offers great possibilities to connect with Danes who are usually quite distant towards foreigners. Every day I learn something about Danish culture and traditions and it's also a great way to practice my Danish. Even though the constant socializing can become a bit overwhelming sometimes, living in a dorm definitely helps you to step out of your comfort zone and you will quickly feel like part of a small family.

— Habibe

EVERY DAY I  
LEARN SOMETHING  
ABOUT DANISH  
CULTURE AND TRADITIONS  
AND IT'S ALSO A GREAT WAY  
TO PRACTICE MY  
DANISH.





September 2, I walked into the communal kitchen feeling utterly lost. The premise of a shared kitchen does not charm everyone; I was, frankly, skeptical. The plan was simple: build a sandwich, retreat to my room, and let privacy do its quiet work. That picture dissolved the moment I met the "family."

Danes, I've noticed, are joiners. They play well in teams, prefer to agree on social rules and roles in advance, and then keep them. My neighbors aren't a group so much as friends held together by an adhesive of the best kind. But what keeps thirteen people of different ages, genders, and professions together for years? I keep returning to three factors: shared rituals, unforced respect, and a collective appetite for hygge.

Shared rituals sound bureaucratic: a weekly rotation of kitchen duties; calendars of birthdays, parties, and dinners. But the power lies in the bureaucracy, and in the willingness to honor it. "Should we lock in parties for the next three months? And common dinners?" And then they actually do. On our floor, themed parties happen with real ingenuity, and the common singing is something they don't hesitate to do every week.

What I call unforced respect might also be described as kindness, a reflex to yield, a habit of help. After communal dinners we clean together: some wash, others dry, a third group wipes surfaces; the cooks are famously exempt. There is even a rule: finish the cleanup within the span of three specific Danish songs. Chores are assigned and executed without fuss, guided by a checklist that leaves little to chance. And about the foreigners: the instant an international student walks in, the Danes switch to English (even if we aren't part of the conversation). Respect lives in those small maneuvers, and in the unanimity with which they happen.

SO, DO YOU  
think a DORM  
is the RIGHT  
FOR YOU?  
Take the  
TEST!

On And then there is hygge, which in this dorm has its own local meaning. Nearly every day someone bakes bread, cookies or cakes. Another tradition: watching cartoons together in the common area, preferably with a feminist tilt. *Mulan* and *Pocahontas* have already become my favorite Disney movies. The rest of the hygge inventory is present and correct: soft sweaters, candles, warm light, but the real thing isn't in the props. The real pleasure, I'm convinced, is lingering in our undersized kitchen, talking about nothing much while the usual Aarhus rain stripes the window.

So, if that sounds like your kind of comfort, you might find that living with Danes suits you. Especially if you want to feel like you have the warmth of family around you.

# Life in Børglum Kollegierne

— Anastasia

# CULTURE

Culture shapes how we see, taste, and make sense of the world around us. From the quiet rhythm of Danish life, its unique food and work culture, to the folklore and traditions that remind us of home, this section explores how cultural differences both challenge and connect us. After all, it's about finding meaning – and belonging – in the everyday details that make each place distinct.

## ***From Silence to Friday Bars: The Cultural Journey of Mundusians in Aarhus*** - HIMADYUTHI DESHPANDE

Finding a spot in this cohort was a huge achievement for each one of us. Since the day that the admission letter dropped into our inboxes, to when we finally arrived in Aarhus in August, it felt like a long journey, and an accomplishment in itself – which it indeed was! But it was only when we laid our first step in this cute little city – a place that most of us could only dream of being in, that we realized we were going to be confronted with challenges beyond just academic or intellectual ones. Coming from as many as 40 nationalities – and even more diverse cultures, socio-political systems, and economies – nothing could have ever prepared us for the seemingly minute struggles that would accompany this transition.

From the unsettling quiet to the crazy Friday nights, there are innumerable cultural shocks at every step that internationals have to learn to deal with. The silence here is unsettling for many who come from more populous countries. Shrae, a Singaporean, says she has grown to love it, “It feels pleasant to live without a feeling of unending hurry or intense commotion. Whether people spend their personal time among family, outdoors, or on hobbies they care about, they truly guard it.”

This laid-back way of Danish living is also reflected in how Danes interact. Lou enjoys how everyone here greets each other with a smile, something polar opposite from her experience in Germany, where she is from. People here are polite and respectful, yet there could be an unmistakable sense of distance.

***„Initially, I found this distance quite challenging. I misinterpreted the quietness as unfriendliness and felt a bit isolated”***

Public spaces are quieter, and personal space is deeply valued. Back home, many of us were used to crowded buses or trains filled with chatter and laughter. Here, the silence stands out—everyone seems to keep to themselves. Kristin, from South Africa, feels that this distance can easily be mistaken for unfriendliness. “Initially, I found this distance quite challenging. I misinterpreted the quietness as unfriendliness and felt a bit isolated,” she says, whi-

le adding that in her home country “there’s a certain warmth and closeness that you experience in everyday life. When you’re in a queue at the grocery store, people often chat with you. We are generally very expressive, and our emotions, whether positive or negative, are often on full display.” Nathalia, a Brazilian, relates to that: “Back home, I was used to hugs, warmth, and chatting easily with strangers.”

Edited by Shahmir

Designed by Anna

Speaking of grocery stores, the first real jolt many of us felt came not from the weather or the silence, but from the price tags. Something as simple as a salad or a sandwich here costs more than a full meal back home, says Sangeetha, who is from Malaysia, where eating out is often cheaper than cooking at home. She said, “I shall address this issue by cooking at home more (a little un-Malaysian), returning to basics to save more so that

I can enjoy and appreciate the rest of Denmark as it is.” Nathalia, too, missed the culture of sharing meals out with friends, which she said is a luxury in Denmark. “It pushed me to cook more at home (which I love!) and turn my kitchen into a space of connection,” she says.

***Kitchens have indeed become spaces of connection for many internationals. Student dorms turn into lively hubs for experimenting with new dishes, cook together, host dinners, organise pot-lucks, and share meals that bring a sense of home... far from home.***



Although there are very few choices for vegetables—as Dannie, who is Chinese, points out—our cohort feels like one big family. She says that this strong sense of connection and everyone’s willingness to be there for each other is quite different from her undergraduate experience back home, where a “class” mainly existed to communicate in group chats about assignments or administrative matters. From Brazilian dinners to Diwali parties, our cohort has been hosting diverse gatherings too. It is through these gatherings and nights out that most of us have found our social circles. Yet, socialising can still feel overwhelming for some, like Betty – from China – who likes to recharge in silence, while others find comfort in being around people and letting go of the week’s stress by going all out on the weekends.

Friday bars are great fun for most of us and have become a regular part of student life. Martha, from Ecuador, says, “For me, it is crazy that inside the university buildings there could be such things as drinking and dancing. I didn’t have to cope with it because I instantly loved the idea.” Lara from Spain feels like the university is trying to encourage students to drink and have fun, while in so many of our countries, an educational department turning into a bar is absolutely unimaginable. She says, the otherwise shy and polite Danes “become vikings again when they drink!” Nathalia says that the drinking culture blew her mind. She first found it insane, but later understood it’s just part of how people here let loose in an otherwise structured society. In Brazil, a night out usually meant music, laughter, and dancing, whereas in Denmark, it now seems to be more about how much one could drink and still manage to bike home afterwards.

Danes love to bike! It is an economical and environmentally friendly option for international students. But the extensive network of dedicated bike paths and a deeply ingrained biking culture have resulted in almost nine out of ten Danes owning a bike. Nathalia found it surprising that everyone bikes; kids, grandparents, people in suits – that too, even in the rain. Lara asks, “How can grandmas with kids bike faster than me?”

Bikes have been the reason for shock for other reasons too. Sherehan, from Egypt, didn’t get one, but two bikes for free! “Back home in Egypt, this would be unthinkable—things like that just don’t happen. The level of trust here is on another level,” she says. For most of us, coming from the countries we do, trust does not come easily. But in Denmark, trust forms the foundation of daily life, paving the way for smooth social interactions, safe public spaces, and strong community bonds. Danes trust each other so much that they sometimes leave clothes with little tags showing their MobilePay numbers outside their homes, on footpaths, for people to thrift! Teresa, from Italy, finds it surprising how everyone actually trusts each other not to steal these pieces of clothing. It is just assumed that even without surveillance, everyone will act respectfully.



There are so many things in Aarhus that make one feel liberated. From walking freely in the streets, going back home late at night, or simply going for a run with headphones on without worrying about what could happen. The city offers a sense of freedom that is hard to find elsewhere. Martha points out the unisex bathrooms, which Honglin Lyu, Chinese, finds amusing, too.

To some, like Saadain from Pakistan, the administrative services seem very efficient and seamless. For others, it was a different experience. “Simple tasks like the lack of a single national digital identity make this unnecessarily complicated and serve as a reminder of what I took for granted back home,” Shrae recalls.

Coping with everything new here is overwhelming. Something that most of us can agree on is that we can find solace in each other. For Kristin, the key has been quality over quantity in friendships. Instead of chasing a big, boisterous group, she has focused on building a few strong, deep connections. “I’ve also learned to find my own sense of peace in public spaces and not rely on external social energy,” she says, embracing the Danish idea of “less is more” in social interactions – which is making her more comfortable with the quieter rhythm of life here.

In the midst of a mix of the laid-back pace of the city and the rapid academic progress of our course, we have had to unlearn and relearn a lot. As Nathalia puts it: “movement and adaptability are the source of resilience here.” From stepping out of the comfort of our homes to making our dorms feel like home, we are all on a journey of discovering new versions of ourselves while meeting new people every day.

## REALITY CHECK

**Denmark is a flat, bike friendly country... unless you are in Aarhus**

Denmark is often described as a “bicycle nation,” and praised for being “quite flat.” While this holds true in much of the country, Aarhus presents a different reality. According to [elevation.city](#), Copenhagen has an average elevation of 8.5 meters, whereas Aarhus averages 27.8 meters!

There is a ridge stretching from the north of the city down toward the center by the sea. This means that cycling between the city center and the northern districts always involves a climb. Classes are typically held near Vestre Ringgade, so students living in dorms downtown face an uphill ride to campus, while those based in the north encounter the same climb when returning home. And as it happens, many dormitories are located right in the red zones highlighted on the map.

**A JOURNEY  
THROUGH  
AARHUS'S  
FOOD  
CULTURE**

**98**



**BY  
SHUBHANGI  
SINGH**

My first meal in Denmark was a vegetarian burger at McDonald's. The soy patty was ridiculously dry and served almost like a warning sign of what's to come: finding good food is going to be a challenge. However, Aarhus was quick to prove me wrong. Here's the story of how Denmark welcomed me with open arms – and a surprising variety of spices.

## Dal: The Ultimate Danish-India Middle Ground

Indians take our dal (lentils) very seriously. It's a comfort food and an emotional support system all rolled into one steaming bowl. Every family has its version; some like it thin and soupy, others rich and buttery. While some add tomatoes, others swear by a tempering of cumin and garlic. We've invented a thousand ways to prepare it, but I never imagined it would have found a quiet home in Danish kitchens, too. Surprisingly, dal fits into Danish cuisine almost too well.

What surprised me even more, Danes call it dal, too! Lentils are an unspoken staple here, especially among students and families who lean toward healthy, plant-based meals. Walk through an Aarhus supermarket, and you'll find shelves stocked with green lentils, red lentils, and chickpeas. In most dorm kitchens, there's always a half-used packet of lentils waiting to be turned into something warm on a cold evening.

## AARHUS: WHERE GLOBAL MEETS LOCAL

One of the first things I noticed in Aarhus was the emphasis on hygge – the untranslatable Danish word for coziness that's best experienced through food. At cafés like La Cabra or Great Coffee, people linger over a simple pastry, letting time slow down. It reminded me of lazy Indian evenings with chai and pakoras, where the point isn't the food alone, but the moment it creates.

Aarhus may be small by global standards, but its food scene is anything but boring. Walk through the Latin Quarter, and you'll hear a medley of accents while passing Italian trattorias, Syrian bakeries, and Asian noodle bars. On a weekend, you might find Danes sipping Turkish tea at Bazar Vest or trying samosas at an Indian food stall in the Aarhus Street Food market. Much like in India, where cuisines blend seamlessly across regions, Aarhus thrives on fusion while respecting its local roots.



Aarhus' locals also care deeply about freshness and sustainability. Markets like Aarhus Central Food Market showcase organic produce, local cheese, and bread made from scratch. As an Indian, I found that comforting; it echoed the idea of buying vegetables straight from the sabzi mandi (vegetable market) back home.

## WHERE ERASMUS STUDENTS EAT IN AARHUS

If there's one thing our international cohort agrees on, it's that Aarhus knows how to feed you well. Between classes, deadlines, and the Danish weather mood swings, food has become our favourite way to explore the city, and sometimes, to survive it. Whether it's a Vietnamese bánh mì that tastes like comfort, a perfectly flaky Danish pastry, or a bowl of curry that reminds you of home, Aarhus serves a little bit of the world on every plate. Here are some food recommendations from the cohort. I hope these dishes give you as much pleasure as they have given us!

## ASIAN & FUSION FAVOURITES

### *Samito Sushi*

- Too Good To Go sushi box — great for affordable, fresh sushi options.

### *Banh Mi Bandits (Nørregade)*

- Bánh Mì Sandwich — highly recommended for flavor and texture
- Vietnamese Chicken Rice — comforting and flavorful, with a perfect balance of spice.

### *Banh Mi 1975*

- Banh Mi Gà Xá Xíu (Grilled Chicken Banh Mi)
- Banh Mi Thit Heo (Pork Banh Mi)
- Iced Coffee — worth a special mention for its strong, authentic Vietnamese taste.

### *Pho C & P*

- Bún Bò Huế — a must-try spicy Vietnamese noodle soup.

## STREET FOOD & GLOBAL BITES

### *Aarhus Street Food Market*

- Jerk Chicken — from the Jamaican food stall, juicy and packed with flavor.
- Hotdog — a Danish classic with a street-food twist.
- Falafel Wrap & French Fries — from Zaatar, crispy and fresh.
- Gemüse Kebab — a crowd favorite for late-night cravings.





## PLANT FOOD

– Classic Veggie Burger

## MIDDLE EASTERN & SOUTH ASIAN

### *Zaffran*

– Kabuli Pulao — aromatic Afghan rice dish with tender meat and raisins

## CAFÉS & BAKERIES

### *Lynfabrikken*

– Hummus Avocado Focaccia — perfect for brunch.  
– “Breakfast in Berlin” — cozy breakfast option that pairs well with their coffee.

### *Hakko Bakery*

– Cardamom Black Sesame Snurre — fragrant and unique.  
– Bagels (at their new location) — soft, chewy, and perfect for a light lunch.

Aarhus has a way of feeding not just your stomach, but also your curiosity. You might start your day with Danish rye bread, have Vietnamese pho for lunch, and end the night with Indian dal. It’s a city that makes you feel part of something bigger, where the world quietly gathers at the table, one meal at a time.

And somewhere between a dry soy burger and a perfectly simmered bowl of dal, I realized that Aarhus hadn’t just welcomed me: it had made me feel at home.

# THE DIZZINESS OF FREEDOM: SØREN KIERKEGAARD'S PHILOSOPHY APPLIED TO JOURNALISM

BY MAX HEERMANN

At the time of writing this article, Jimmy Kimmel's show had just been suspended and got back on air within a week. Chances are high that things have taken a turn for the worse by the time anyone reads these words (I will leave my predictions and 2025 Bingo out for now). These concerns raise a very essential and valid question: Why should I choose to work as a journalist at this time? After all, we're not all Jimmy Kimmel, and more than enough journalists are silenced every day. But rather than painting a dark image of yours, mine, or our future, I want to be more solution oriented.

Philosophy offers a great relief from moments of existential dread. And who would fit better in our case than one of the fathers of existentialism, and a fellow Dane, Søren Kierkegaard?

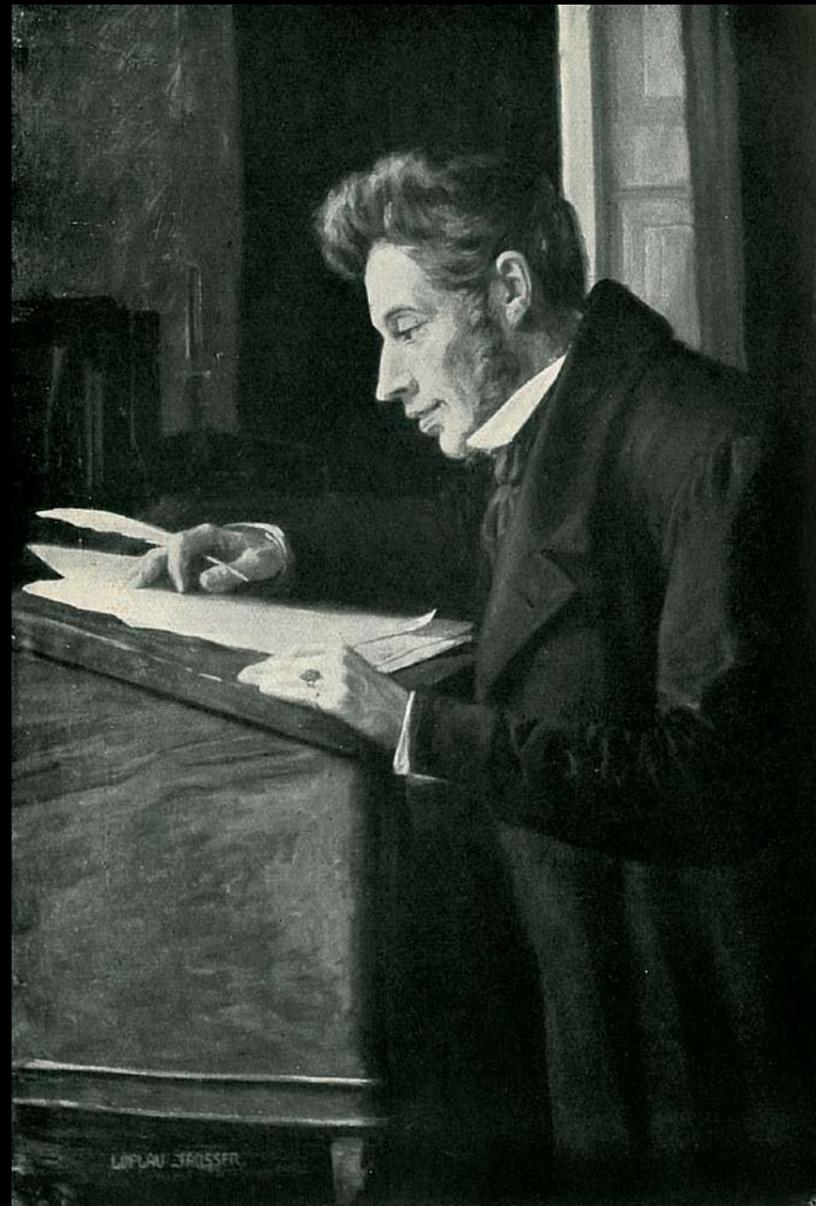
Kierkegaard was born in Copenhagen in 1813 into a wealthy and strictly religious family. He enjoyed a strict upbringing that eventually brought him to study Theology (and some Philosophy) at university. During his student days, he preferred writing over rigorous studying.

And he continued to do so for most of his relatively short life. His main works were all published between 1843 and 1855, when he died at the age of 42. He is known as the first existentialist, which seems contradictory at first, given that he was also a thorough believer. But he challenged the church and described the human search for meaning in a revolutionary way. Works like *Either/Or* and *Fear and Trembling* are still very popular today. Except for occasional trips to Berlin, he rarely left Copenhagen, living a life marked by inner conflicts, pessimism, and anxiety. So how can he help us gain a hopeful outlook on journalism? To understand Kierkegaard's (hopeful) philosophy better, we have to look past his personal life and into his works (which he often published under aliases anyway).

First, I'd like to address one uncertainty in journalism that is currently very much in the spotlight: the fear that AI will take over our roles. That comes hand in hand with an increasing avoidance of news among many people.

A possible solution may be found in some of Søren Kierkegaard's works. He frequently wrote about the concept of subjectivity. Journalists were strictly focused on being as objective as possible for a long time. Truth, however, is something inherently subjective, Kierkegaard would argue - not in the sense of making up one's own facts, but in the sense that humans believe what they experience, not necessarily what is scientifically proven. This calls for a form of reporting that allows people to immerse themselves in the stories by presenting yourself (the journalist) as part of it. It also sheds a hopeful light on the rise of AI, as stories thrive on their human aspects, which is something AI cannot do (yet).

One of Kierkegaard's most famous quotes comes from *Either/Or* (1843): "Marry, and you will regret it; don't marry, and you will also regret it; marry or don't marry, you will regret it either way." Here, he tries to point out that choices define life, and in either way, one will have regrets. However, rather than not making a choice at all, we should realize that there is no one given path; paving our own is our responsibility. Regret is inevitable; making a choice is up to us. Still, this is easier said than done. Uncertainty and fear make it difficult to decide in the first place.



For that, I would like to look at *The Concept of Anxiety*: something that initially seems to be a rather sad read, but offers a surprisingly hopeful perspective on anxiety. In one passage, Kierkegaard presents a person standing close to the edge of a cliff, both fearing and being drawn to jump. With this serious analogy, he attempts to convey a key point, which he summarizes in the concept of the "dizziness of freedom." Having freedom comes with making decisions, and a responsibility for those decisions. Entering the field of journalism also comes with many fears, including the rise of AI and authoritarianism, to mention a few. But still, you feel drawn to it, you have the freedom to make that choice, and you made it at a point in time when the profession is arguably as important as it can be. Freedom isn't to be taken for granted; it needs to be acknowledged and defended. As journalists, you will be at the forefront of that.

With that being said, a lot is going on in the world of journalism right now. Choosing this profession is now more important than ever. When things do become overwhelming, it can be helpful to sit down and read some of Søren Kierkegaard's work. That will also make you very popular among the Danes.

# FOLKLORES ACROSS CULTURES

by Faisal Iftakhar

*“One can tell the worldview of a people - the invisible fears and desires - in a culture’s stories.”*

**W**hen we were children, before we could name the world, we were told folklores. These stories warned, at times soothed, and sometimes just simply made us wonder how life came to be. They were not just entertaining, but quiet instructions for the way of living – moral maps drawn in metaphor, myth, and magic. In our cohort, scattered as we are across continents and languages, these stories—Egyptian, Brazilian, Russian, Kannadiga—serve as the anecdotes about our beginnings. They speak of who we are, show us a guiding light, and warn us what might become of us if not heeded. In Egypt, it’s the tale of The Weighing of the Heart, a story older than memory itself. In the afterlife, the heart of the dead is placed on a scale against the feather of Ma’at, goddess of truth and order. A heavy heart, burdened with deceit or cruelty, is devoured by the monster Ammit, denying one eternal peace. It is a story about accountability, but also about lightness.

A worldview that insists that truth is not abstract but a physical state of being. It teaches us to pay attention to the small things that weigh on our conscience and, more importantly, to live lightly.

From Brazil came the legend of lara, the river siren. She was once a brave warrior, wronged by her brothers, who transformed into a spirit who lured men to the depths of Amazon. It speaks about women’s anger and how silenced women become dangerous myths. It also reminds us that the water remembers injustice. And perhaps, the deeper meaning is the human need to be seen, to have one’s pain acknowledged before it consumes everything around it.

In Russia, the Firebird burns bright in the collective imagination. It is a creature of beauty and peril, bringing both blessing and ruin. It is believed that the one who captures it, gains immense fortune at the cost of great trials.

Hence, the Firebird promises fortune, but it burns those who reach for it too greedily. It reminds us that glory is inseparable from

suffering. In Russia, the Firebird burns bright in the collective imagination. It is a creature of beauty and peril, bringing both blessing and ruin. It is believed that the one who captures it, gains immense fortune at the cost of great trials. Hence, the Firebird promises fortune, but it burns those who reach for it too greedily. It reminds us that glory is inseparable from suffering, thereby reflecting the people’s fascination with endurance in times of melancholy, and the belief that beauty must be earned, quite often through pain.

Finally, from Karnataka in India, there is Tenali Raman, the witty court poet from the Vijayanagara, whose tales of humour and cunningness humble pomp and hypocrisy. It teaches us to challenge authority through humour, pointing to the feebleness of power. Unlike the tragic or moralising tales elsewhere,

Tenali’s world prizes wit over wealth, reason over rank. It reflects a culture that celebrates intellect and irreverence—a reminder that wisdom, too, can wear a smile.

Listening to these stories side by side, it is striking how they all have similar messages communicated differently. The Egyptian’s light heart, the Brazilian’s river of memory, the Russian’s radiant bird, the Kannadiga’s quick-witted poet - all are versions of the same human longing: to live rightly, to be seen, and to overcome the odds of life. Perhaps that is what Cahill meant: our stories are not just mirrors of culture, but of continuity. They survive because they evolve with us.

Hence, when we asked people from our cohort about the stories they grew up with, we wanted to know the kind of world they imagined as a child, and the one they dream of now. After all, we are not merely products of folklore; we play a role in their continuation.

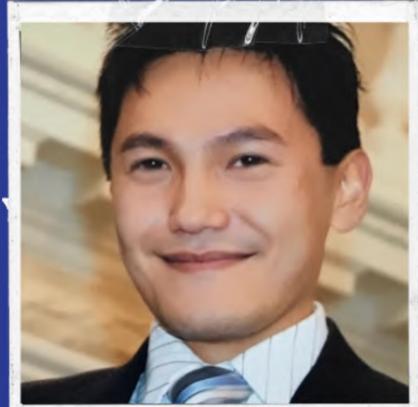
# 20 YEARS OF EMJ



*To celebrate the 20th anniversary of our program, we reached out to one alumnus per cohort (plus our beloved Mundus Mama) and asked them what they're doing now, how they'd describe their Mundus experience, and what advice they have for us. Here's what they had to say:*



# 20 YEARS OF EMJ



2005

**BAKYT AZIMKANOV (KYRGYZSTAN)**

Occupation: Chief Communications Officer

Mundus was ... Life-changing, adventurous, unforgettable

Advice: Be audacious!

Impact of Mundus: It gave me more than just a diploma. It opened doors to pave my own path. It gave me lifelong memories and connections.



2007

**AMANDA FORTIER (CANADA)**

Occupation: Communications and Marketing Professional

Mundus was... Enriching, stimulating, inspiring

Advice: Keep your career path open—your time as a Mundusian will prepare you to excel across industries, sectors, cultures, and roles.

Impact of Mundus: It helped with critical thinking, building compassion and understanding, as well as learning how others see and interact with the world around them.



2006

**MIA YLÖNEN (FINLAND)**

Occupation: Head of Drama

Mundus was ... Life-changing, bountiful, chaotic

Advice: It's never too late to switch careers.

Impact of Mundus: Provided an academic foundation and an analytical mindset for my career.



2008

**DAVID BARNWELL (DENMARK)**

Occupation: Founder, STUDIO BUTIK (creative agency)

Mundus was ... Life-changing, crazy, fun

Advice: Get some practical work in while you are studying. This will give you a head start once you've graduated. (...) Embrace the world around you, love the things that you don't immediately understand, and make it your home.

Impact of Mundus: It changed my life—I met my wife, built lifelong friendships, and gained a global mindset that shaped both my personal life and creative career.



**SARAH MOHAMMEDALI ALMOJADIDI (SAUDI ARABIA / EGYPT)**

Occupation: Senior International Media Advisor & Head of International Media Relations, Ministry of Energy

Mundus was ... Adventurist, multicultural, empowering  
Advice: Stay open to every experience—Mundus's true value lies in its people and connections.

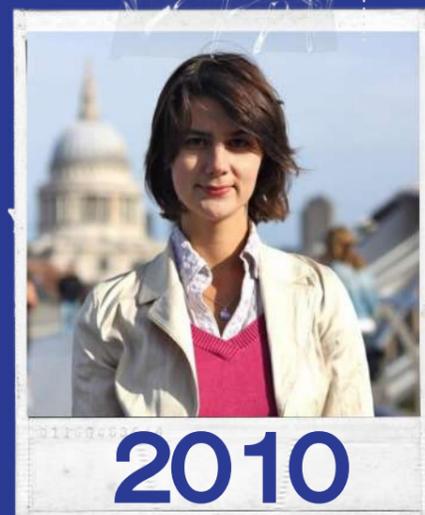
Impact of Mundus: It gave me confidence to work globally and communicate across cultures others see and interact with the world around them.



**MELISSA HUTSELL (CALIFORNIA)**

Occupation: Communications Specialist, Public Information Officer

Mundus was ... Transformative, immersive, challenging  
Advice: Balance your studies and life outside the classroom—the relationships and experiences you build will last a lifetime.  
Impact of Mundus: Taught me to collaborate across diverse perspectives, think critically, and adapt through meaningful research.

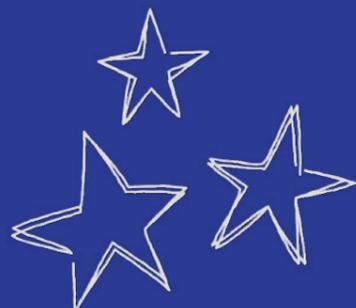


**DOBRIYANA TROPANKEVA (BULGARIA / UK)**

Occupation: Executive Producer

Mundus was ... International, media, career  
Advice: The sky is your limit—own it.

Impact of Mundus: A truly global program that built a lifelong professional network and friendships and connections in the classroom.



**KAIT BOLONGARO (CANADA / ITALY)**

Occupation: Managing Editor for Europe, MLex

Mundus was ... Connecting, travelling, debating  
Advice: Take the job no one else wants—it can make all the difference early in your journalism career.

Impact of Mundus: Built a global network that became a key resource for professional growth.



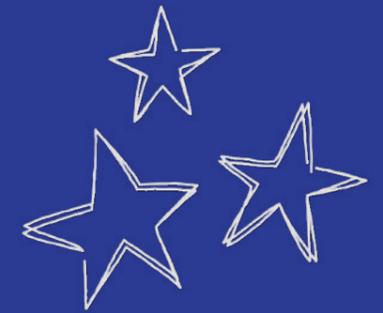
**ELLIE SELLWOOD (UK)**

Occupation: Content and Communications Consultant  
Mundus was... Exciting, supportive, life-changing  
Advice: Lean into the experience—it will shape you and your career in ways you can't imagine yet.  
Impact of Mundus: I moved to Hamburg in 2014 and I still live here. My Erasmus Mundus MA gave me the skills, the resilience and the network to forge my life and career in another country, culture and language.



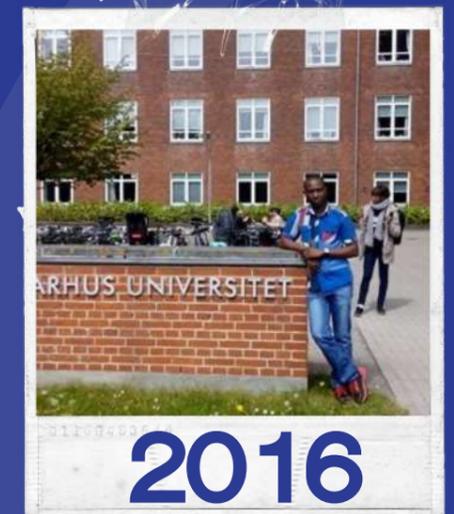
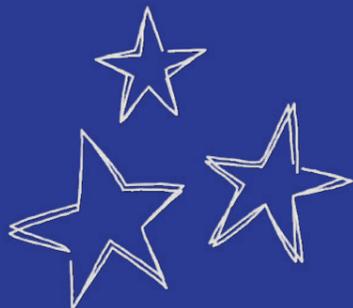
**CAROLINA DRÜTEN (GERMANY)**

Occupation: International Security Correspondent at WELT  
Mundus was... Social, wild, expanding  
Advice: Don't play it too safe. Go out, travel, talk to people you wouldn't normally talk to. You'll forget half the lectures but remember every night spent discussing politics over cheap wine. (To my former teachers: I do remember your lectures too, I promise!)  
Impact of Mundus: Being surrounded by classmates from all over the world changed how I see the world and reinforced my goal of becoming a foreign correspondent—first in Athens, then in Istanbul.



**DEMBA KANDEH (THE GAMBIA)**

Occupation: Journalist  
Mundus was... Whirlwind, caffeinated, unforgettable  
Advice: Remember, the best lessons aren't always in the syllabus! Say "yes" to the random weekend trips to some weird European destination—it will all make sense later.  
Impact of Mundus: Was my boot camp for navigating the world; it threw me into a newsroom of over 40 nationalities and taught me how to find the human story.



**DANFORD ZIRUGO (ZIMBABWE)**

Occupation: Assistant Professor, Journalism and Creative Media Department, University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa, USA)  
Mundus was... Satisfying, rewarding, memorable (and truly life-changing)  
Advice: Embrace the cultural experience and the global network—these relationships and perspectives will fuel your academic and professional growth long after graduation.  
Impact of Mundus: Prepared me for a career centered on journalism studies research and gave me a global network of colleagues and friends. Beyond academics, it was a powerful cultural experience that shaped both my scholarly path and friendships and connections.



**GABRIELE NIEKYTE (LITHUANIA)**

Occupation: Diplomat

Mundus was... Encouraging, provoking, ambitious

Advice: Enjoy the freedom to explore, experiment, and make mistakes—it will shape you into a stronger professional and expert in your field. Don't compare yourself to others; everyone brings a rich and unique background. Use this time to learn from each other's experiences and worldviews, and to see the world through new lenses.

Impact of Mundus: Expanded my ability to understand and navigate diverse perspectives—an essential foundation for a diplomatic career in a global environment worldview.



**GEORGE SICHINGA (ZAMBIA)**

Occupation: PhD Student, University of Leeds (UK)

Mundus was... Epochal, inclusive, memorable

Advice: Stay curious and allow yourself to dive fully into the intellectual and cultural journey—Mundus isn't just a degree, it's a transformation.

Impact of Mundus: I entered the programme disliking research and academia; I left so passionate about it that you'd need a SWAT team to pull me out. Mundus ignited my love for academic research and set me on the path to building a career in media scholarship.



**ISABELA MARTEL (BRAZIL)**

Occupation: Communications and Advocacy Associate, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Brazil

Mundus was... Transformative, enlightening, fun

Advice: Enjoy these two years and embrace every opportunity—socialize, learn from your classmates' cultures, build friendships, and take every chance to grow academically and professionally. Learn as much as you can and don't be afraid to explore new paths; this is the perfect moment to do so.

Impact of Mundus: Expanded my skills and knowledge in meaningful ways, both academically and personally. It taught me not only to adapt, but to enjoy adapting to new contexts, and gave me confidence to navigate diverse international environments while recognizing the value I bring to them.



**KEEGAN WIGGINS (UNITED STATES)**

Occupation: Learning Experience Lead at RNW Media (NGO)

Mundus was... Transformative, memorable, enriching

Advice: Take the time to truly connect with the incredible people in your cohort. The friendships and bonds you build will become lifelong treasures—from celebrating milestones to planning new adventures. The people you meet through Mundus will stay with you long after graduation.

Impact of Mundus: My specialization year led to an internship at RNW Media — recommended through Mundus — which then turned into a full-time role. As someone from outside the EU, gaining experience during the programme was essential for building my career in Europe. That internship opened the door to working in the nonprofit sector here, and I've been with RNW Media ever since.



2021

**ANA MARÍA OCAMPO CUESTA (COLOMBIA)**

Occupation: Senior Risk Content Specialist  
Mundus was... Expansive, adventurous, human

Advice: Enjoy these two years to the fullest! Embrace the rare chance to meet and spend time (nearly to the point of exhaustion!) with such a diverse group of motivated, passionate, and fascinating people. And on a practical note — soak up as much sunlight as you can, or get a therapy lamp to survive those dark winter months!

Impact of Mundus: Broadened my professional perspective, sharpened my critical thinking, and strengthened my social and intercultural skills — equipping me to thrive and truly enjoy working in multicultural, multilingual, international environmentsscholarship.



2023

**SHEKUFÉ RANJBAR (IRAN)**

Occupation: Communications & Press Department, Siemens (Munich)

Mundus was... Challenging, precious, short

Advice: No program is perfect — focus on the strengths and take full advantage of them. There is so much to learn already, so lean in and make the most of it!

Impact of Mundus: Equipped me with valuable skills in storytelling, data journalism, and multimodal communication — all of which play a crucial role in my work today.



2022

**ATIE SAWYER (UNITED STATES)**

Occupation: Business Journalist

Mundus was... Transformative, collaborative, enriching

Advice: The beginning is the hardest part — and you've already made it through. Approach each experience with openness and balance; the good moments will far outweigh the tough days. And stay connected — your Mundus community will be one of your most valuable assets after graduation.

Impact of Mundus: Provided me with a powerful network of intelligent, brave, and hardworking peers. Entering a challenging job market was made easier by the support of my Mundus community, who helped keep me grounded, motivated, and on the right path.



2024

**ARINA PORKHOVNIK (RUSSIA)**

Occupation: 2nd-year Master's student, London

Mundus was... Adventurous, unforgettable, surprising

Advice: If a wild or unexpected opportunity comes up, even if every instinct says "no," say yes. Bring your friends along and embrace the experience — some of the most memorable moments come from saying yes to the unexpected. (Case in point: a 65th birthday party in the middle of nowhere outside Aarhus that turned into a legendary night for our friend group!). So my advice is, if a crazy opportunity comes up and you're unsure, say yes, ask your daredevil friends to join, and see where it leads you.

Impact of Mundus: The program encourages you to take risks, embrace new experiences, and connect deeply with an international cohort — lessons that go far beyond the classroom.

# HONORABLE MENTION: MUNDUS MAMA



**NAME AND SURNAME:** BETTINA ANDERSEN

**WHERE ARE YOU FROM?** Denmark

**CURRENT OCCUPATION?** Mama Mundus

**HOW CAN CURRENT MUNDUSIANS REACH YOU?** (LinkedIn/Social Media/email): [linkedin.com/in/bettinandersen/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/bettinandersen/) <https://www.facebook.com/bettinander/> [band@au.dk](mailto:band@au.dk)

**HOW MANY YEARS HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING FOR MUNDUS?** 20 years!

**HOW DID YOU END UP WORKING FOR MUNDUS?**

I was leading a cross-disciplinary semester programme in Environmental Studies at Aarhus University, where I also taught biological perspectives to international students. Then, as sometimes happens in academia, strategic changes swept in—and the programme was closed.

While I was looking for a new job related to my master's degree in biology, I stumbled upon a job ad that caught my eye. They were looking for someone to build a brand-new Centre for Journalism Studies in Aarhus—someone to start from scratch and help run an international programme that had

just been selected by the EU as one of the very first (and not yet famous!) Erasmus Mundus programmes.

It sounded so cool that I applied immediately—even though I had zero background in journalism. And I have loved it from day one. That was back in 2005, and I am still loving it here 20 years later—thanks to all the wonderful students and colleagues from across the globe who bring the most beautiful, multifaceted cultural experience to life every single day.

**ONE PIECE OF ADVICE YOU'D GIVE CURRENT MUNDUSIANS:**

Coming from a background in biology, I tend to think of life in terms of energy cycles. And one thing that makes me a little sad is when I see my Mundusians using up all their precious energy worrying about the future—things they cannot control or change in the moment. It is like trying to photosynthesise under moonlight: all effort, no result.

I know the programme can feel intense and full of uncertainty about what comes next—but truly, this is such a unique and extraordinary time in your lives. You are surrounded by brilliant minds, a kaleidoscope of perspectives, and experiences that you will look back on for years to come. So please, try not to waste your energy fast-forwarding through it.

Be present. Laugh often. Learn lots. And when things get chaotic—don't just survive it, collect the story! The future will come soon enough, but the present is where the real magic happens. So, in short—carpe diem! Seize the day, and let the future worry about itself.

Can you share about a time when you feared for the program's future and one when you understood the program was here to stay?

Actually, those two moments—when I feared for the programme's future and when I realised it was here to stay—were one and the same. – After we had successfully run the Mundus Journalism programme for five years with EU-funded scholarships, we suddenly found ourselves in 2010 not selected for the next round of funding. I remember thinking, “Oh no—have we not had enough time to stand on our own feet yet?” It felt a bit like watching your child move out before you are entirely sure they can cook or pay the bills.

But then something wonderful happened. Even without scholarships to offer, we still received 161 applications from students representing 29 different nationalities. That was the moment I realised that Mundus Journalism had proven its real strength: bringing together a truly global set of minds to reflect on and address the challenges journalism faces in sustaining its democratic role worldwide. From that point on, I knew it was here to stay.

**WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE MOMENT THROUGHOUT THE 20 YEARS?**

Without a doubt, our 10-year anniversary and reunion in Amsterdam in 2015. It was one of those weekends that perfectly captured what Mundus Journalism is all about—energy, curiosity, friendship, and a sense that the world really is our shared newsroom.

We kicked things off with a relaxed evening at the Dampkring Original Gallery, where alumni, students, and staff filled the space with laughter, stories, and the kind of joyful chaos that only happens when dozens of Mundusians from across the globe reunite.

Then came the main event at Pakhuis de Zwijger—a cultural hub in a converted warehouse—which somehow felt like the perfect metaphor for Mundus: grounded in real-world grit, but full of creative spirit. An overwhelming number—nearly 300 alumni—joined us for the celebration, travelling in from every corner of the world.

The programme featured everything from heartfelt keynotes to spontaneous reunions in the hallway. The founding father, Hans Henrik Holm, gave a brilliant talk—part reflection, part stand-up comedy—where he joked about us creating a “Mundus hegemony,” and for a moment, it almost sounded like a good idea. Audrey Sykes from the very first cohort had helped bring it all together, proving that the Mundus spirit of collaboration never fades.

And then there was the moment I will never forget—a surprise video made for me personally, with messages from students and alumni all over the world. I like to think there were not many tears in the room, but I definitely contributed a few.

That reunion felt like the programme had truly come of age. Even without any formal speeches saying so, it was clear that Mundus Journalism had become something unique: a global network of journalists and thinkers, all tackling the challenges and opportunities of journalism's role in democracy from their own corners of the world—but forever connected by this shared experience.

I have often wished we could organise another (20 years!) reunion like that one. But with nearly 1,500 alumni now spread across more than 100 countries, the logistics have, unfortunately, turned out to be impossible. Instead, in recent years, individual cohorts have returned to Aarhus to celebrate their own 10-year anniversaries—a wonderful new tradition that keeps the Mundus spirit very much alive.





WHO ARE

WE?



**Max Heermann**

Gevelsberg, Germany 2002

IG: Max\_hrmn



**Aïcha**

Video • Khaled

**BIO:**

I'm a retired standup comedian. I have lost count of my different news subscriptions. I cried when my football team got relegated. I cried when my football team got promoted. I like to travel, especially by train. Heath Ledger in the Dark Knight is the best acting performance in my opinion. I believed Mr. Bean was a real person until I was 12 or something. I like books.

**In 20 years:**

In an interview for a documentary with the leader of a para military group that fights for the protection of bees



**Keep Your Head Up**

Video • Ben Howard

**BIO:**

I recently graduated with a BA in Media Research. Alongside my studies I worked for my university's social media team and interned at a political photo agency in Berlin. During my semester abroad I made a documentary on the impact of surfing in Brazil which inspired me to pursue visual journalism.

**In 20 years:**

Hopefully living in a house by the ocean, taking pictures of the people and things that I love.



**Til Burger**

Bonn, Germany 2001

IG: Til.burger

# PRAG



**It's Called: Freefall**

Canción • Paris Paloma

**BIO:**

Of all the things I can describe myself as, the most accurate would be a 'writer'. I write climate news, marketing campaigns, stand-up comedy, movie reviews, and scarily short introductions of myself.

**In 20 years:**

Living in a beach town, writing investigative news stories, surrounded by art and people I love. Oh, and still doing stand-up.



**Vigyél el**

Presser Gabor, Klari Katona

**BIO:**

My portfolio is a bit hectic, from Forbes Hungary to a local paper, Józsefváros Újság. But my favourite story is from when I was three months into a traineeship: I covered a story on a mid-serious terrorist group plotting against Viktor Orbán. The Prosecutor's Office wouldn't give details but asked for my full name and number for their "list of inquirers." I told my editor, and we had a laugh.

**In 20 years:**

Hopefully won't be labeled as a 'bug' by the current prime minister.



**Shubhangi Singh**

Mathura, India 1999

shubhangisingh233@gmail.com



**Emma Szilasi**

Budapest, Hungary 2001

IG: szilasi.selyem



### I Don't Want to Be

Video • Gavin DeGraw

#### BIO:

I'm an artist, writer, producer, and aspiring journalist who loves telling real human stories through words, images, and performance. I'm passionate about giving voice to communities, exploring culture and connection through travel and lived experience, and doing my part to make the world a little kinder and more understanding.

#### In 20 years:

I hope to be traveling the world, creating documentaries and other art that show the human side of war and conflict. Any way I can share stories of humanity would be fulfilling for me. I'd love to have a small homestead by the water with a garden, a cozy home sauna, a family around me, and maybe even a book or two of my own to share with the world.



### Kaitlin Hlywa

New York, USA 1996

kaitlinhlywa@gmail.com



### Tell Me I'm Dreaming

Saint Levant

#### BIO:

Studying psychology, I initially wanted to become a neuroscientist. Writing for a science magazine sparked my passion for journalism, though. I threw my plans overboard and a year later became a Deutsche Welle fellow, producing my own daily radio show in Namibia. Since then, I have focused on news from overlooked regions, always highlighting human emotions and lived experiences.

#### In 20 years:

Alive and kicking? To be honest, I do not even know where I see myself next week.



### Vadim Martschenko

Munich, Germany/UK 2001

vadim.martschenko@outlook.com



### Folk Tune

Adnan Sami Khan - Zakir Hussain

#### BIO:

News producer and journalist with 15+ years of experience covering Pakistan, Afghanistan, and the wider region. Mostly focusing on conflict, security, and South Asia–Middle East affairs. Passionate about exploring contradictions in politics, media, and society through storytelling and podcasts.

#### In 20 years:

Leading a global media and research initiative that bridges academia, policy, and journalism and to help them understand conflict, diplomacy, and society with a nuance.



### Like the Sun

Tanukichan

#### BIO:

Caroline Chaffiotte is a 25-year-old broadcast journalist from the United States. Previously, she has worked as an assignment editor for WHDH in Boston, covering everything from presidential elections to basketball championships. She also received an Emmy for her coverage of the 2023 Leominster flash flood. In her free time, you can find Caroline reading the New York Times or learning to cook.

#### In 20 years:

I hope to be a field producer for an international outlet like Reuters or the AP, working on long-form investigative documentaries.

### Suhaib Zuberi Hafiz

Pakistan 1985

x.com/suhaib.zuberi

### Caroline Chaffiotte

Boston, USA 2000

chaffiotte9@comcast.net



**Bia Scali**

Genova, Italy 2000

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/bia-scali/>



**Albero**

Eugenio In Via Di Gioia

**BIO:**

I hold a BA in International Studies and an MA in East Asian Studies from Leiden University. I'm passionate about reading and writing the news, especially if it's about Italy, the Sinosphere, or social justice movements. I've dabbled in podcasting, and I'd like to dabble more. In my free time, I like doing Taekwondo, calling my friends, and touching grass.

**In 20 years:**

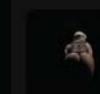
I picture a fun, fulfilling, ever-queerer life somewhere in Europe. I'll live off writing, mainly about East Asia, often from there. I'll have a balcony to chat and people-watch from with my love(s).



**Drew Muñoz Romero**

Barcelona, Spain 2000

IG: drewromr



**SALVAJE**

Video • NATHY PELUSO

**BIO:**

Designer and aspiring journalist, passionate about climate journalism and intersectional stories. I focus on long-form, slow, curated news, solutions journalism, and documentary filmmaking, crafting thoughtful narratives that dig deep.

**In 20 years:**

Either dancing my heart out at the alumni reunion ;) or chatting with local grandmas in the Balkans for a story



**Rikke Huan Clemmesen**

Denmark 1996

rhc4b@icloud.com



**Sunshine Reggae**

Laid Back

**BIO:**

A radio and podcast-girl, who also know how to master a pen (or computerkeyboard, if I should be more mordern). But I would also dare to say that I'm a pro in making quizzes, going thriftshopping and host the-meparties.

**In 20 years:**

Traveling in a van, reporting stories, having a dog.



**Nora Chan**

Ivjeu, China 2003

[norachan0197@icloud.com](mailto:norachan0197@icloud.com)



**The Mist And Clouds Over Xiao-Xian...**

Canción • Cha Fuxi

**BIO:**

A storyteller.

**In 20 years:**

Somewhere or nowhere.



**Clara Ferrer Puccio**

Córdoba, Argentina & Italy 1998  
[www.linkedin.com/in/clara-ferrer-puccio](http://www.linkedin.com/in/clara-ferrer-puccio)



**Foam**

📺 Video • Royel Otis

**BIO:**

Digital Journalist | Latin-American Narrative Journalism | Investigative journalism

Started her career at the Breaking News team at La Voz del Interior, one of Argentina's top digital media outlets according to Reuters Institute for Journalism. She has also contributed to Climate Tracker and InquireFirst as a media fellow and freelancer. Focus on environment and climate change stories.

**In 20 years:**

As a not-so-cynical-journalist (hopefully)

## REALITY CHECK

### Early Birds Only: The Danish Schedule Explained

The Danish keep an early schedule compared to other countries. Most pharmacies close between 17:30 and 19:00, with very few exceptions shutting their doors as early as noon. On weekdays, most shops are closed by 18:00. Phone lines for booking doctor's appointments often close by midday as well. Even the Royal Library, the latest-opening library at Aarhus University, closes at 18:00, and its canteen, like many others on campus, stops serving lunch at 13:30. Aarhus is, in many ways, a city built for early birds. But don't worry, we've got you covered! If you need a library open late, head to Dokk1, and if you're looking for a canteen that stays open longer, Math is your best bet. Also, in case of an emergency, you can always call the emergency doctor.

## REALITY CHECK

### There is an App for Everything

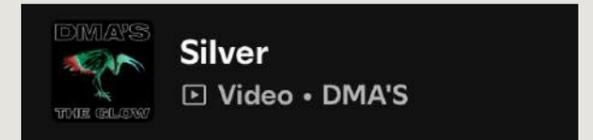
When planning ahead for your stay in Aarhus, you'd better start freeing up some storage on your phone: from finances to transport, bureaucracy to shopping, much of your Danish life will be managed through applications. There is an App to access government portals (MitID), one to navigate the campus buildings (AU Find), another one to send and receive money (MobilePay), several to use public transport (Midttrafik, Rejsekort), a different one to view offers at each supermarket... the list goes on. In some student accommodations, you might even need an app to operate the washing machine or answer your doorbell! Portable chargers will be your best friends.

# MORE



**Jacklyn O'Brien**

Australia & The Netherlands 2003  
IG: jacklyn\_obrien

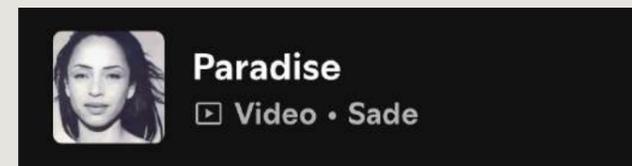


**BIO:**

I graduated from the University of Queensland with a Bachelor of Journalism in 2023. I then worked from country to coast across regional Queensland for various mastheads in remote communities and in metropolitan areas. I love telling and sharing textured stories across mediums, but ambling prose is where I spark to life.

**In 20 years:**

Reading on a beach



**Paradise**

Video • Sade

**BIO:**

I recently graduated from the University of Bristol with a BA in English & Theatre. During my undergrad degree, I was features editor of The Bristol Tab, overseeing all features, commissioning and editing articles. I gained further experience working at Surrey's largest paper. My writing interests focus on culture, theatre and the arts as I strive to be an arts correspondent in my future career

**In 20 years:**

As a top arts correspondent for a UK national paper, living in gorgeous London with my family!



**Honor Butler**

Surrey, UK & Ireland 2004  
IG: @honor.butler



**Himadyuthi Deshpande**

Bengaluru, India 2003  
himavdes@gmail.com



**What Makes You Beautiful**

Video • One Direction

**BIO:**

With a bachelor's in journalism, I've reported for Bengaluru's Deccan Herald and Mumbai's Citizen Matters on urban infrastructure, health, labor, and policy. I've held editorial roles at Dayananda Sagar University and worked as a creative officer in event management. Passionate about language, I explore media's evolving ties with governments, and society.

**In 20 years:**

In 20 years, I will be in a place where I can tell the world not only the stories of the unheard, but also why their stories are left untold.



**True Colours**

Canción • Tom Odell

**BIO:**

I was writing book recommendation articles for about half a year. Afterwards, I was a content manager intern for about a year. I was also making a Radio talk show with my friends at a small online radio in Budapest, where we discussed current and important news and events once a week. This opportunity also allowed me to write a few concert articles. :)

**In 20 years:**

I don't play tarot cards, sorry. ;)



**Dóra Lovas**

Hajdúböszörmény, Hungary 2002  
IG: l.dori\_



**Run For Roses**

NMIXX

**BIO:**

With three undergraduate degrees, I've journeyed through international media and global affairs. Beyond work and study, I act as a climate activist—co-organizing a sustainability campaign that brought together 50 universities and around 70,000 students. That first step made me real; these two years, I hope, will make me whole. In truth, I'm both interesting and uninteresting, but I do hope to make the world a little more interesting.

**In 20 years:**

- To be alive,
  - To laugh with light,
  - To publish a book of stories,
  - To touch a few lives with meaning,
  - To let the wind carry the rest.
- Of course, having a dog :)



**Leo Liu**

Beijing, China 2002  
liulei-xxrxj@foxmail.com



**Naz Valizadeh**

Shiraz, Iran 2002  
nazvalizade@gmail.com



**The Wizard - 2009 Remaster**

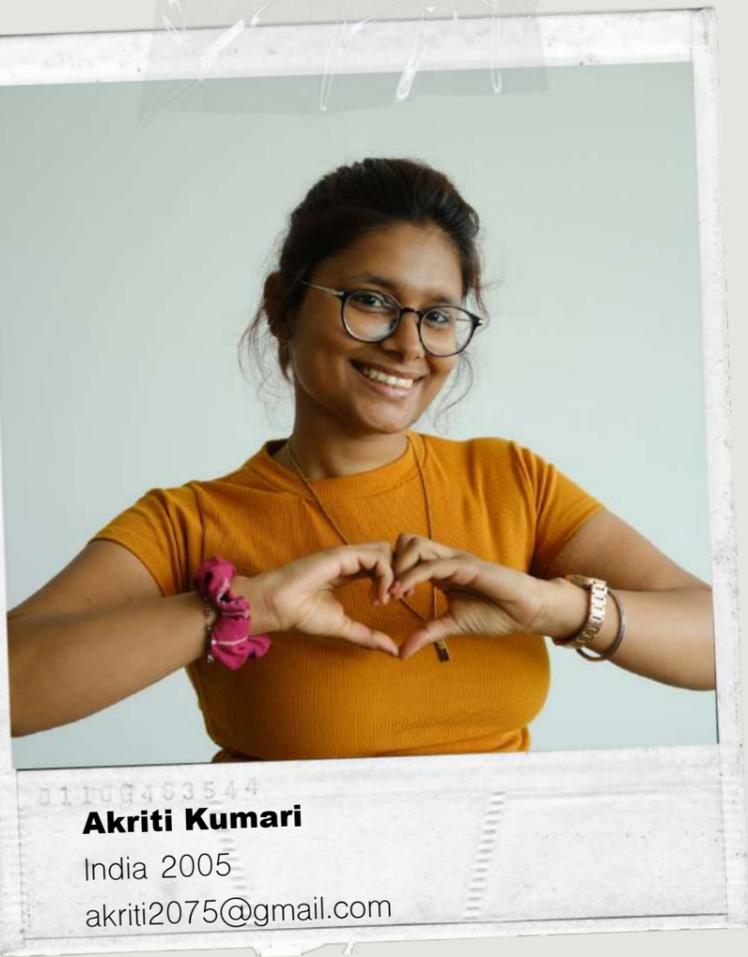
Black Sabbath

**BIO:**

Former English teacher; lifelong lover of literature, linguistics, and sociology; aspiring social justice reporter and essayist. Can ride a motorcycle, but not a bicycle.

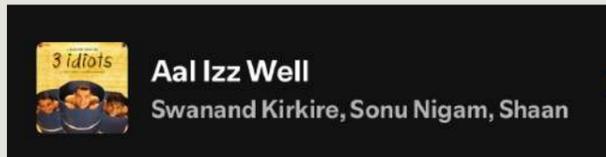
**In 20 years:**

In a farmhouse, harvesting apples and writing.



**Akriti Kumari**

India 2005  
akriti2075@gmail.com



**BIO:**

A journalism graduate pursuing a master's in the field, passionate about storytelling and exploring how media shapes society. I love delving into diverse perspectives, uncovering meaningful narratives, and finding inspiration in books and nature, which fuel my curiosity and creativity as a writer and lifelong learner.



**Lara Zofio Lleo**

Madrid, Spain 1998  
IG: laravagamundos



**BIO:**

Journalist specialized in fact-checking, with experience across Spanish national and international media. I've worked in press, TV, and radio. Among other milestones, I'm a proud winner of my university's best report award as a sophomore, published on the front page of El Confidencial Digital at 22, and interviewed CEOs in Kuwait in my mid-20s. Currently looking for my next challenge.

**In 20 years:**

Helping people distinguish accurate information from misinformation, or being a modern-day muckraker. Hopefully, as I explore the world.



**BIO:**

Journalist and Literature graduate from São Paulo, now a Master's student in Europe. Before moving abroad, I worked in corporate communication, content creation, press relations and ghostwriting. I covered the F1 São Paulo GP 2024 and produced a reportage book on resilience with Latin American women, combining my passion for literary journalism and storytelling.

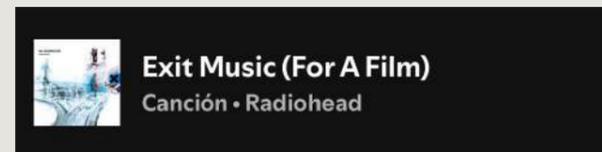
**In 20 years:**

Writing amazing stories around the world, with a passport full of stamps and plenty of Formula 1 races experienced.



**Luísa Ré De Rocco**

Passo Fundo, Brazil 2001  
luisarederocco@gmail.com



**BIO:**

Once a corporate communicator specialising in events, PR, campaigns, and branding, I'm now trading press releases for the press itself. Writing has always been my guiding light, "a lighthouse" and this master's in Journalism is my way of following it: towards stories that question, connect, and endure. Because stories matter, and I'm here to tell them better.

**In 20 years:**

Sipping a French 75 in the South of France, celebrating my 100th country stamp, and hopefully still writing!



**Shreya Nair**

Singapore 2000  
shreyanair00@gmail.com



**Maggie Quinlan**

Pullman, Washington, USA 1999  
maggieqwrites@gmail.com



**Can't Be Sure**  
The Sundays

**BIO:**

I cut my teeth as a crime reporter in my home state of Washington. In between breaking news stories, I reported on conditions in the state's prisons. I spent the next few years reporting in Texas, where I wrote about prisoners, refugees, extreme weather, and tricky legislation. The USA is changing rapidly. Through this program, I'm aiming to make myself as useful as possible in our new world.

**In 20 years:**

If it is safe to be a journalist where I live and I have loved ones around me, life will be pretty good in 20 years.



**Mariana Passuello**

Florianópolis, Brazil 1999  
IG: marianapassuello



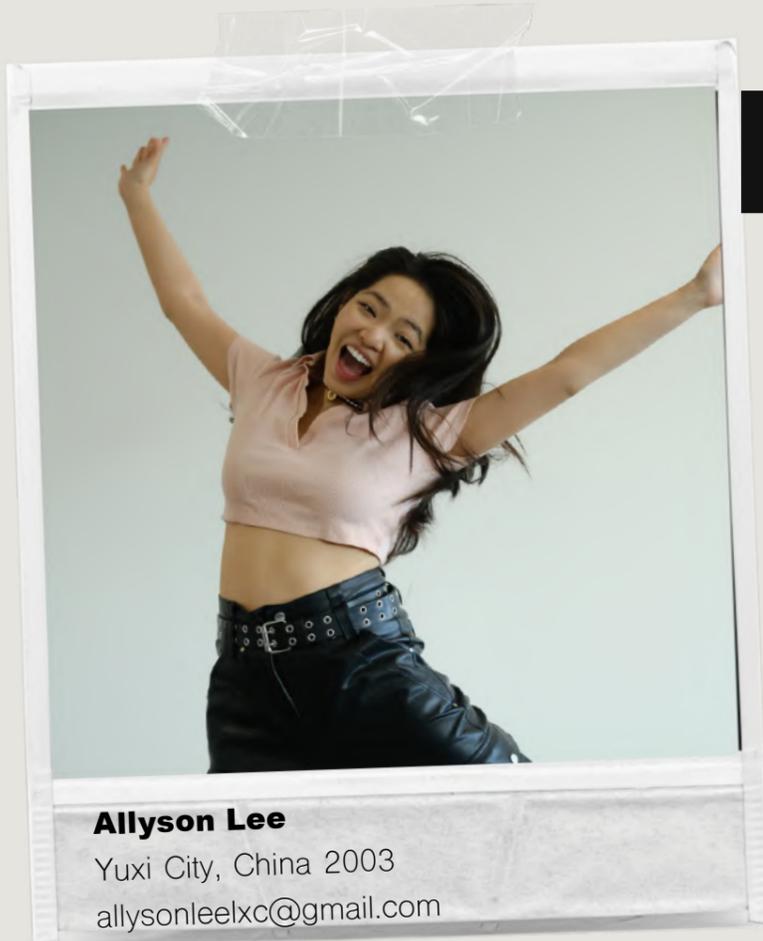
**Oba, Lá Vem Ela**  
Jorge Ben Jor, Trio Mocoto

**BIO:**

I'm a journalist with 5 years of experience in TV and multimedia reporting, covering both local and national news in Brazil. My work has included breaking news, social issues, and human rights coverage. Now in Europe, I carry the same passion to connect with people and bring forward stories that cross borders.

**In 20 years:**

In 20 years, I hope to be working on special projects for the Brazilian audience, acting as Brazil's eyes abroad, while also having the flexibility to dive deep into social phenomena within the country. And hopefully, I'll have one or more dogs.



**Allyson Lee**

Yuxi City, China 2003  
allysonleelxc@gmail.com



**Sailor Song**  
Canción • Gigi Perez

**BIO:**

PR & Advertising background with experience in copywriting, campaigns & media. Passionate about creative, strategic storytelling to connect people, ideas & cultures globally.

**In 20 years:**

Back in China starting my career or having a rest from work, enjoying my sojourn abroad.



**Ayush Pawar**

Dehradun, India 1998  
ayushpwr98@gmail.com



**The Downeaster 'Alexa'**  
Canción • Billy Joel

**BIO:**

I am a filmmaker and visual storyteller with a background in Film Production from the UK. My work revolves around themes of culture, memory, and belonging using documentary as a way to connect people and places through emotion.

**In 20 years:**

I see myself running a creative studio that blends documentary filmmaking with media production. Somewhere between mountains and cities, I hope to keep creating films.



**Nathalia Teixeira**

Curitiba, Paraná, Brasil 1999  
njteixeir@gmail.com



**BIO:**

I'm a journalist turned cultural storyteller who believes in words that connect. From covering local educators and leaders in U.S. outlets to living on community farms, I've learned storytelling goes beyond headlines. Pursuing this master's, I want to explore more how media bridges cultures through curiosity and authenticity.

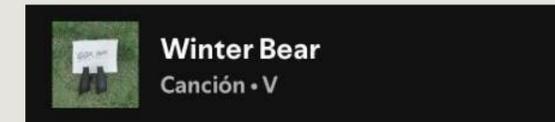
**In 20 years:**

Happy and fulfilled with whatever my path brings.



**Sisa Mariya Sunny Chennampillil**

India 2002  
sisamariyasunny999@gmail.com



**BIO:**

I have a BA in English Language and Literature and a Master's in Social Work, and now I'm part of the Erasmus Mundus program. Alongside academics, I spent three years teaching Western music, which taught me creativity, patience, and how to connect with people from different backgrounds.

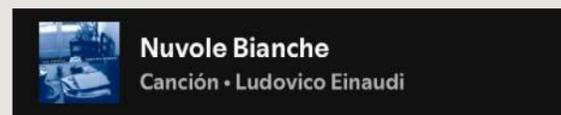
**In 20 years:**

I can see me as a successful television show host, a producer and a philanthropist.



**Honglin Lyu**

China 1991  
beautyhl1125@gmail.com



**BIO:**

a mature student and passionate hiking and mountaineering enthusiast, with the highest altitude reached being over 6,000 meters, fell in love with cycling since in Denmark

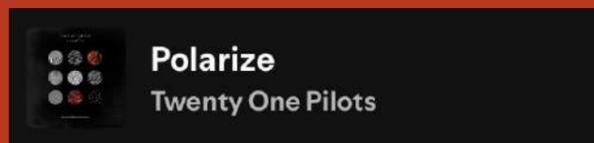
**In 20 years:**

I will be a writer or a journalist who has reached mountains above 8,000 meters above sea level.

# BOOK NOW



**Gabriele (Ella) Blaschko**  
Idstein/Munich Germany 2003  
blaschkoella@gmail.com



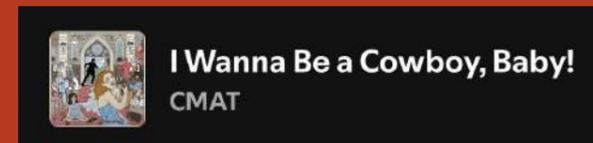
**BIO:**

I love telling people's stories, exploring different perspectives, cultures, and living circumstances. Equally interested in small, local stories and big politics – always trying to get close to the story. Most recently, I worked at the German public broadcaster ZDF. Passionate about constructive journalism and the research into it. (Did some myself during my bachelor's degree.)

**In 20 years:**

In my school yearbook, I wished that I would be „writing and someone would be interested“. Not sure about the writing part now, but still hoping to do something meaningful.

(Oh, and I have a dachshund)



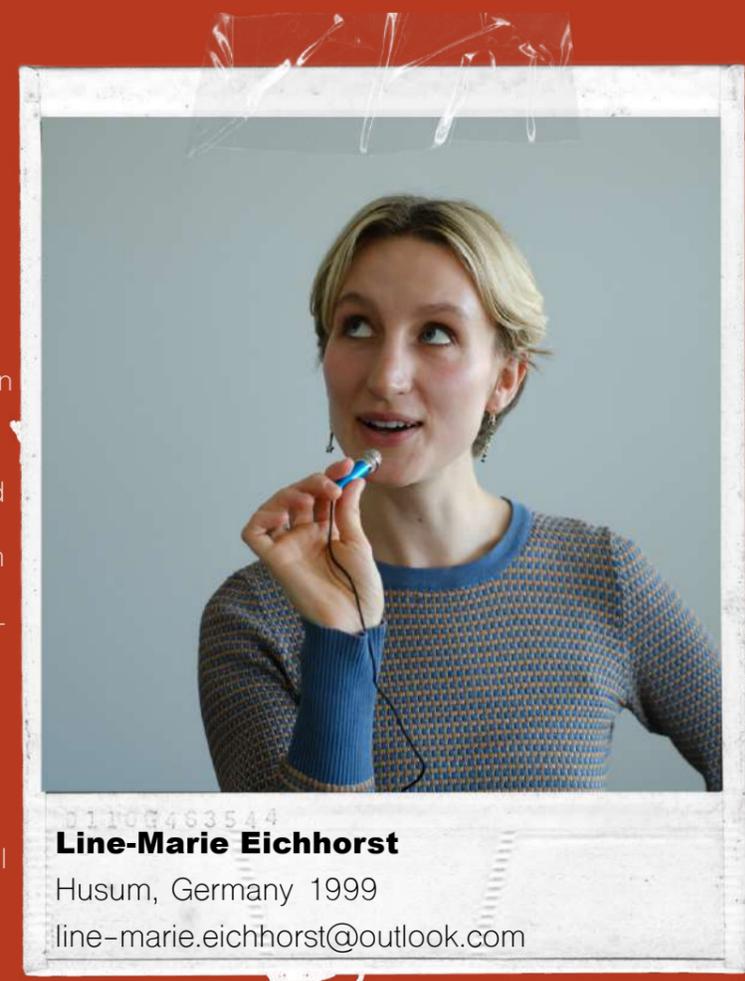
**BIO:**

After high school, I interned with a nonprofit in Cleveland, Ohio, which sparked my interest in global issues and connections. This led me to study International Relations, Sociology, and International Law at a liberal arts college in Maastricht, the Netherlands.

While studying, I wrote as a columnist for the university newspaper, writing on social and global topics. I also spent a semester abroad in Burlington, Vermont, where I took journalism courses and reported on local issues. That experience strengthened my passion for storytelling and inspired me to pursue this master's program.

**In 20 years:**

In 20 years: I hope to work as an investigative journalist and create documentaries , and I also want an orange cat.



01100463544  
**Line-Marie Eichhorst**  
Husum, Germany 1999  
line-marie.eichhorst@outlook.com



**Annika Mösl**

Stuttgart, Germany 2001  
annikamoosl@web.de



**Go Your Own Way - 2004 Re**  
Fleetwood Mac

**BIO:**

Trying to learn all about uncovering unpleasant truths and to tell stories with data after several internships and my bachelor's. Otherwise trying to figure out how to be as funny in English as I am in German, reading any book or watching any film and missing skiing and hiking in the flatlands of Denmark.

**In 20 years:**

Happy, my beloved people around me, having a job that fulfills me.



**Salomé Bonneyrat**

La Flotte en Ré, France 2004  
salomebonneyrat@gmail



**Dancing Queen**  
Video • ABBA

**BIO:**

Hey, everyone! I am Salomé, originally from France, but I have also lived in Amsterdam, where I studied Political Science and worked for a bit in Brussels. I am passionate about anything related to Politics, International Relations and climate change. In my spare time you can find me getting coffee with friends, visiting news places or simply reading a good book

**In 20 years:**

In 20 years, I hope to be a journalist covering global affairs, exploring our beautiful world, and making a positive impact on society. And of course, having a dog :)



**Camille Rodriguez Montilla**

Margarita Island, Venezuela 1996  
IG: camillerodriguezmontilla



**Taro**  
alt-J

**BIO:**

I'm a journalist and filmmaker who loves telling stories that connect people and places. I've worked with international media, NGOs, and on filmmaking projects. I'm especially drawn to social and environmental issues. Whether I'm writing, filming, or digging into research, I enjoy turning complex ideas into stories that resonate.

**In 20 years:**

No idea where. Definitely doing journalism.



**Pretty In Possible**  
Caroline Polachek

**BIO:**

Journalist and media graduate with a background in digital content and corporate comms, now pursuing a master's abroad to reconnect with journalism and critical thinking. Culture-obsessed, coffee-fueled, and always chasing stories in the in-betweens

**In 20 years:**

In 20 years, I hope to be living off my creative and journalistic work, with a stable and fulfilling life surrounded by people I love. Ideally in a walkable city, connected to culture, where I can contribute to public conversations



**Sara Comendador Sotos**

Madrid, Spain 2000  
sara.comendador@gmail.com

**BIO:**

I am a journalist and editor with over 20 years experience – reporting in Malaysia and Cambodia on business, economy, politics and human rights. I am a simple writer, but with a passion in peeling issues that matter to people and giving a voice to communities.

**In 20 years:**

Producing podcasts/vodcasts on local issues to educate and raise a public



**Geetha Amarthalingam**

Penang, Malaysia 1974

geethalin@gmail.com



**Every Time the Sun Comes Up**

Canción • Sharon Van Etten

**BIO:**

Anthropologist-turned-journalist with an incurable curiosity and a knack for asking all the questions. Treats every day as fieldwork, roaming for stories on culture, everyday politics, and hidden oddities. Has worked for the Danish newspaper Weekendavisen and written for ATLAS magazine.

**In 20 years:**

Exposing injustices across borders as an investigative journalist, or scribbling a half-finished book in a rose garden, drinking tea and calling it research.



**Leah Burke**

Copenhagen, Denmark 1998

leah-burke@hotmail.com



**Family and Loyalty**

Canción • Gang Starr, J. Cole

**BIO:**

After internships and a freelance role in one of Austria's biggest print newspapers, I switched to hosting radio shows at a small station. I then worked in Brussels, reporting on EU affairs mostly through Social Media. My first full time job took me to Berlin to work for Euronews in their bureau there. I quit my job to study EMJ and I don't regret it for a second :)

**In 20 years:**

Fulfilled, working a (foreign reporting?) job in media that enables me to get ahead in my career but also focus on my personal life. I also want to live in another country and not move back to Austria.



**Mathias Huber**

St.Gallen, Austria 2001

IG: actuallymathias



**Faisal Iftakhar**

Delhi, India 1992

faisaliftakhar@gmail.com



**Tere Bin**

Rabbi Shergill

**BIO:**

With training in politics and experience in political communication, I value the role of platforms in shaping society. Guided by analytical rigour, I seek to uncover nuances beyond the black-and-white of truth, and, hopefully, leave the world better than I found it

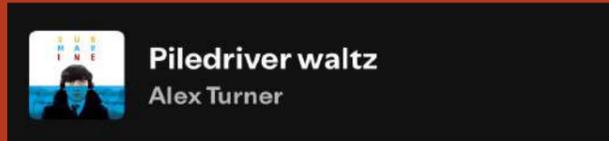
**In 20 years:**

Considering current trends in journalism, hopefully alive—and still writing!



**Ana Navarro Bulló**

San Rafael, Argentina 2002  
aa.navarrobullo@gmail.com



**BIO:**

I was mad when my mom made me talk to strangers and ask for the bill, but now talking to strangers is my favourite thing along with looking for press accreditations to do so in a non-awkward way. I like quoting my friends, waking up at night to write down an idea, and bringing one extra film roll on a trip. I'm impatient when it comes to making the world a better place.

**In 20 years:**

Probably being banned from a few countries for having exposed acute public wrongdoings, but also writing about voices seeking justice and managing to enjoy



**Habibe Holzkamp**

Hamburg, Germany 2003  
h.holzkamp@kuchtagroup.de

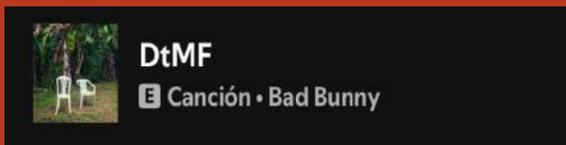


**BIO:**

I have a bachelor in international studies with a regional specialization on the Middle East. While my background is not in journalism and I only have little journalistic experience, I have a passion for writing and investigating and am eager to combine this in my journalism journey.

**In 20 years:**

I will be a successful war journalist reporting from the Middle East.



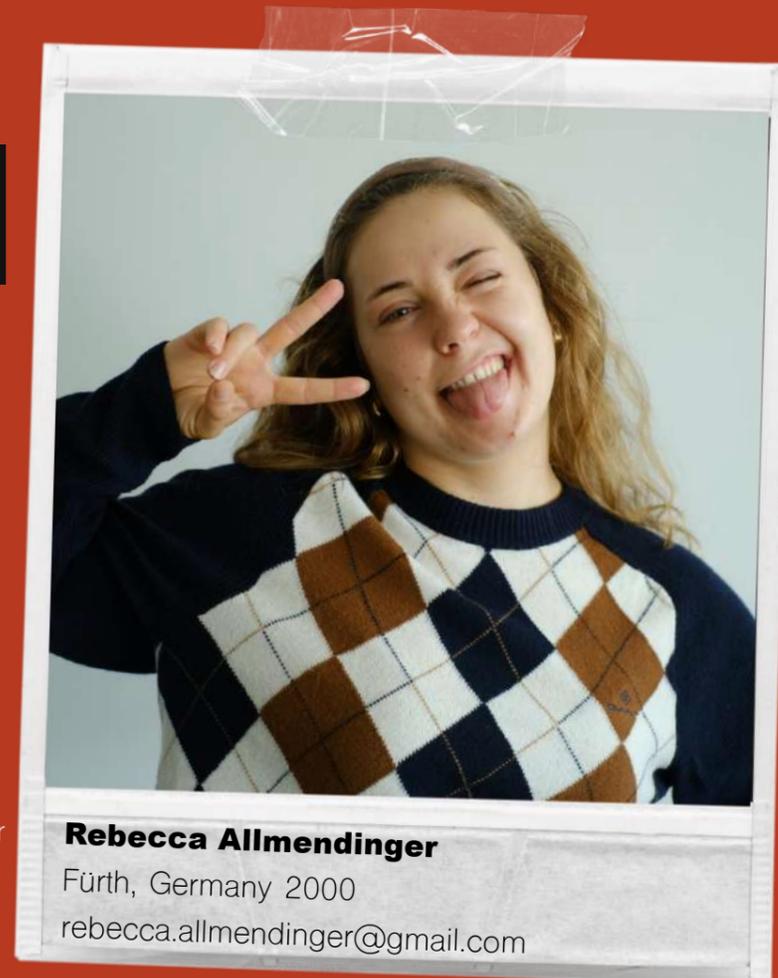
**BIO:**

I am a passionate culture discoverer and culture translator.

During my BA in Journalism with specialisation in Human Geography, I worked as a freelance journalist and intern at a PR Agency in Munich. I am here to understand a nation's circumstances and bring it closer to the world; To meet ordinary people with extraordinary lives and make their stories come alive.

**In 20 years:**

Working as a foreign correspondent or war reporter



**Rebecca Allmendinger**

Fürth, Germany 2000  
rebecca.allmendinger@gmail.com



**BIO:**

I am a passionate and curious journalist with a fable for languages, cultures, meeting new people and experiencing adventures. I have completed my BA in Communication Studies at University of Salzburg. Alongside I have worked at ORF Salzburg and the local newspaper Sazburger Nachrichten. I currently do freelance work for their foreign correspondence, culinary, travel, science and youth sections.

**In 20 years:**

As an investigative journalist, who is still in touch with all the lovely people I met during my time at Mundus



**Andrea Gleirscher**

Austria 2003  
andrea.gleirscher@gmail.com



**Ava Bracken**

Dublin, Ireland 2002  
anibhreacain@gmail.com

**Bubblegum**  
Video • Mystery Jets

**BIO:**

I have a BSc in Politics and International Relations with Social Justice in my undergraduate program. I spent most of my time in UCD either in the student radio station (BelfieldFm) or playing Ultimate Frisbee. I hosted two radio shows in my time at BelfieldFm and also worked as a general productions officer. I am also a member of Sydhavnsbølgen, a community radio station in Aarhus.

**In 20 years:**

I hope to see myself working as an investigative journalist, having spent the last 20 years travelling and covering stories from around the world. I also see myself moving from journalism into law, using the life experience I've learnt as a journalist to help me become a successful human rights lawyer. I will also have two dogs



**Bienvenidos Al Show**

Video • Amaia

**BIO:**

I recently finished a double bachelor's degree in Journalism and Advertising & Public Relations in Bilbao. During that time, I spent a year living in Italy, worked in a corporate communication office, did an internship in digital marketing, and volunteered in different projects such as the Debate Club and the Model European Union.

**In 20 years:**

Hopefully somewhere near the sea :)



**Sara Jaureguizar Lombardero**

Lugo/Bilbao, Spain 2002  
sarajaureguizar@hotmail.es



**Moving Forward - Cosmodeli...**

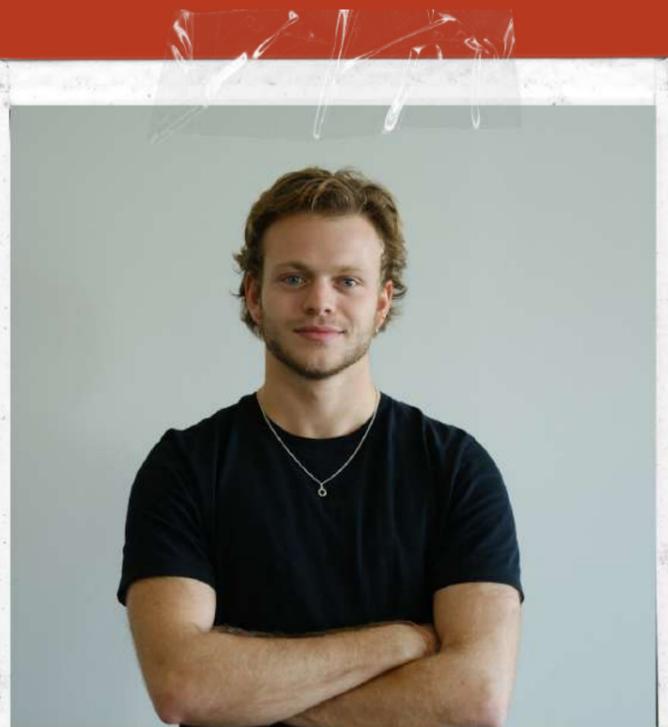
Bryony Jarman-Pinto, Cosmodelica

**BIO:**

Student journalist and editor, writing on all sections for 4 years and editing the Food and Drink section for one of them. Also was running a night out (Disco and Funk) and a podcast / radio show focusing on Arts and Culture. Graduated with a degree in English and History specialising in the politicization of autobiographies.

**In 20 years:**

Foreign correspondent helping people, revealing stories and travelling around the world.



**Greg Cusworth**

London/ Dublin, UK 2003  
gregcusworth@gmail.



**The Louvre**

Lorde

**BIO:**

Yash Shingan is an emerging journalist exploring how identity, power, and lived experience shape storytelling. Passionate about inclusive reporting and narrative integrity, Yash aims to bridge personal perspective with public truth through thoughtful, socially engaged journalism.

**In 20 years:**

I see myself owning my own publication house or studio through which I support up-and-coming storytellers through which I redefine narrative media.



**Yash Shingan**

Mumbai, India 1999  
yash.shingan1@gmail.com



**Take It Easy - 2013 Remaster**  
Eagles

**BIO:**

I studied sociology and sustainability at the University of Georgia before heading to NYC to work in sales. Since high school photo-journalism classes, I've wanted to pursue storytelling, which led me to this program. On a personal level, my favorite things are being outside (skiing, swimming in the ocean, working with farm animals), having a matcha or baking a sweet treat with my friends.

**In 20 years:**

Hopefully living somewhere close to the ocean & a city with some animals in my backyard. Working in climate/healthcare journalism - anything where I'm working with /meeting new people in my everyday work. Maybe (in my dreams) I'll have published a fiction novel by then as well!

**BIO:**

I hold an Mphil Degree in International Relations and currently I am an EMJ scholar, exploring how technology, politics and media, and shape global security and public perception. My path began as a researcher, studying deterrence and emerging technologies, but it's evolved toward storytelling connecting data, discourse, and humanity.

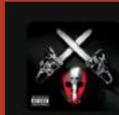
Outside academia, I channel my thoughts through rap music, blending rhythm and reflection to express what policy papers can't. Between research and art, I search for balance—between structure and sound, logic and emotion—hoping my words, whether written or performed, can make complex worlds a little more understandable.

**In 20 years:**

In 20 years, I see myself leading work at the crossroads of policy, media and research shaping global conversations on International Relations. I hope to continue to express myself through hip-hop, using both research and art to bridge understanding between people, power, and politics.



**Dani McAlistar**  
Virginia/NY, USA 1999  
danimca16@gmail.com



**Lose Yourself**  
Eminem



**Jehanzaib Ghalib**  
Islamabad, Pakistan 1997  
jahaan12@outlook.com



**Teresa Bigioli**  
Brescia, Italy 2001  
Teresa.bigioli@gmail.com



**Where Is My Mind?**  
Canción • Pixies

**BIO:**

I'm a freelance journalist with a background in cultural studies & communications. I've spent the past five years living in the UK, chasing settled status and working across the arts and cultural industries. Currently living in curiosity-fuelled chaos, balancing three jobs, a master's and harbouring a serious coffee addiction.

**In 20 years:**

Travelling the world, exploring new places and trying out every coffee shop along the way, hoping my caffeine tolerance will keep up.



**Long Nights**  
Eddie Vedder

Walking the line between journalist and explorer, I'm curious about distant cultures, political history, and the environment. I love hearing and telling others' stories, which I channel through my project, Head Abroad. On the news trail, surfing off-grid or diving? I'm in! An art museum or a desert rock concert? Fun! My eclectic passions shape the subjects I chase and the questions I ask.

**In 20 years:**

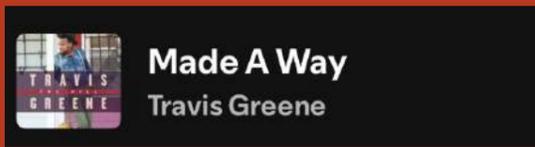
Picture a clear blue sky over a wide green field, with trees in bloom and clean air buzzing with life. With a little hope, I see myself lying there serene, comforted by the thought that our work as journalists made a difference, helping the planet heal and giving children a chance to grow in a peaceful world.



**Lou Baumann**  
Munich, Germany 1997



**Ruth Oluwatoyin Ibi**  
Abuja, Nigeria 1987  
ruthbabawale@gmail.com



**Made A Way**  
Travis Greene

**BIO:**

I'm Ruth Oluwatoyin Ibi, a Broadcast Journalist and Gender Affairs Correspondent passionate about telling women's stories and promoting media integrity. As a Nuffic Fellow with an MBA from Business School Netherlands, I research AI misinformation and use journalism to drive inclusion, press freedom, and social change.

**In 20 years:**

In 20 years, I see myself leading a global network that empowers women in media, drives ethical reporting, and uses technology to build a more just, informed, and inclusive society



**Mariam Breck Moen**  
Oslo, Norway 2001  
miriammoen@yahoo.no



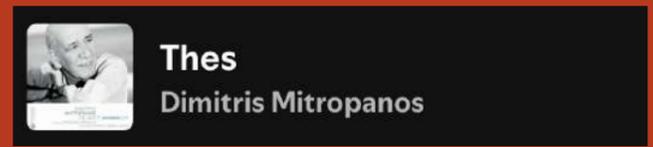
**Young Soul**  
Próxima Parada

**BIO:**

A quarter-life crisis somehow brought me to Aarhus. You'll probably find me at a café with a double cappuccino, discussing the state of the world and trying to make sense of it all. Hopefully, I'll get to tell some stories along the way – cause I guess I'm a journalist now?

**In 20 years:**

Hopefully, I'll handle my midlife crisis better than my quarter-life crisis. With a bit of luck, I'll still be telling stories – just with better coffee and less uncertainty



**Thes**  
Dimitris Mitropanos

**BIO:**

I'm a greek journalist thats mainly interested with foreign politics, the rise of populism and its consequences. I have previously worked as a reporter for a newspaper based in Amsterdam where I completed my BA. In the near future I hope to gain more experience in documentary filmmaking and the coverage of conflict zones.

**In 20 years:**

Hopefully somewhere warmer.



**Apostolos Kaniouras**  
Thessaloniki, Greece 2002  
kanapostkan@gmail.com



**Soma - 2011 Remaster**  
Canción • The Smashing Pumpkins

**BIO:**

Hi! I'm Reema. 21 years old. Dutch-Syrian. Studied philosophy and cognitive neuroscience and a bunch of other things, but will always return to books. And writing. I still have an idealistic vision of using my pen for a living, so maybe that's why I ended up here? I ask too many questions and get soaked up by stories. I hope that someday I can mean something for the Middle East. Make someone happy or really angry through words. Or learn how to write a good bio.

**In 20 years:**

Pressuring my friends to really do read that book I've written.



**Reema Dandachi**  
Netherlands / Syria 2004  
reem.dandachi@gmail.com



**Thamila Soares**

Rio de Janeiro,, Brazil 1997  
thamilasoares64@gmail.com



**País Tropical**  
Jorge Ben Jor

**BIO:**

Journalist with experience at O Globo and other digital outlets. Fascinated by politics, culture, and the art of storytelling, she explores how narratives shape both society and television. Beyond the newsroom, she finds inspiration in music, philosophy, nature, and conversations that challenge how we see the world.

**In 20 years:**

In 20 years, I see myself anywhere in the world, guided by the same conviction that drew me to journalism: to defend truth and human rights. I want to be part of projects that spark real political and social change, proving that words can move people, shape societies, and transform the world for the better.



**Sarah Baksyte**

Cologne, Germany 2001  
s.baksyte@icloud.com



**Sugržšk [remix]**  
Canción • Quantico, Hiperbolé

**BIO:**

I studied Communication Science and spent the last years taking every opportunity to collect stories abroad. I worked in a football NGO in South Africa, and found my love for cold-plunging in New Zealand. Growing up between cultures, I early on became curious about where we come from and how our stories shape who we are.

**In 20 years:**

In 20 years, I see myself anywhere in the world, guided by the same conviction that drew me to journalism: to defend truth and human rights. I want to be part of projects that spark real political and social change, proving that words can move people, shape societies, and transform the world for the better



**BIO:**

When I was 13, I googled how to become a TV host and the word journalist came up. I saw my future right there and I've held on to this dream ever since. Since then, I've been working towards it by hosting radio shows about rap and politics, working on online formats for German public broadcasting and along the way I discovered my passion for foreign reporting.

**In 20 years:**

Hopefully fulfilling all my childhood dreams.



**Sophie Eder**

Vienna, Austria 2002  
IG: sphiimalin



**Obaid Abrar**

Pakistan 1980  
obaidabrarkhan@gmail.com

**BIO:**

Journalist. 18 years of experience working with Pakistan's leading newspaper.

**In 20 years:**

Life is unpredictable



**Dulcito e Coco**

Video • Vicente Garcia

### BIO:

After finishing my bachelor in Journalism I worked for two years at El Universo Newspaper in Guayaquil, as a reporter and community manager. I also have experience on academic research and social media. I enjoyed presenting and hosting events in my previous university as well as doing video vlogs for my job and personal profile.

### In 20 years:

When I'm 42 years I see myself working as a researcher or academic at a journalism school. Also I would like to be writing books (not related to journalism tho), and travelling around.



**Martha Samaniego**

Guayaquil, Ecuador 2003

marthasamaniego2003@gmail.com

## REALITY CHECK

### Everything is built for tall people

If you are under 170cm (5'6"), look up some arm and neck stretches before you move here: this country is not built for you. With an average height of 182cm for men and 169cm for women, Denmark has one of the tallest populations in the world. This is reflected in the way objects are designed and placed here. Bike seats, kitchen coun-

## REALITY CHECK

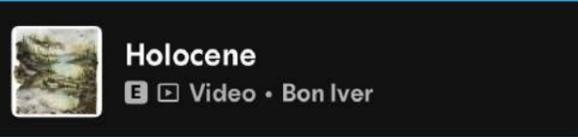
### Early Birds Only: The Danish Schedule Explained

The Danish keep an early schedule compared to other countries. Most pharmacies close between 17:30 and 19:00, with very few exceptions shutting their doors as early as noon. On weekdays, most shops are closed by 18:00. Phone lines for booking doctor's appointments often close by midday as well. Even the Royal Library, the latest-opening library at Aarhus University, closes at 18:00, and its canteen, like many others on campus, stops serving lunch at 13:30. Aarhus is, in many ways, a city built for early birds. But don't worry, we've got you covered! If you need a library open late, head to Dokk1, and if you're looking for a canteen that stays open longer, Math is your best bet. Also, in case of an emergency, you can always call the emergency doctor.

# AMSTER DAM



**Fernanda Gándara Marchant**  
Chile/ Guatemala 1996  
fernandagmarchant@gmail.com



**BIO:**  
Journalist with experience in investigation, digital communication and marketing. Passionate about storytelling that sheds light on forgotten and ignored issues.

**In 20 years:**  
Traveling the world with my family and working on investigations on human rights, the environment and politics in Latin America.



**BIO:**  
Benjamin specialises in podcast production and science communication. He produces and hosts podcasts for universities and institutes, particularly those specialising in the social sciences and humanities. His academic background in anthropology and politics provides additional expertise.

**In 20 years:**  
2 kids, beautiful and funny wife, 100 countries traveled (so far), Head of some editorial department in german media, teaching my own students in a Taekwondo School



**Benjamin Lawrence Mainig**  
Munich, Germany 1996  
ben.meinig@live.de



**Viva La Vida**  
Video • Coldplay

**BIO:**

Hi! I'm Thaís, 23, from Santander, a small city in northern Spain. I'm a Journalism and Advertising graduate with experience in media and communication agencies. I love traveling, exploring new cultures and languages. This curiosity has led me to live in the Netherlands and Florence. Soon, I'll specialize in Political Communication in Amsterdam! So exciting!!

**In 20 years:**

Looking 20 years ahead, I'd love to see myself as an international correspondent covering political affairs, although I have to admit that the world of corporate and institutional communication also fascinates me... who knows



**Thaís Campón García**  
Santander, España 2002  
thaisscgarcia@gmail.com



**Get Low**  
Video • James Vincent McMorrow

**BIO:**

I graduated from my two BAs in Vienna. One in Theater-, Film- and Media Studies and also in Communication and Publicity. I have experiences in Public Relations and also Marketing as well as Social Media/Website Creation/Podcasting. I am aspiring to be a documentary film maker but right now I manage the 15k LinkedIn Profile of my Boss the Managing Director of SAP Austria.

**In 20 years:**

As a world traveler amplifying voices all over the world by portraying them in journalistic documentaries.



**Anna Blanc**  
Vienna, Austria 2002  
blancanna10@gmail.com



**Laura Lugmair**  
Aisterheim, Austria 2002  
laura.lugmair@outlook.com



**Veridis Quo**  
Video • Daft Punk

**BIO:**

If you'd told little me that one day I'd study journalism abroad, I would've laughed, rolled my eyes and gone back to my camcorder imagining myself in the evening news. Yet here I am! Back in Austria, I was already running around newsrooms, trying to turn politics into something everyone could actually understand, whether in the parliament or at the public broadcaster – and so I continue.

**In 20 years:**

Hopefully still living in a democracy, fingers crossed!



**Anastasia Kabanova**  
Moscow, Russia 2003  
nastia.kabanova@gmail.com



**Bathrooms**  
Wy

**BIO:**

I completed a BA in Journalism at HSE University in Moscow and spent a semester studying in Budapest at BUEB. For a year and a half, I worked as an editor for the branded media of a major chemical company. I conducted numerous interviews, including with Russian Orthodox priests for a documentary film that I presented at the International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) conference in New Zealand. I also hosted a podcast on charity and inclusion in Russia. With a strong interest in social issues and current affairs, I plan to work independently as a journalist on my own projects

**In 20 years:**

A successful interviewer with my own platform and audience, whose voice matters. I also hope to be married to the person I love, with a long list of places we've visited together.



71168463544  
**Shahmir Niazi**

Islamabad, Pakistan 1998  
shahmirniazi1998@gmail.com

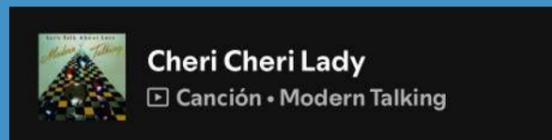


**BIO:**

Shahmir holds an MSc in Governance & Public Policy (NUST) and BS in International Relations. He has over 4 years of experience in journalism as an Editor for GVS and TTI magazines. He is an alumnus of two U.S. State Dept. exchange programs.

**In 20 years:**

Host of a current affairs show.



**BIO:**

I am a journalist and media professional with a background in television, digital storytelling, and global media studies. I'm currently pursuing an M.A. in Journalism, Media and Globalization at Aarhus University, after earning an M.A. in Television and Digital Journalism from The American University in Cairo. My documentary Egyptian South Pole won first place at the BEA Media Arts Competition and was featured in international film festivals. With experience in news production, teaching, and media outreach, I'm passionate about telling impactful stories with an international perspective.

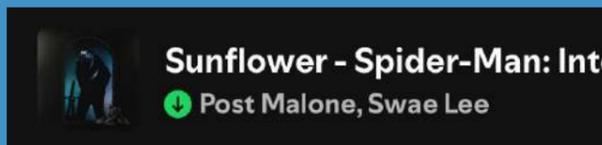
**In 20 years:**

Having a flower boutique that also includes a cozy coffee bar. It would be a space that blends my three passions — flowers, coffee, and photography.



**Sherehan Elazazy**

Cairo, Egypt 1994  
sherehanelazazy@aucegypt.edu



**BIO:**

I have worked as a sub-editor at a community paper back in Kenya, co-hosted a political history podcast and have made a few documentaries while in university. I have also worked in live broadcasting for a few years at the University of Nairobi's TV and Radio Station

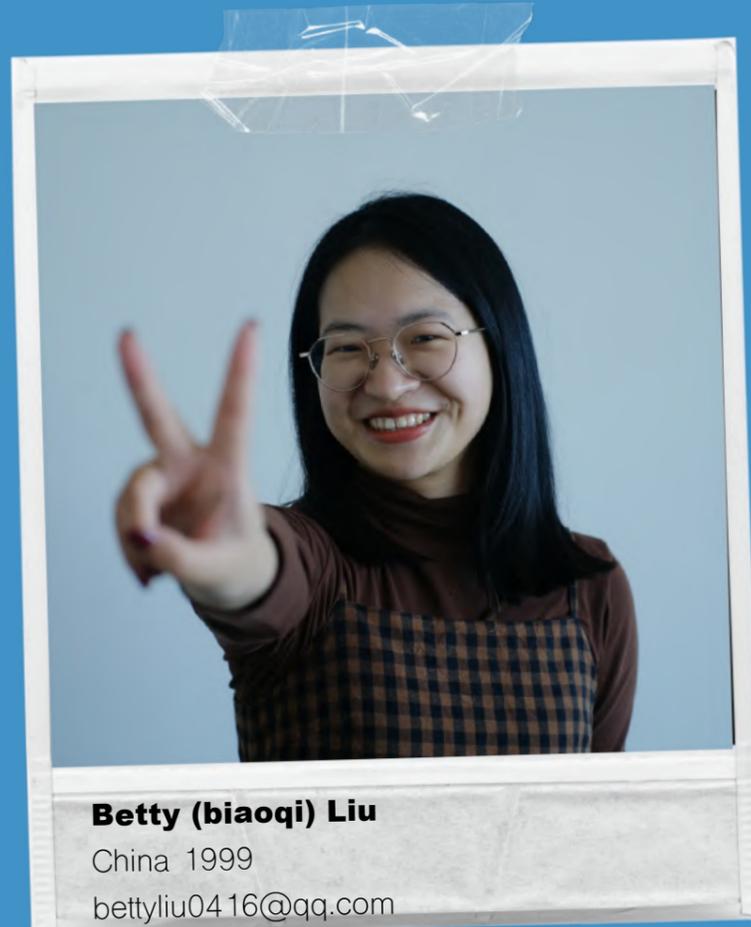
**In 20 years:**

At 45? Hopefully having achieved all my goals with my family, including my current boyfriend, by my side



**Mahak Dagar**

Nairobi, Kenya 2000  
IG: mahakdagar\_



**Betty (biaoqi) Liu**

China 1999  
bettyliu0416@qq.com



**BIO:**

As a student journalist at ZJU News Agency, reported from Inner Mongolia on researchers serving China's western regions. Successfully grew a campus media platform from 0 to 50,000 followers. Gained professional experience at Xinhua News Agency as an intern, and later joined Publicis Groupe full-time, providing media strategies for clients including Disney, Invisalign, Mead Johnson.

**In 20 years:**

No matter where I am, I hope to be healthy, optimistic, and happy, surrounded by the people I love and who love me — and most importantly, to have the freedom to make my own choices in life.



**So Sick Of Dreaming**  
Canción • Maggie Rogers

**BIO:**

Nica is a Filipino journalist and news product manager focusing on information integrity and democratic technology. She has 5+ years of experience working with mission-driven organizations, such as VERA Files and OCCRP. Her work includes leading collaborative fact-checking initiatives, investigating foreign influence operations, and developing AI-powered journalism tools across Asia-Pacific and Europe.

**In 20 years:**

I see myself chilling/reading by the beach (somewhere in Europe or Asia) with my family and my dogs.



**Nica Rhiana Hanopol**  
Manila, Philippines 1998  
ndhanopol@gmail.com



**Lovers Rock**  
TV Girl

**BIO:**

Graduated from NYU Abu Dhabi in 2024 with a degree in English Literature & Creative Writing and minors in Film & Art History. Interned at CNN International, producing videos and segments for news and features, including Connecting the World with Becky Anderson. Later wrote articles for NYUAD. I love painting, clay art, and joy!

**In 20 years:**

Living somewhere full of nature, pursuing my hobbies more, slowing down life to enjoy the more simple and mundane moments!



**Summer Rain**  
Le Parody, Gizmo Varillas

**BIO:**

Most of my experience has been in international development and the NGO world. I spent a year working with an NGO in Geneva, which gave me a real taste of how things run behind the scenes. But along the way, I realized journalism felt like a better fit for me. I'm drawn to how it can dig into deep-rooted problems in society and call out corporations or governments when they need to be held accountable.

**In 20 years:**

'Working as an investigative journalist and hopefully being able to make even just a small difference to the world we live in'



**Emma Darlington**  
Switzerland/ England 2002  
emmad.2002@icloud.com



**Dover Beach**  
Video • Baby Queen

**BIO:**

I am a storyteller with years of experience in journalism and media. At the same time, I am also a content creator focusing on books. I have a passion for cinema and literature, and I observe life through my own unique lens.

**In 20 years:**

An authentic Vietnamese set foot in South Pole



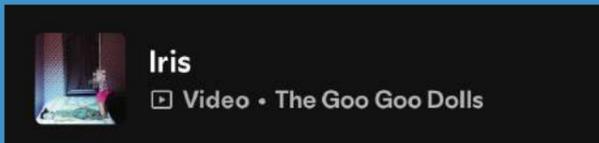
**Maram Alashqar**  
Palestine 2002  
maramalshqar1@gmail.com



**Huy Bui**  
Hanoi, Vietnam 2000  
emmad.2002@icloud.com



**Gaia Zavaroni**  
Italy 2003  
gaiazavaroni@gmail.com



**BIO:**

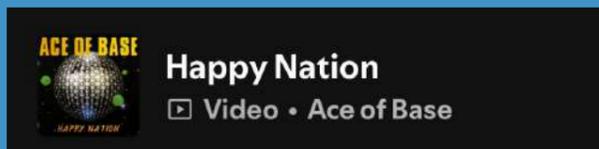
I worked in various fields connected to journalism. Most relevantly, I wrote articles for a university newspaper, managed the newspaper administration, worked as an intern in a newsroom and talked on a weekly radio show

**In 20 years:**

As a foreign correspondent hopefully.



**Nicolas Lieback**  
Dresden, Germany 2001  
nicolas.lieback@outlook.com



**BIO:**

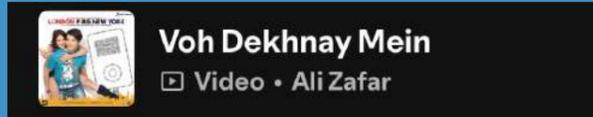
Whether it's politics or the economy – we surely live in eventful times. That's why I came to Aarhus: to better understand how these changes affect our field. I'm interested in video journalism of all kinds, as well as birds and orange juice. Beforehand I did a bachelor's in media management focusing on TV-production and gained work experience at German broadcasters.

**In 20 years:**

Generally in a place where I feel content with myself. Professionally, I hope to create work I believe in, that informs, inspires and supports a thriving democracy.



**Ankita Baidya**  
New Dehli, India 2002  
ankita.baidya36@gmail.com



**BIO:**

Started as a student journalist and never quite stopped chasing stories. With 300+ bylines and a growing curiosity for media, she aims to blend old-school storytelling with innovation. She believes politics is in everything, coffee is essential, and good storytelling can still change the world- perhaps one notebook and photo at a time.

**In 20 years:**

Stepping out of my little studio apartment somewhere in the world, camera swinging and diary tucked under my arm, chasing something new, while my phone wallpaper reminds me of the constants: friends, family, and dogs (more than a few).



**BIO:**

Once a social media operator, director, pr, editor. Love running, singing, singing while running, citywalking, calligraphy, filming, listening podcasts (my favorite is gangsida), deep talking...

**In 20 years:**

A director in Pixar or traveling around the world (prefer the latter).



**Dannie Wu**  
Beijing, China 2003  
IG: lilnoii\_



**Ambre Abou Daher**  
Dunkirk, France / Morocco 2002  
aboudaher.ambre@gmail.com



**Party Rock Anthem**  
Canción • The Chipmunks & The Chipettes

**BIO:**

I have studied in Canada, graduating with a double major in Political Science and Psychology. After my studies, I trained at the European Commission, working on communications related to health in Africa. With a focus on Middle Eastern conflicts, African politics, and human rights, I hope to become a foreign correspondent reporting on human rights issues in the future.

**In 20 years:**

I see myself settled in a warm place by the sea, maybe in France, doing something slower-paced (like being the official French voice of Alvin the Chipmunk) after working as a foreign correspondent.



**Tinghan (Hanson) Jiang**  
Canton, China 2002  
hanson158888@gmail.com



**Time To Say Goodbye**  
Sarah Brightman, Andrea Bocelli

**BIO:**

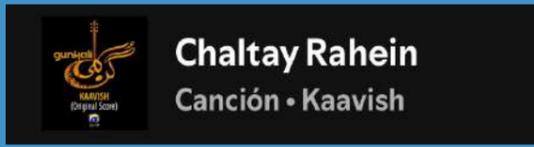
Tinghan Jiang holds a BA in Sociology and an interdisciplinary background bridging sociology, anthropology, and journalism. With over 210 published articles at Southern Metropolis Daily, Jiang combines research and storytelling to explore political communication and social impact, with upcoming studies in Oslo and Amsterdam.

**In 20 years:**

Academia



**Saadain Gardezi**  
Islamabad, Pakistan 1998  
IG: saadaingardezi



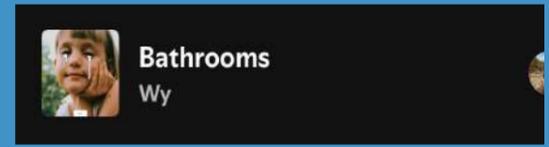
**Chaltay Rahein**  
Canción • Kaavish

**BIO:**

With a background in Strategic Studies exploring global politics and security, I transitioned into journalism out of fascination with media's impact. After a couple of editorial and research roles, I joined Forbes Middle East as a Business Journalist where I have published 1300+ bylines. I enjoy nature, mind-bending films, writing about life, and time with friends.

**In 20 years:**

A published author and an accomplished journalist, having made a difference—no matter how insignificant—in the grand scheme of things. Happy and content in life, with a passport full of stamps, surrounded by the people I love.



**Bathrooms**  
Wy

**BIO:**

I have collaborated with the newspapers "Voci di Cortina" and "La Svolta" and was part of numerous student initiatives during my time in university: student-led newspapers, study-organisation magazines, student associations publishing news on social media and so on.

**In 20 years:**

Somewhere between the two coasts of the Mediterranean Sea.



**Anna Illing**  
Cortina D'Ampezzo, Italia 2002  
annailling24@gmail.com



**Lumepa Hald**  
Samoa/Denmark  
lumepaa@gmail.com

 **He Ho'oheno No 'E'eka by Keali'i Reichel & Cody Pueo Pata**  
Hawaiian Airlines · 135 K visualizaciones · hace 2 años

**BIO:**

Mathematics graduate with a background in law, governance, and museum curation. Cultural policy writer, translator, and proofreader for court documents. Hotelier and cofounder of the Samoa Arts Council. Journalist and columnist. Contributor to Curating the Future. Published short stories, poetry, and The Tsunami: My Cancer Memoir. Winner of the International Labour Organization Award, for Samoa Against Child Labour Lead Media Prize 2022. Advocates environmental resilience, heritage preservation, and social issues.

**In 20 years:**

To continue living a full life, travel and help people wherever possible.

 **Angel**  
E ▶ Video · Loyle Carner, Tom Mis...

**BIO:**

I studied Society and Business Communication in Berlin, where I combined my interest in media, culture, and storytelling. During my studies, I launched a cross-cultural photography exchange connecting teenagers from Berlin and Marseille. I later gained professional experience at a major news channel, focusing on political reporting.

**In 20 years:**

Just continue enjoying life, pursuing the things I love with the people I love!



**Klara Sachsenhauser**  
Bingen, Germany 2001  
ksachsenhauser@gmx.de

 **Goema!**  
Sencillo · Boskasié

**BIO:**

Kristin is an award-winning environmental journalist in South Africa. She uncovers the human stories of the climate crisis in South Africa. Her work, published in outlets like The Guardian UK and Daily Maverick, focuses on the intersection of biodiversity loss, pollution, energy, and environmental justice with social inequality and governance failures.

**In 20 years:**

Telling impactful global climate stories, drawing on South Africa's lessons. Hopefully, involved in more cross-border investigations, mentoring young journalists, and using storytelling to spark change and accountability.



**Kristin Engel**  
Cape Town, South Africa 1999  
daniella.engel@gmail.com



# REALITY CHECK

## Foosball and Ping-Pong Tables are a Student Obsession

After your year in Aarhus, you'll be older, wiser, a better journalist, and...a foosball and ping-pong champion. No, not because you'll spend all your time in bars and student dorms, but because these games are a very common sight here, even in work or study settings! This includes DMJX, Incuba, the Royal Danish Library, and Dokk1 – all places that will become like a second home. Bonus tip: the latter two locations also have free-to-use videogame stations.

*if you want to find us*

**instagram**



**spotify**

