

mapping mundus

EVERY
ONCE
EVERY
WHERE
ALL
AT
ONCE

A central collage of travel-related items is set against a vibrant blue sky with soft white clouds. The items include a large brown suitcase with a black handle and wheels, a black camera with a lens, a brown leather camera bag, a white coffee cup with a brown lid, a cinnamon roll, a pair of black sunglasses, a passport, and several sheets of white paper or documents. An orange umbrella is also visible, partially open. The items are arranged in a way that suggests a traveler's gear, with some items appearing to be in motion or floating around the central suitcase.

EMJ YEAR 2023/25

mapping mundus
**EVERYONE
EVERYWHERE
ALL AT ONCE**

Erasmus Mundus Master's
in Journalism, Media & Globalisation

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the Erasmus Mundus Cohort and Consortium
2023.

December 2023

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the long & winding road begins

Welcome to our journey, and exhilarating voyage that started when we all got that long-awaited acceptance letter. That range of experiences and human emotions are the ones we have now turned into storytelling through the collective voice of experienced and aspiring journalists.

This friendly piece of journalism embodies the collaborative efforts

of fellow students, pooling together their unique perspectives and insights on life as members of the Erasmus Mundus Cohort 2023-2025 in Denmark, where everyone spends at least the first six months of their journey studying abroad. Our aim is for you to find this compilation to be a useful guide throughout your own Mundusian journey.

In the 2023-25 edition of the BlueBook, which brings together the stories of 79 students from 41 countries, we celebrate the strength found in diversity. These pages echo the unity in the face of cultural differences, exploring

topics from traditions, cuisine, mental health, and practical tips for the upcoming students to enjoy their life in Aarhus.

This, we know for certain now, wouldn't have been possible without the support of everyone, everywhere at once.

Enjoy the read and you prepare for the experience of a lifetime, embrace the spirit of collaboration, discovery, & companionship that define our Mundus family.

Aarhus, December 2023

The title of this bluebook, „Everyone Everywhere All At Once“, is a reference to an award-winning 2022 movie. For us, the slightly adjusted title conveys the core of the Mundus Master's program perfectly: Individuals from all corners of the world — literally *everywhere* — land in Aarhus, each bringing a unique background to embark on a collective journey to learn, fail, grow and blossom together. We invite you to explore, and get to know each of us a little better at a glance — or rather *all at once*.

xxx Your
Design Team

EDITORS' NOTE



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See Everyone Everywhere All At Once

SURVIVAL

Packed, Pumped & Prepped!

Simran Ahuja

Moving countries doesn't feel real until you see a suitcase filled to the brim. But, what do you take, what do you leave behind? Here's a sneak-peek of what travelled with us halfway across the world!

Choosing to study abroad can teach you many things. For me, the lessons began way before I even arrived in Aarhus. I've never been a light packer. But moving continents meant I had to be strategic with how much I stuff into my suitcases. Either that or pay an unnecessary amount of money to airlines for excess baggage. Yeah, no.

In the months leading up to the big move, I spent a lot of time making lists. In fact, I now realise that about 80% of packing is just making lists

about essentials to not leave behind. And it was also a fun way to get to know my classmates before arriving. A fellow classmate and I made a combined Google Doc about things we definitely had to carry with us from home and it was great to know I wasn't the only one stressed about not forgetting an extension cord or a portable bidet (PPS: Highly recommend carrying this!).

It's safe to say we're all feeling more settled into our new homes now and we have the contents of our suitcases to thank for that. Here's a glimpse into what they contained:

For those like me, who come from a tropical country where winter never goes below 21° Celsius, we

**sweaters,
sweaters,
sweaters**

know the high priority sweaters had in our lists. I swapped all my summer dresses with sweaters, thermal tops and jackets in order to prepare for the moody Danish weather. It's hard to predict what kind of temperature you'd expect in Aarhus, and like Danes like to say: There is no bad weather, just bad clothing.

05



Shuyi and her coffee machine

On days when it's too dull or dreary outside, I count on the colourful sweaters I bought from home to cheer me up. I didn't carry any heavy duty winter coats from home but some of my classmates who have experienced winter back home did, as they already had some heavy duty winter coats with them.

"Back home in Russia, I have jackets for every type of weather. But while packing for Denmark, I had to choose which type was more important. I have some nice and elegant coats at home but I decided not to bring them because I needed something waterproof. The second criteria for all my jackets was a hood for the windy and rainy days. I also got a long coat for whenever

I wanted to wear skirts or dresses," says Ellina Sorokovikova from Russia.

snacks for the soul

It took me only one week before I started missing the taste of food back home! My source of comfort was my precious stash of food essentials from India. I got small packets of classic desi snacks like aloo bhujia (spiced potato chips) or moong dal (salted green gram), along with two bottles of my favo-

rite chilli sauce from back home. I also carried some spices with me because I wanted to cook Indian food. We're also a cohort that loves caffeine and how it reminds us of home. While I bought sachets of my favourite instant coffee from India, Qadri Inzamam bought nun chai or Kashmiri salt tea from home. This, he says, was his chosen arsenal in fighting off homesickness or the dreaded winter blues. For Shuyi Zhao, her coffee machine and coffee bean grinder got her through the Covid-19 pandemic in China. Now, they help her find a piece of home in Aarhus too. "I think it's wise to DIY your coffee in Denmark. If you've tried Danish coffee, you will agree with me!" she says.

a piece of home

There's no telling when homesickness can hit. For me, it almost always crept up every time I got back to my dorm after spending the day out studying or exploring the city. But once I invested some time in doing up my room and making it more cosy, things got better. And the first thing I put up in my room were all the photographs I bought with me of my loved ones and my favourite places back home. PS: If you do decide to put things up on your walls, be cautious of using the right kind of tape!

There were other things my classmates bought with them. Barbora Labudová from Slovakia bought the bedsheets and blankets she's had since she was 15 while Franziska Gömmel from Germany bought some candles she used to have in her previous apartment. Mashal Baloch from Pakistan bought her Balochi phashk (dress).



Mashal (right) in her Balochi dress with Simran (left)

"I knew we would have cultural events within our cohort. I bought the outfit to feel a sense of belonging to my home and so that people can know more about where I come from," she says. Though it might sound like an indulgence, a classmate from Iran found her accessories to be the most important home reminiscent to carry along.

haircare, skincare, & of course, self care

The Danish winter is the big, bad wolf many of us were afraid of. So, unsurprisingly, we bought a lot of things to help us get through the long cold months. Number one on this list? Supplements. "The main one that everyone stressed I should keep with me is Vitamin D-3 due to a lack of sunlight in Denmark during colder months. I also got B-12 supplements, since it impacts mood and energy levels – aspects that I knew would be affected especially while studying, working and moving away from home," says Munnazzah Raza from Pakistan. For Priscila Navarrete from Mexico, her tried, tested and trusted products for curly hair were also an essential. "I use a specific product that I can only find in my country. Some products can be found here, but at higher prices. So I decided to get them from home instead," she says.



Ellina and the jacket she brought with her from home

the extra mile

Danes love to bike. Some of my classmates decided to join them on this adventure by bringing their cycles from home! "I got my bike with me because I thought I wouldn't have to spend extra money on a bike here. It would also save me the trouble of reselling it when leaving. I came here by car, so I squeezed the bike into my VW Polo. Since coming here I've been basically going everywhere with it," says Franziska.

Dating In Denmark



Laoise Murray & Barbora Labudová

35 singles
3 complicated
5 with partners in Aarhus
24 long distance

67 Mundusians responded to the brilliant survey *

Making and maintaining romantic connections is an almost universal experience for international students in Aarhus. Everyone has a good story to tell. For this Bluebook edition, we wanted to hear some of the fun, sad, and beautiful dating stories from our Mundus friends. We talked to several of them about their personal experiences doing long-distance and what it was like bringing their partner with them to Aarhus. We also got some great tips on how to date (or avoid) the Danes!

5 **Commandments of Dating in Denmark**
Dating is hard everywhere, and Denmark is no different. The people are generally polite and well-dressed but notoriously difficult to get to know initially. One Mundusian, Daniel Villatoro, may have cracked the dating code. We sat down with him to hear about some of the challenges and rewards that come with linking into the Danish dating scene.

1 **Break down the language barrier**
Nearly everyone in Aarhus can speak English, but many internationals feel excluded by the predominantly Danish-based dating culture. Not knowing the language can make it hard to start a conversation in person and online. “Sorryyyy, I don’t speak Danish” is a common phrase shouted across the noisy dance-floor. Daniel recommends learning the language so that you can more easily “jump into things in a bar” and read online dating profiles without having to depend on Google Translate. Other tips from the Mundusians include translating your online profile into Danish and using the language barrier as a conversation starter; you can just ask them to translate their profile for you.

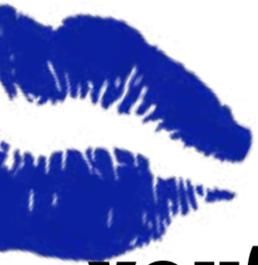
2 **Take back the (small) city**
With around 300,000 residents, the pool of potential romances in Aarhus is significantly smaller than in other European cities. Not to mention, there is an even smaller pool for people not in their twenties since Aarhus has the youngest population in Denmark. But there are still plenty of opportunities to

meet new people. Mundusians this year have found les petites amours through living in student dorms, going to city events, using dating apps, and hanging out in bars and clubs in Aarhus. You don’t have to go this far; there have been several dalliances among members of this year’s cohort already!

3 **If they are cold, warm them up**
As Daniel puts it, there is a reason why we say there are “cold societies and hot societies and it’s not just because of the weather”. Danes are observably more reserved than people from southern countries. It often takes several meetings in groups in public places before they feel comfortable enough to arrange a date. Alcohol is regularly used as a disinhibitor. You’ll notice how Danes become much chattier with a Tuborg in hand. Daniel says that teaming up with a Danish ambassador through the university helped him learn more about the social conventions here. Joining an activity group can also help to meet people with similar interests, break down the initial barriers and inspire trust.

4 **Enjoy the LGBTQ+ scene**
Denmark is a socially progressive country and the boundaries of queer spaces are fluid. The G-Bar is an open and fun place for everyone to dance and socialize regardless of sexual orientation. There are some volunteer-run spaces, for example, Super, that organize queer community coffee dates and meet-ups. These events help to build a sense of community and are a great way to make some more special bonds.

5 **Give it time**
Mundusian life can be very insular and international. If you are interested in meeting and getting to know locals, you have to invest your time and make the effort. Moving to another country means building a new community and dating life at the same time. Daniel puts it simply, “People here do not know you at all. So considering these factors, maybe you have to be more aware or dedicated.”



you're (not) half the world away

Some stories are as good as fairy tales – such as moving across the Atlantic for love. And in our cohort, there is more than one version of this fairytale. Several couples deci-

ded to embark on this Danish adventure side-by-side. Take for example the story of Colin Monaghan and his partner Emma. Their relationship began with Colin having a concussion on their first date. After a few weeks, they reunited at a protest, and three years later they made the move together from the US to Denmark. Even though it took a lot of work to move from one side of the world to the other, Emma and Colin have no intention of slowing down now. In March

2024, Colin will start his semester abroad at a university in Chile. Emma will join him. And so, their story continues in another part of the world. They also faced some practical difficulties: Emma had a problem with the co-habitant visa process. They had to send photos to the Danish embassy proving they had lived together as partners. Luckily, everything turned out well, and now they can laugh when talking about Colin's mum's Facebook post that secured Emma her visa.



Colin and Emma in their Boston home



Sweethearts Colin and Emma again

As a Mundusian, Colin's move to Aarhus was guided by a structured master's program. But Emma's was not. Besides working online, she started volunteering so she could find and create her own community.

Emma explains her part of the story: "I feel like I am being very conscious of acting like I am not here. I really wanted to make sure that he was able to experience this program as he would if I were not here and get the most out of it. And not

be distracted by someone else, because I would not want to feel that way in reverse." Moving anywhere is stressful. But as Emma sees it: "Travelling with someone is a good reflection of how you match, and so is moving abroad."

We asked Emma and Colin if they had any tips for couples planning to move here together: "Preparation. Just prepare yourself, take all the extra steps, and help each other on this journey. And it will make things much easier."

Indy van der Heijden and her Norwegian boyfriend Joakim have been friends for years and dating exclusively for nearly a year. They decided to try a long-distance relationship between Aarhus and Oslo when Indy was accepted into the EM Journalism programme.

Despite being in the same time zone, the distance is not easy. They decided to open up their relationship while apart to allow them to explore and have personal adventures without feeling restricted by monogamy. Indy frankly admitted that while the decision to be in an open relationship makes sense, she also often struggles with the emotional realities of being non-monogamous.

Honest communication and clear boundaries have helped her to adjust to this new type of loving relationship. They stay in contact over the phone and through social media and have also visited each other a few times already.

Whether you are single, doing long-distance or moving in with a loved one, relationships of all kinds are a big part of our lives as Mundusians - and as humans. Having someone by your side (or a phone call away) makes moving to a new country much easier. But it is also true that the friendships we are developing inside the cohort are just as important to the Mundus experience.

Mirja at her waitressing job in the city centre



Looking For A Job In Aarhus? Consistency Is Key!

Anna Mirjam Halász

As a student from Hungary, in Eastern Europe, I knew immediately that I had to look for a job as soon as I arrived in Aarhus to support myself during my studies. I had high hopes: A couple of friends here told me it is relatively easy to find work as a cleaner, dishwasher or other roles in restaurants, as there are many international students around the city.

Plus, I could get the SU, which is a state grant that can go up to a bit more than 6 500 DKK per month that students from the European Union can get if they work 10-12 hours every week.

The plans did not go as expected. I sent out 20 or more emails every weekend, looked on LinkedIn for professional internships, applied to every single job opportunity advertised in Facebook groups I got either no responses or a rejection.

Katha Bews, from Germany, has been applying to jobs since she arrived in Aarhus. "At the beginning I was naive enough to search for office jobs and applied to a lot of them via LinkedIn or looked on companies' websites. All of them rejected me". But she didn't give up. Like me, she went into Facebook groups and even ventured with her roommate into the city centre to ask restaurants and coffee shops directly. "They all gave us their cards and said we should text them. I emailed around 20 gastronomy places, only two of them answered, saying they are not searching for employees now."

The Danish language can also become an obstacle for international students since most of them don't speak it. "When you have to do customer service, there are people that don't speak English, so you

would have to communicate with them in Danish", says Elena Campo, from Spain.

Mirja Kvarnevik, who is from Sweden and currently working as a waitress in a restaurant downtown, luckily she did not have to encounter this issue as her mother tongue is Swedish, which is very close to Danish language. She found the job speaking with her Danish dormmates, who then recommended her to apply to the place. "Apart from needing the job to support myself during Aarhus, I like to work, and I think it's fun to get more friends.", she concludes.

A Mundusian, who chose not to disclose their name, expressed: "I was trying to look for both student assistant and menial jobs like cleaning, both are hard to find. The cleaning job that I applied for, the employer said they had received several applications, so it's quite competitive here." This student is currently volunteering at a second-hand shop every week and explained that their "first priority for a job would be professional related" but they decided to apply for cleaning jobs anyway because it pays well and then, they could gain some extra cash.

The job-hunting process in Aarhus can be disheartening from the rejections, terrifying at first when entering a completely new country where you do not know the system and could also be very competitive. But do not be discouraged. Here are some advice from fellow Mundusians:

apply to as many places as you can see

Mirja says it is better to lower your expectations. As an international student in a country where you do not speak the language, it is extremely difficult to meet the standards of any workplace. However,

there are more dishwasher and cleaning jobs available across the city, with good pay that does not require you to speak the local language. There are many job portals and Facebook groups around Aarhus that advertise vacancies. My personal recommendation would be JOB I AARHUS Facebook group where employers post vacancies every day. You can also email or call the restaurants around your area or go for a job-hunt in the city.

stay consistent

If you really need a job to support yourself during your studies, you have to grit your teeth and keep

looking. It took me almost two months with many applications and one or two interviews until I got the opportunity to work as a dishwasher at a centrally located restaurant, Café Faust. Surprisingly, in that particular week, another place offered me an opportunity to work as a kitchen helper and waitress at another, vegetarian restaurant called Topsy. Now, I have two jobs!

believe it's your lucky day

Chiara Fürst, a German Mundusian is currently working as a Student Assistant at the Constructive Institute of Journalism in Aarhus.



A workshop at the Constructive Institute

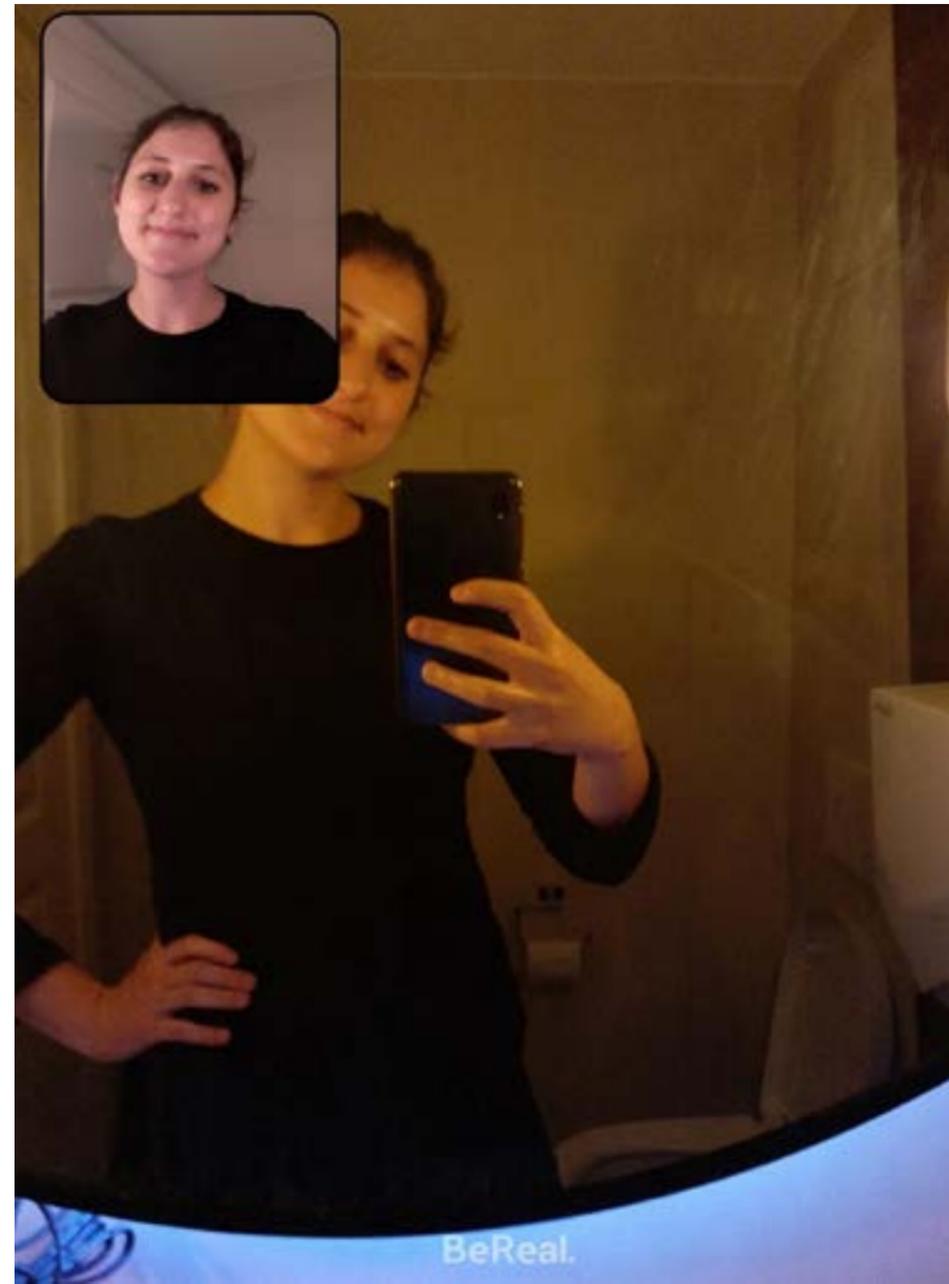
"I wasn't really on a job hunt yet because I wanted to give myself a month to settle in. We had a workshop with the founder of the Institute in the second week of our studies. I remember I read a lot about them and the so-called constructive journalism when I wrote my bachelor's thesis back in 2021.

After he said that they would have a student job available, I sent them an email with my application right away. So, I was mostly lucky!" Chiara is going to work on a Climate Journalist Fellowship Program project at the institute that starts in January. Currently, she is working around 10-15 hours per week,

don't be afraid to network

fulfilling communication-related tasks, such as designing posters, website, and a little bit of social media. It is possible to get a job related to our programme, however, it depends on your luck as these roles are very competitive! "Danes seem to be very straight-forward and rather easy-going people. A personal phone call or saying hi to a person somewhere, where it's possible, could be better than an email in some cases", explains Chiara.

Mirja also found her job through her Danish friends' recommendation. Denmark's citizens and community is highly based on trust, thus if you have Danish friends or people you know already, they could help you a lot with your job hunting process! You can also reach out to your classmates who have already gotten a job, so they can recommend you to the place they work at.



Anna taking a BeReal at her job at Topsy's

Danish Visa Hassle

Diego Sánchez

Russian Students Face Challenges Getting Danish Visas

Prospective students from this country had to apply for the visa from a different nation than theirs, making the process harder for them.



Daria Mikhailina had to put a cross in her passport to apply

Daria Mikhailina hung up the phone frustrated by all the red tape she had to deal with in such a short period of time. At her home in Moscow, she took a pen and drew a red cross across her passport. It was the second one of the three passports she had in less than five months. She had to discard it in order to get a Danish visa, a necessary step to be able to study the Erasmus Mundus Master's in Journalism, Media and Globalisation. It was mid-September and she had

to go back to Belarus, where she applied for the visa, to complete the process. Classes had already started, and she had not been able to join.

Like Daria, other two students from Russia, Ellina Sorokovikova and Katya Kharitonova, experienced serious problems applying for a visa. The three of them were affected by the international sanctions against their country in the light of the war in Ukraine. They had to apply from

places like Belarus or Turkey since the Danish embassy and the visa centre to process the documents were closed as a consequence of the war. The process became even more difficult for these students.

The first challenge for them was how to make the payments. "I couldn't pay for accommodation and visa fees at first. All my Russian cards were not valid for payments abroad because of the sanctions," explained Ellina, who also applied for a visa in Belarus. Despite being a scholarship holder, she still had to make some payments.

"I had to pay a total of 600 euros. It was not a small amount of money so I started contacting all the people that I know with other cards who could help me. My friends sent the money to my boyfriend, who is Italian, and he paid with his card," she adds.

However, the payment was only one of the many other obstacles Russian students had to sort through to obtain the visa. Unlike Daria and Ellina, Katya thought going to Belarus for the process was not the best option. Based in Georgia since the beginning of the war in Ukraine, she decided to go to Turkey.



Photo taken by Ellina Sorokovikova at the Visa VFS centre in Minsk, Belarus on 2 June after paying the visa fees



Passport bureaucracy

She went to a visa centre in Istanbul, where they took her documents and asked her to wait three weeks. “So, I gave them my passport and basically stayed in Turkey without any documents,” she says. After a month and a half, she received a letter from the Danish Agency for International Recruitment and Integration (SIRI), the office in charge of processing visas. They told her that her passport was non-biometric and therefore not valid to apply for a visa.

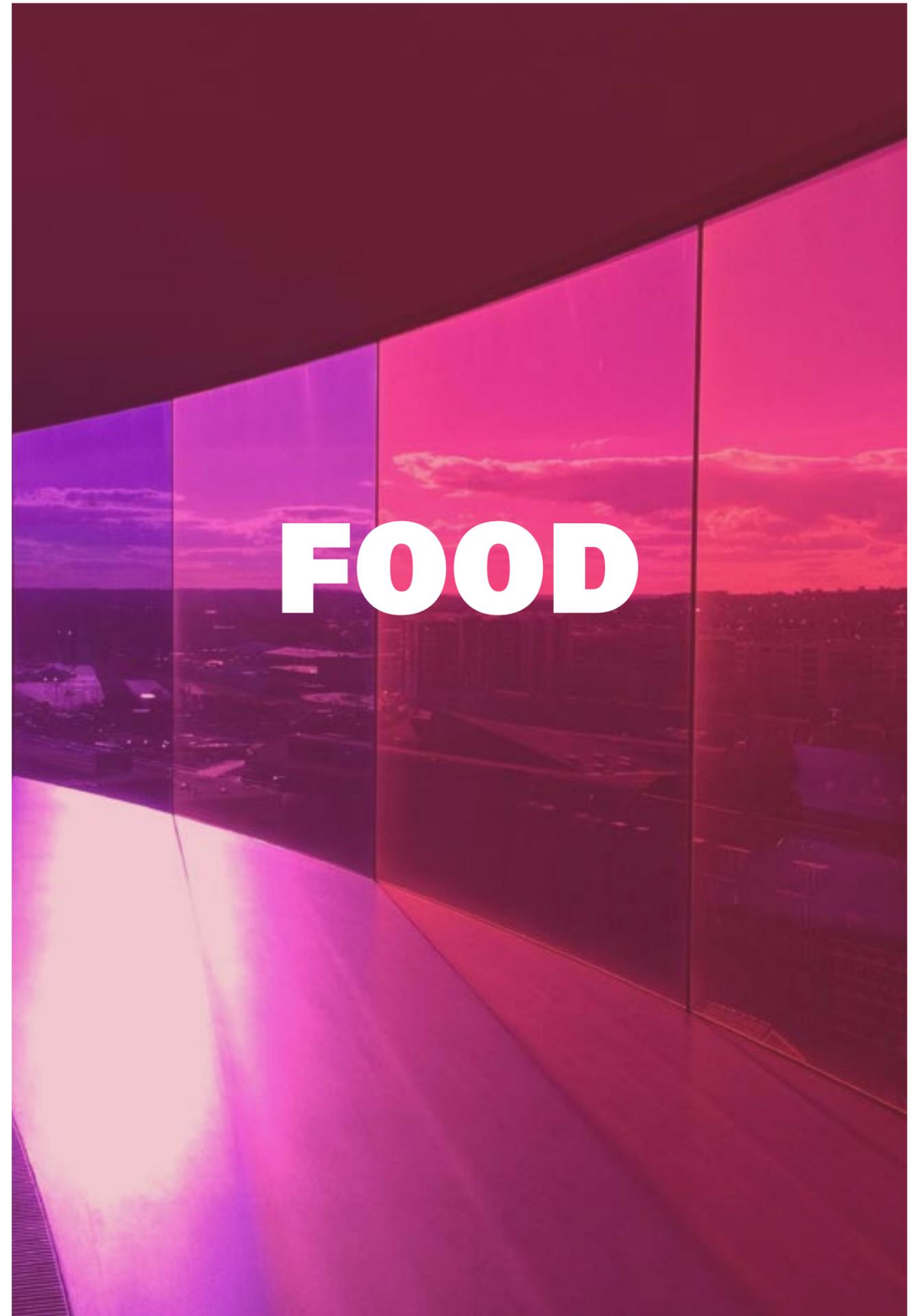
Russia had stopped producing chips for biometric passports in October 2022 stating they didn't have enough material. The country restarted the production this past June. “There was no way for me to get the biometric passport by then. And there was no requirement on SIRI's website saying you needed one”, says Katya.

By this time, Daria was still struggling with the process. She had gotten a new passport before applying, as her previous one was due to expire in 2024. But things didn't go as planned. The process was rejected because it was a non-biometric passport, so she had to apply for a new one. Things got more complicated. Even though they had rejected the non-biometric passport, the Danish embassy stamped the residence permit on it.

Due to the circumstances, Katya had to go to Moscow. Thanks to Aarhus University, SIRI made an exception and allowed her to restart the process after a month, otherwise, she would have had to pay the visa fees twice. She received her new passport in mid-August and then returned to Istanbul, where she received the visa in two weeks.

“When I asked them why it was put in a non-valid passport, no one had an answer because it was just a mistake, but they didn't want to accept their mistake,” adds Daria. She was asked to cross out this passport to put the residence permit on the new one. Daria finally arrived in Aarhus on October 2nd, a month after the programme had started.

Unlike her fellow nationals, Ellina already had a biometric passport. But the process still left a bad taste in her mouth. “After all the bureaucracy I'm going through, it sounds strange to me how the system works. Sometimes it seems to contradict itself,” she says.



Dinner, The Danish Way

Eva Eeckhout
& Elena Campo

Corridor dinners or common dinners (depending on who you ask) are social gatherings that usually happen in student dorms. They are organized by students living on the same floor or 'corridor', and are held in a 'common room' where everyone can gather. The technicalities can vary from place to place but usually some people volunteer to cook a meal for the rest of their roommates. A coin flip then decides who will be responsible for cleaning. In some corridors, these dinners happen every week on a fixed day, in others they are more sporadic. In some, dinners are thematic and people are supposed to cook something from their home countries. But in most of the common dinners, the cooking involves an exchange of recipes, and is done to the rhythm of collaborative playlists and cheerful songs. The meal is always an opportunity to get to know each other better, have fun conversations and explore new cultures.

These activities are especially important for some international stu-



Are you curious about what the common dinner looks like in different dorms? Let's find out how it is!

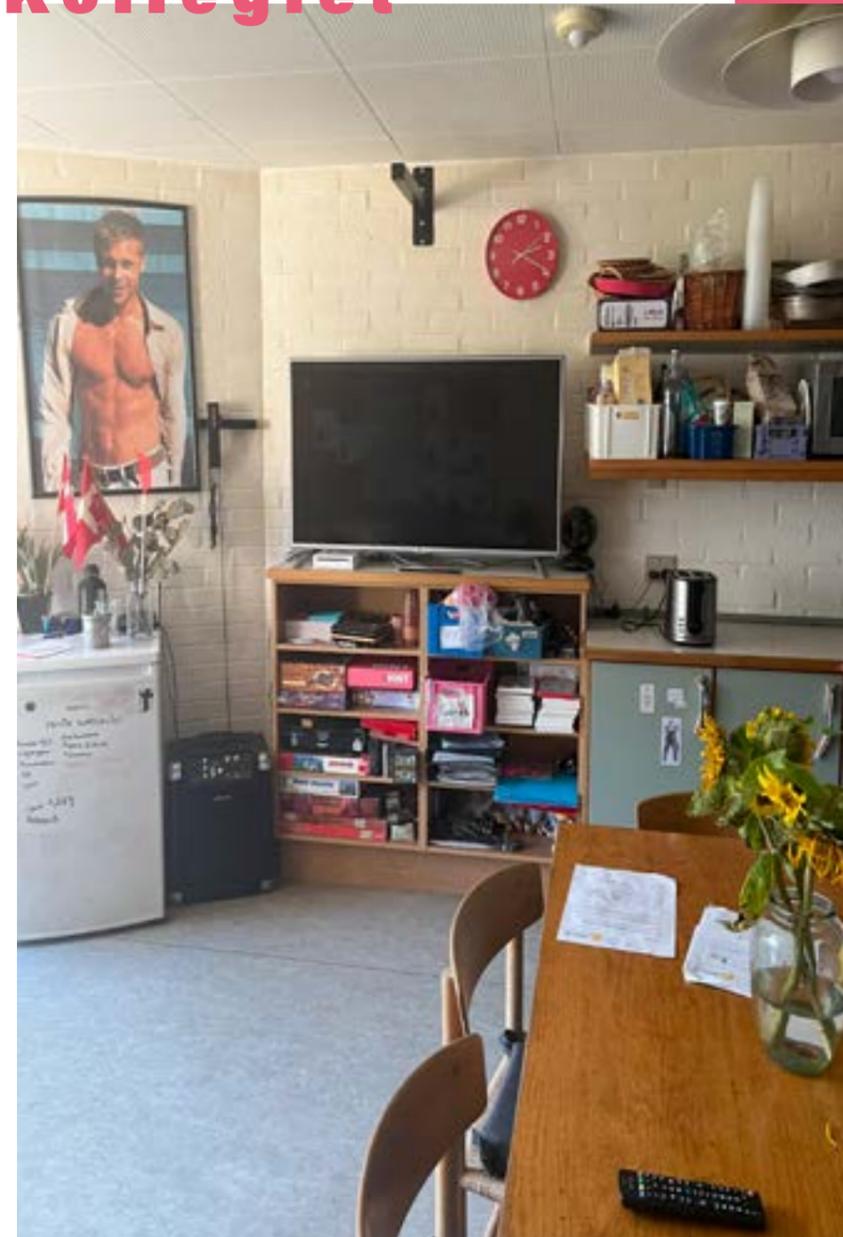
dents who sometimes struggle to interact with their Danish roommates. While it is true that sometimes Danes can be reserved and hard to talk to, common dinners prove that food is a universal language that brings people together and is perhaps the best way to break barriers and stereotypes.

eva and the danes

Eva has a huge kitchen, which she shares with 13 students that live on the same floor as her. There are seven fridges, eight cooking plates and a giant poster of a shirtless Brad Pitt. Common dinners take place every single Sunday, however, sometimes they even spontaneously decide to host an extra

one throughout the week. What food is made is fully up to the people that are cooking that specific day. Out of the 13 people that live on Eva's floor, only three are international students, so let's just say that the dishes are often not very experimental. That being said, it is important to highlight the fact that the international students never cook at the same time, so different dishes can be discovered.

Børglum Kollegiet



Last week was Eva's turn and she proposed to make Moules Frites, a typical Flemish dish. Her Danish dormmates agreed and learned a lot about Eva's culture while cooking the meal. Most importantly, everyone agreed to call the dish 'Belgian fries' by the end of the evening instead of 'French fries'. Big win!



breaking the ice with enchiladas

Anthony had never had a common dinner before. In his household, everyone ate dinner at a different time. The closest he has been to a common dinner before is during holidays such as Thanksgiving and Christmas where almost everyone cooks a dish, and they enjoy the meal together. However, when he

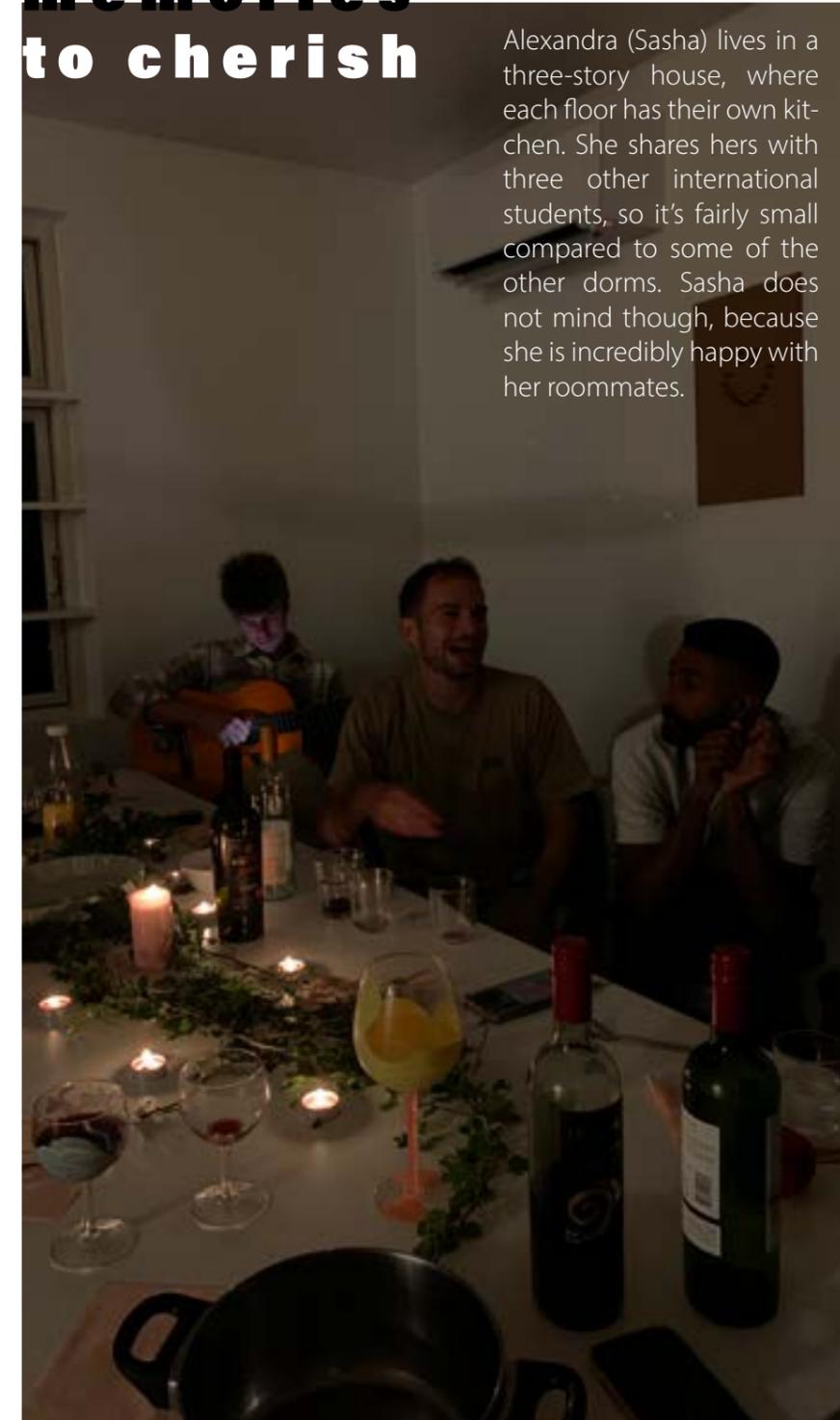
came to Aarhus, a common dinner was the way in which he broke the ice with his flatmates. That day, he was in charge of making enchiladas (a traditional Mexican dish that he cooks a lot at home) with another flatmate. Since then, he has enjoyed attending the weekly Wednesday dinners they have in the kitchen.

These dinners aren't good just for bonding. They help with discovering new dishes too. In Anthony's case, he now knows of different vegetarian alternatives!

Carl Holst Knudssens Vej 6

Farsundsvej 9B

memories to cherish



Alexandra (Sasha) lives in a three-story house, where each floor has their own kitchen. She shares hers with three other international students, so it's fairly small compared to some of the other dorms. Sasha does not mind though, because she is incredibly happy with her roommates.

That is also why they try to organize spontaneous common dinners as much as possible.

Her most recent common dinner was organized by her Italian roommate, who made some delicious pasta (obviously). They love to create a cozy space, so they helped decorate the kitchen with candles and flowers. For her own turn, Sasha kept in touch with her Russian roots and made borscht, a beet soup. She loved the whole experience since she was able to share a treasured tradition with her new friends. They also used to make apple pies together during the summer, because they have an apple tree in their garden.

When it comes to sharing the expenses, they don't really keep track of grocery bills. Everyone cooks at one point or sometimes someone will make a dessert to compliment the dinner. That way everyone has to pay for groceries at least once anyway. Sasha says they purposefully don't look at the financial aspect of it, she believes these dinners will form memories that she will be able to cherish for a long time.



Tandlægekolegiet

bonding over cake and butter

Aurora likes her kitchen, it is big enough for the 12 people that live there. It has a central table, two sofas, cupboards and everything that you need in a kitchen. There are also these peculiar butter packages hanging around like garlands. The tradition has stayed across the different groups of people living in the dorm! Aurora's dorm is yet to make their own such tradition as they are all new to each other and got together for the first time in a common dinner. At first it was overwhelming as they were a little bit shy, but food really helped bring them closer.

For this first meal, Aurora and another flatmate volunteered to cook pizza, while another residents made the dessert. The rest agreed to clean and the expenses were commonly shared. This improvised organization seemed to work and got established as the way to gath-

er around food. The menu would be decided by the "chefs", and everybody else could spontaneously join the gathering.

Aurora, who has previously experience living in a dorm where they did not engage with each other so much, is very happy to be able to enroll in activities like this one with her flatmates. They went together to the Friday Bars, had a "tour de

chambres" and celebrated a birthday. There she discovered the traditional Danish cake, "Drømmekage" (Danish Dream Cake), a vanilla sponge cake with a flavourful caramelized coconut topping. It is not the only Danish sweet she discovered, as another one of her dormmates also baked an apple pie. If there is anything that brings people closer, it is Danish sweets!



Carl Holst Knudsens Vej 2

finally ended up loving these danes

When Elena first entered the corridor, she found herself prejudging the arrangement. Out of the nine people she was going to share the flat with, eight were Danes. She was misguided by lots of stereotypes about Danes and the stories she heard of them being hard to

interact with. She was wrong. Her first common dinner was the beginning of this realization. She was late, as per usual, and they had saved her a comforting portion of lasagna. It was delicious. "Even if it was not, the Danish quote in the entrance: Husk at sige, at det smager godt, selv om det ikke gør (Remember to say it tastes good, even if it doesn't), reminds us to congratulate the chefs and to praise the meal even if we do not like it," she says. Bryan (an exchange student from Malaysia) and she have also

taken these gatherings as an opportunity to share part of their gastronomy and cultures. Bryan cooked chicken rendang, a very tasty Malaysian chicken stew with spices and coconut milk. He also helped Elena during her Spanish cuisine night. They made paella, a traditional Spanish dish of rice, vegetables, and seafood, to the rhythm of Spanish pop culture. They accompanied the meal with a Spanish wine from La Rioja, a known wine region close to Elena's.

She also loves the spontaneity of her dormmates to organize such dinners. These weekly meetups have also introduced her to curly fries and some amazing people with whom she ended up sharing game nights, horror movies and medical stitch classes. "Thanks to these dinners, I ended up loving these Danes," she says.



Surviving Aarhus, One Spice At A Time

Priscila Navarrete

Mundusians come from all parts of the world. We all have our traditions, our routines and most certainly, our favourite foods from back home. Moving so far away from our home countries could also present a challenge when trying to find these familiar flavours.

For me, being able to get my hands on some Mexican ingredients for the first months was crucial. I was sure I would not find real spicy food or ingredients here so I brought with me a home-made chilli oil salsa, a can of chipotle, dried epazote (a very aromatic herb native to Mexico), a specific kind of pepper and masa powder to make tortillas.

Simran Ahuja and Apeksha Bhateja are both from India. They came prepared to cook dishes that will

make them feel a bit closer to home. "Indian cuisine uses a lot of spices. I brought small packets that my mom personally filled for me, like garam masala (a mixture of many ground spices) that she has prepared at home," says Apeksha.

Simran went the extra mile and asked previous Indian Mundusians if she would be able to find masalas here in Aarhus. Even though there were some things she would find here, she preferred to bring various sachets with her since these are things that every Indian household has. Ziyi Wang, from China, also heard

from other people that some of the ingredients she needs to cook Chinese food would be difficult to get. She too brought 40 sachets of chili powder and spices.



And the same happened to me, even though I can find a wide variety of salsas in the supermarket that claimed to be real Mexican food, the moment I added them to my food, it tasted like sugar.

So, knowing these limitations, rationing is something we've all become good at. Apeksha, for example, is being careful about her Sleepy Owl coffee and Veeba, a spicy sauce she eats with everything. And I treat my dried epazote like it's about to become extinct, which is funny because back home if you're not cautious it can invade your whole garden. Simran mixes Danish spices with the ones she brought to make her stash last longer. When she's really missing

home and wants a meal that will warm her heart, she will use a bit more of her stash.

Around Aarhus, there are some specialty stores where people have found some ingredients from back home. Like various Asian stores near the city centre or at Bazar Vest. However, trying to get the specific ingredients can get expensive, especially when you know how much you are paying for them back home. "I saw paneer (cottage cheese) for 100 DKK! Extortionist prices!" says Apeksha.

Ziyi knows that some of the specialty ingredients she needs might not be available in Aarhus or even Denmark. So she has a plan of stocking up when she visits a capital city and has also found an app that will deliver her some ingredients directly from China. "I usually go to the Asian

supermarket anytime I am short of spices or have a craving for something. After a month and a half or so, I would buy things on the app with other Chinese students," she adds. And I have been pleasantly surprised to know there are many Mexican ingredients here in Aarhus and in Denmark. Fotex & Salling would usually have a big selection of products like corn tortillas or real salsas. Also, many little stores around also sell tomatillos, mole (a paste of up to 30 different ingredients), and even nopales (cactus).

So, if you're reading this and planning to apply or are already admitted to this program, bring the spices you cook with the most and that you think will be difficult or expensive to get here!





where can I get diverse ingredients in aarhus?

mundusians recommend:

1

Bazar Vest

Fresh wide variety of vegetables, stores with South East Asian ingredients, Turkish and Arabic ingredients, some Latin American ingredients.

Location:
Edwin Rahrs Vej 32,
8220 Brabrand

2

Asian Food Store din Østens Specialiteter

Wide variety of food from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, some hair products and some Latin American products.

Location:
Park Allé 11, 8000 Aarhus

3

Kloster Grønt & Frugt

Fresh fruits and vegetables and diverse food from all over the world. At the back you can find various Mexican ingredients like mole, chipotles, salsa verde and tomatillos.

Location:
Klostergade 33, 8000 Aarhus

4

KFT Food Trading

Large variety of Asian ingredients, little pricier than Far-East Trading.

Location:
Viborgvej 155A,
8210 Aarhus V

5

Far-East-Trading

Wide variety of Asian ingredients and fresh Asian vegetables and spices.

Location:
Banegårdsgade 36,
8000 Aarhus

6

Salling

More expensive than the rest of the options so make sure to catch offers. They always have corn tortillas and occasionally dried chillies, spicy sauces from Mexico and canned refried beans.

Location:
Søndergade 27, 8000 Aarhus



CULTURE

The Perfect Age To Become A Mundusian

Xiao Yang

Last November, as the leaves gracefully descended to the ground, I was eager to sift through every page of the Mundus bluebooks of the past, carefully taking in the age of every single participant to find an answer to my deep-seated concern: “Am I too old to apply?”

I was 33. Around me, lives grew in different directions, like branches on the gold-leaved sycamore outside my window. For many of my female peers in China, this is a juncture to solidify their lives through marriage and parenting. However, I yearn to be an exception. Trapped in a disjointed existence for years, I crave liberation from the tightness in my chest and a chance to de-

stress. Despite the daunting prospect of returning to academia after a decade-long hiatus, I eventually submitted my application. All that was left was hope.

Two months later, I got accepted. The first week of the semester was formidable as expected. Sitting in the vast auditorium, I could hear the distracting keystrokes echoing from every corner; the screen glare emanating from everyone’s laptop was pretty dizzying, making it difficult to read the slides and take notes on them. Everything has gone digital, a far cry from the academic atmosphere I had fifteen years ago. Life outside of school was no better, as complicated fam-

ily matters that often come with age did not pause for my academic pursuits. As I grew older, my parents also aged in tandem. I found myself straddling the two distinctive worlds – adapting to the new environment in Denmark while still managing to address the two retirees’ regular mental, physical, and financial needs over a seven-hour time span. Being the three-member family’s sole distant pillar of strength proved to be more challenging than I had anticipated.

33

Above all, age stoked my fear of inadequacy. In East Asia's deep-rooted Confucian culture, age is synonymous with wisdom and competence. Compared to the bunch of classmates who are ten years younger, my added decade of life is assumed to equate to a proportional increase in knowledge, insights, and experiences. I made myself believe so.

"At 33, Taylor Swift broke Grammy nominations record; Jesus Christ was said to have walked on water. But I ... " I whispered during a classmate's 22nd birthday party. "But you learned to apply digital storytelling in news!", another Mundusian interjected before I could wallow in self-pity."

His words led me to look anew at my situation and engage in more dialogues with others. Although a few in this cohort said the various digital learning tools were also quite alien to them, none of the 14 people who are above 30 made as much a fuss about age as I did:

"I am more mature to deal with things like budgeting, grocery shopping, and time management." "I have more focus and direction with what I would like to do with my degree and journalism. I can think critically about the texts and our schoolwork as it pertains to my longer career in journalism and life in general. I feel like this gives a more nuanced and thoughtful experience. When I was younger, I was simply eager to get a good grade and complete the assignments. There is a bit more time to reflect on my education as that I am older."

"No matter at what age you pursue a master's degree, it is a sign of self-progress."

Mundusian in an anonymous survey

These were the crux. The beauty of this academic journey transcends the mere accumulation of knowledge; it is in the acceptance and appreciation of each other's backgrounds. The 30s enhance proficiency not by standing out, but by standing with the 20s. 30 and 20 add up to 50. This holds true beyond mathematics: when we drop our obsession with comparison and learn from each other, we become something bigger

than ourselves. It turns out futile shield I have been holding to defend my misguided perception of competence.

Digital adaption seemed to be the final hurdle for me, and I decided to play cool with it. With a mere 30

Danish Kroner in my pocket, I bought three A5 grid paper note-pads from the

university bookstore, reviving the "obsolete" art of notetaking by hand. After all, I am here to evolve, not to erase myself. Then why not bring some old-school habits to this new journey in Europe?

After around two pages of articles in this bluebook, you will probably stumble upon the student profiles. If you are gripped by the same concerns about age that once haunted me, I suggest that you spare yourself the tally of the elder students, for I can already assure you: "If you find yourself at a crossroads yearning for change, if your passion for journalism beats fervently

within, then now is the ideal time to pursue this master's degree."



"It's fun to hang out with young people, and I'm learning new things every day."

Mundusian in an anonymous survey

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Recycling Realities in Aarhus

Henry Stevens

Examining Waste & Responsibility



As you walk down any given street of Aarhus' city centre, you're likely to find an unattended rack of used clothing. The owners of these racks hang handwritten price tags from sweaters, shirts, trousers and dresses left out for passersby to discover and purchase on an honour-based system. If you see something you like, transactions take place through MobilePay, a popular app in Denmark that allows users to send money with their phones.

The Danish interest in second-hand clothing goes beyond these clothing racks. The many thrift stores, charity shops, vintage stores, and online platforms available are no doubt positive developments toward a 'slower' form of clothing consumption, more or less reflecting a global shift in attitudes and spending habits.

Upcycling and reusing doesn't just happen with clothes, though. Denmark has a program where they offer a rebate on bottles and cans when they are returned to a grocery store. In most households or dorms, there is a very strict recycling system — Indy describes that, "in my shared house we have six different bins which allow us to separate paper, plastic, food waste etc. I have also heard from the Danes that they tend to stick to recycling rules rather rigorously and many people make their own compost, which I think is really cool."

Also, you're just as likely to see someone sifting through a trash can late at night. Dumpsters outside of grocery stores, restaurants, and residential areas are often filled with food that is still safe for consumption, which has led to the growth of a 'dumpster diving' community here. These phenomena may seem

alien to those of us coming here from other countries. For one, it is hard to imagine this honour-based system of second-hand shopping working in some of our home countries — not just because these items would likely get stolen, but because cities are not nearly as walkable or welcoming to street vending. Tucker describes that, "for a lot of Asian countries, the mainstream culture is still "why would I get something that someone else has used? It's not like I couldn't afford a new one myself."

"While second-hand goods are considered poverty markers in many cultures, they are mainstream in Denmark."

Kay Xander Mellish, Danish author

There are numerous other ways that goods are recycled in Denmark, too. Danish company Too-Good-to-Go allows users to reserve unwanted food items from stores and restaurants for a fraction of re-

tail price. Near the docks is ReUse (also known as 'Genburg'), a store that rehomes donated items. Two members of our cohort, Simran and Halime, were able to find furniture, cutlery, and other household items in their dorms and in exchange with their roommates. Simran specifically says that back home in India, "There's no way someone would just leave out plates or cutlery or something. But here, it's a really nice concept."

Overall, while the clothing rack process allows sellers to easily get rid of unwanted items, this is not a solution to overconsumption. After all, if you don't even have to enter a store or app to buy clothes, then the system still facilitates overconsumption on an individual level. Similarly, though the culture of dumpster diving and use of Too-Good-to-Go shows that people care about food waste, the fact that there is so much good food going to waste in the first place is still something to be concerned about.

over 1.2 million tonnes of edible food gets put into the trash in Denmark

Over 1.2 million tonnes of edible food gets put into the trash in Denmark every year according to Bureau Veritas, with the United Nations Environment Programme reporting that over 1.3 billion tonnes of food goes to waste annually worldwide.

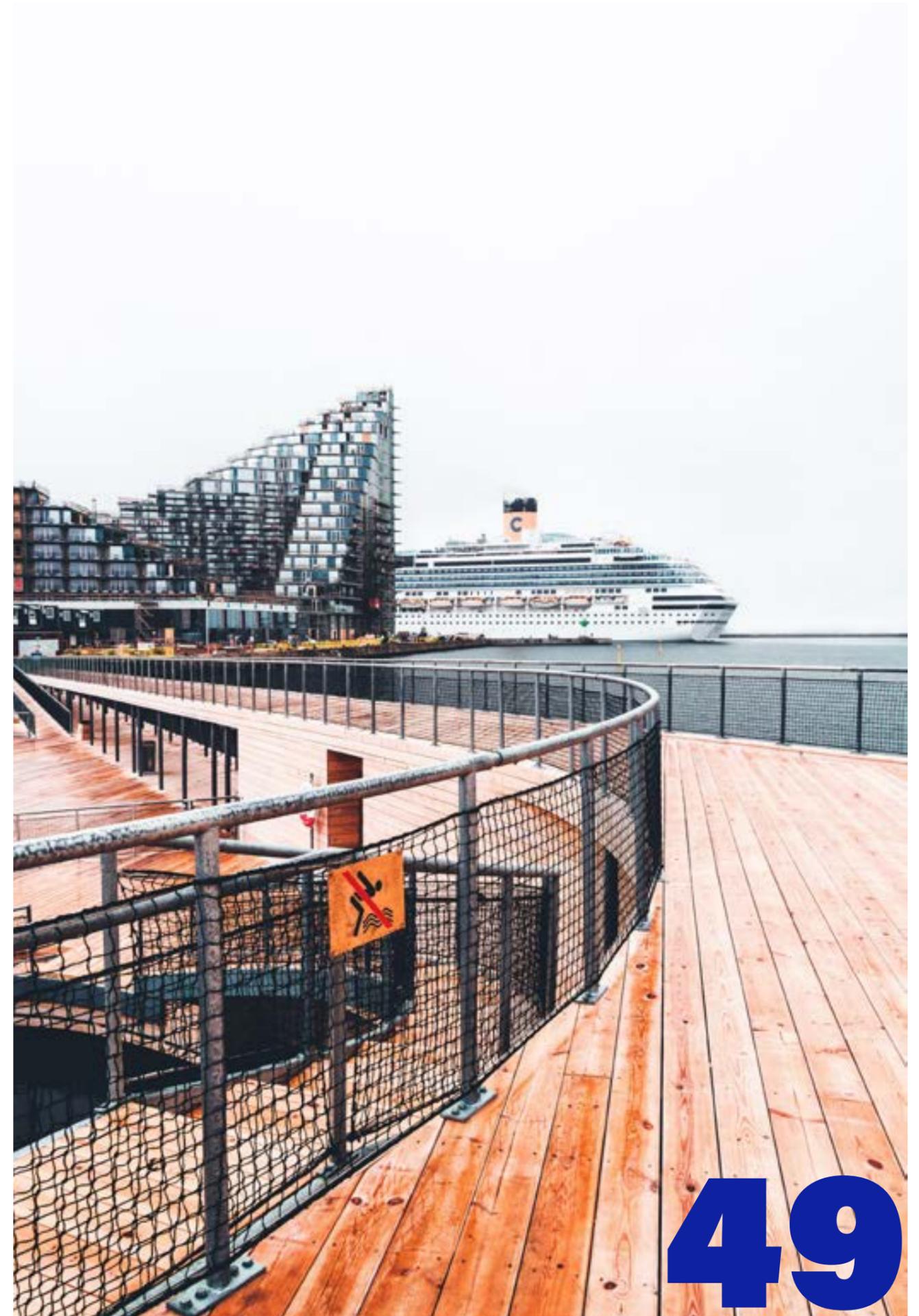
Both food and clothing, among other things, are simultaneously luxuries and necessities and many of these criticisms go beyond changes that need to happen here in Denmark. There is something to be said, however, about the embeddedness into culture and the social responsibility associated with recycling that can be aspired to and implemented on a wider scale.

Some of the interventions seen here have been popular and effective, at least at the local level. Nevertheless, the problem of over-consumption still remains a problem that is not only affecting waste here, but worldwide. If nothing else, these processes observed here in Denmark have us all thinking about sustainability and recycling in new ways, giving rise to new insights and solutions as we compare them to our home countries.

By no means is this to say that Denmark is some kind of sustainable utopia. After all, a massive flag ship H&M store can be found in the city centre of Aarhus, very close to some of these outdoor clothing racks. The global fast fashion industry alone produces twice the amount of clothing annually that it did in 2000, with over 92 million tonnes of clothing ending up as waste per year. H&M is one of the more egregious examples of fast fashion waste — the UK-Swedish based company, in spite of its 'green' promises and a widely touted recycling program, was discovered by Danish-programme Operation X to have burnt over 12 tonnes of textile waste in Denmark in 2017 alone. Furthermore, a recent report by Swedish outlet Aftonbladet found that millions of tonnes of clothes

that were pledged by H&M to be recycled have actually ended up in landfills in places like Kenya, Ghana, and Chile as well.

While second-hand goods and the abundance of recycling oftentimes makes students' lives easier, this Danish system still brings its own fair share of logistical headaches and confusion. Tianxue reports that the recycling machine is not only too far from her house to be convenient, but that it has been broken since she moved here. Furthermore, a number of students noted the difficulty in finding out where and how to take part in these systems: Apeksha says that although the clothing racks are a good idea, the requirement to use MobilePay makes it hard to manage with an international bank account.



Learning from
your peers



A Danish Collective Journey to Academic Achievements

Aurora Alliegro



Photographs by Carmen Critelli

For many new Mundusians, navigating a new educational system may be daunting. But, despite its challenges, the experience can be eye-opening. Danish study culture has many idiosyncrasies – combining an informal and anti-hierarchical learning environment with a great emphasis on students’ social life – but perhaps the biggest culture shock of all is Aarhus University’s focus on study groups.

Study groups lie at the heart of Danish higher educational programs. In the course of their educational journey, students from many programs consistently collaborate with their peers on both academic and practical assignments. Beyond that, they engage in constructive discussions, prepare for classes, give feedback to each others’ works

and have the chance to partake in social activities together.

In the case of Mundus Journalism, study groups go far beyond their definition. They are thoughtfully designed to be as culturally diverse as possible, allowing students to learn from one another and broaden their perspectives about the world and its different cultures and contexts.

Coming from various academic backgrounds, many Mundusians do not anticipate an educational system that places such a strong emphasis on collaboration. Personally, I was not at all accustomed to working in groups. To my surprise, I discovered that I genuinely enjoy it. Back in Italy, my university prioritized individual work, failing to encourage cooperation, support,

or interaction among students.

I witnessed many struggling to socialize, to study efficiently, or to establish networks of any kind.

I now feel that I finally have what I was missing: mutual support, opportunities to embrace cultural diversity, virtual spaces for forging friendships based on shared interests, engaging in stimulating discussions, and participating in constructive arguments that enrich my perspective.

However, it isn’t always all sunshine and roses. Study groups bring the same complex challenges that cooperating with any group of individuals does. On surveying fellow students for their experiences of study group culture, some cited unfortunate episodes of poor communication, interpersonal conflicts,

and lack of engagement. One person commented, “Group work introduces a significant level of uncertainty into the quality of life of any student; everyone should be graded for their individual work.”

Nonetheless, it’s essential to grasp from the beginning that every group holds some potential, which sometimes may take a little time to unlock. Another respondent noted: „I was not used to working with the same group for so many assignments, but I believe that this

has a beneficial effect. With every new assignment, you get to know how each member works. In the end, the group improves and you feel more comfortable working with them.” In other words, even if your group does not seem like a perfect match initially, you should definitely try to give it a chance.

What was evident from the survey results is that, despite the challenges faced by the groups, the vast majority of survey respondents acknowledged the significant role

that study groups played in facilitating learning, socialization, workload sharing, and preparation for future work environments.

Elena, from Spain, was eager to share her perspective. “I really learned from my fellow group members”, she said. In fact, despite initial communication challenges and differing work habits she found her group work experience greatly beneficial for study purposes.

“Conflicts can be annoying and easily avoided as long as you try to be flexible and honest about how you feel.”

Elena, Mundusian



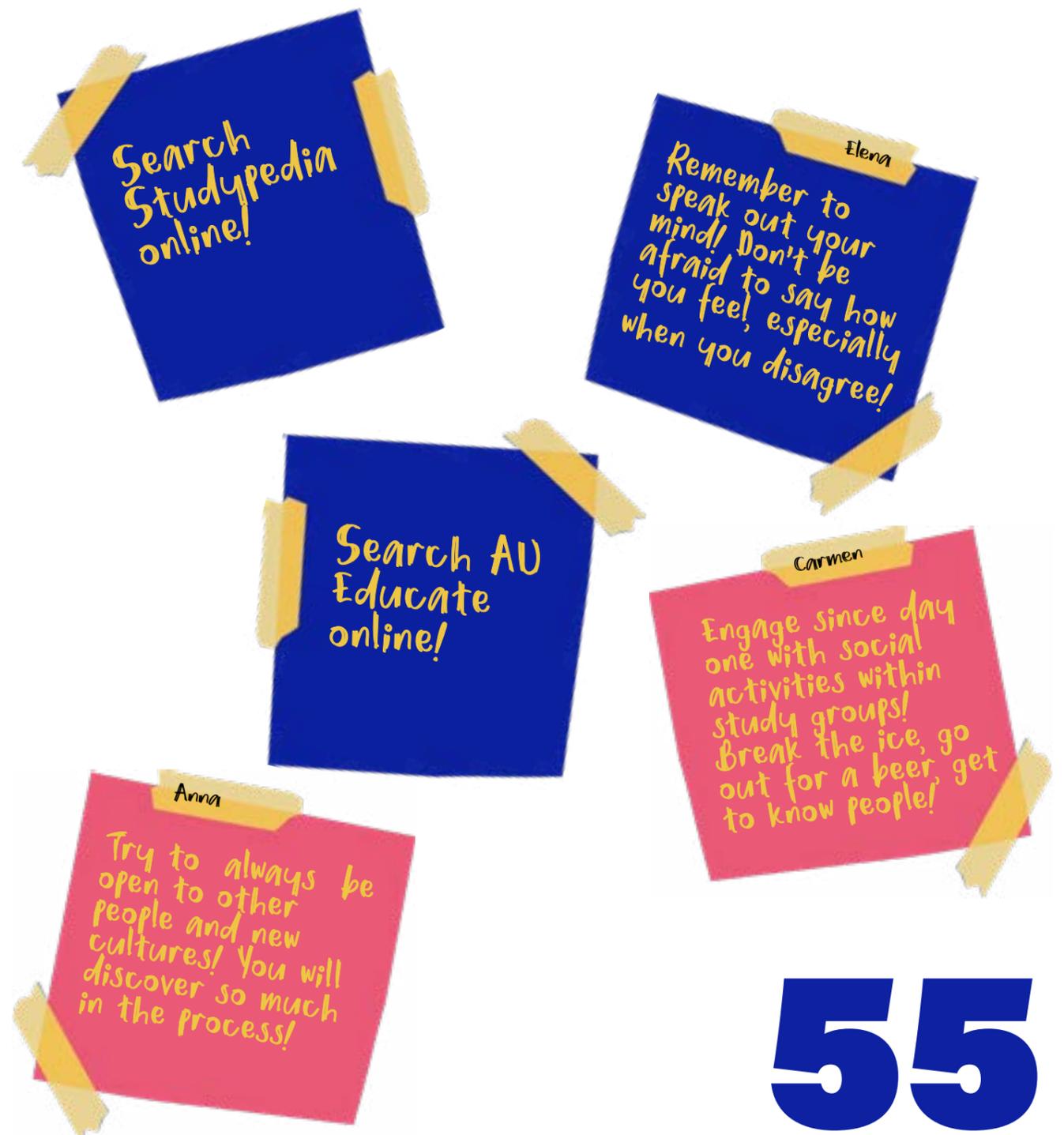
Tips from current Mundusians

Anna, from Hungary, found the best part of her experience was working in a team of people from four different continents, as it gave her a chance to overcome stereotypes about these cultures and gain a deeper understanding of them. She also emphasized the challenges of working with people with different personalities and work styles: „I recommend tackling issues immediately and always try

ing to be respectful and open to other people,” she advised.

Aarhus University, recognizing the potential issues of working in a group, takes proactive steps to help students establish an environment reactive to diversity and collaboration. In fact, one of the first activities that groups are involved in is drafting the “group code of work ethics”, where members can

discuss expectations from each other, and set guidelines for harmonious working dynamics. Overall, embracing the rich complexities of study groups can truly be a life-changing opportunity. So far, it has been one of the highlights of the Mundus programme, and I am genuinely grateful to my peers for making this experience a collective journey of learning, cooperation and fun!



Take Me There Where You Feel Home

Elena Campo & Anna Mirjam Halász

Moving to another country feels very strange. Suddenly, your spatial awareness gets distorted. You can find it mentally hard to grasp that you are in a different corner of the world, far from home. As you slowly land in your new life and start finding your way around, the new space you inhabit stops looking like a virtual reality and slowly turns into something familiar. Something that gradually unveils its secrets and that you begin to call home. After some months of living in Aarhus, we would like to share these hidden treasures that have made us, Mundusians, fonder of this city. Spots that make us feel at ease, comforted, happy, and safe.

Corners that we finally embrace as pieces of us and as a part of our Danish adventure.

Skatepark by Godsbanen

COLIN, ON BUILDING A COMMUNITY THROUGH ROLLERBLADING
Colin's special spot is a quasi-DIY skatepark by Godsbanen, with a couple of ledges and a curve. Some of the rollerbladers and he built a box to grind on. They also make good use of the skateboard

features built by a school around Institut for X, that are open to the public for free. Colin explains that he has spent a lot of time there, together with new friends and by himself. Afternoons spent building and practicing have brought him closer to the locals. But his ties to this community go back even before he arrived in Aarhus, as he had been rollerblading and skateboarding back home in the US. He messaged famous rollerbladers on Instagram Copenhagen, who

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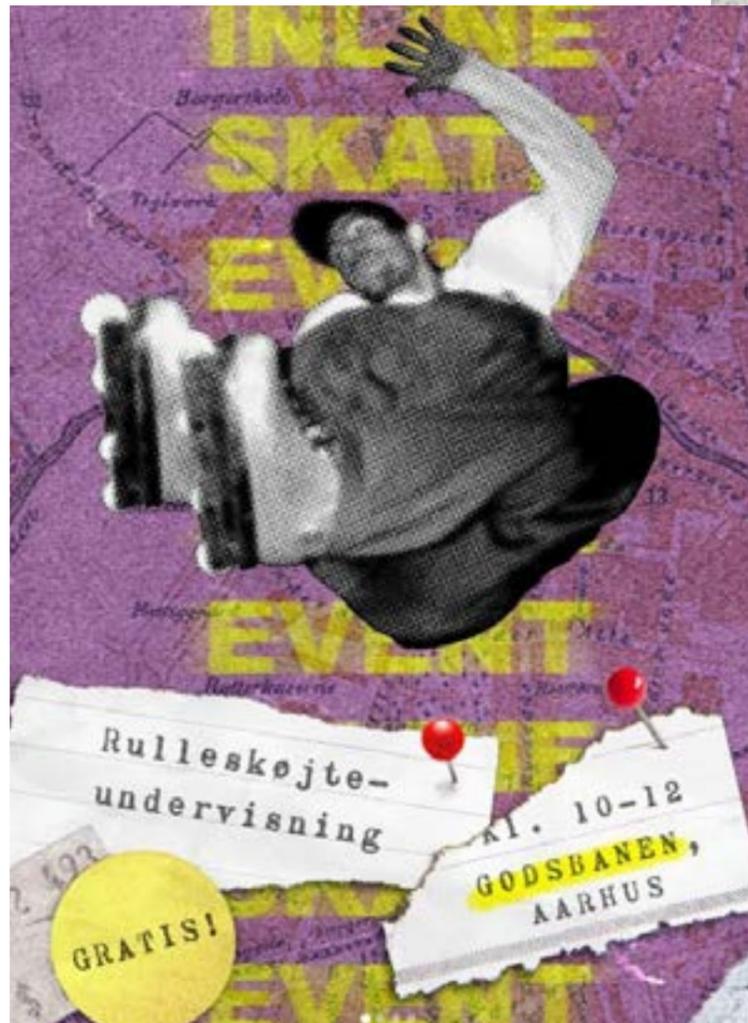
connected him to Jutland's rollerblading group, an on-line space with around 600 members. After some time, he was approached by two very good rollerbladers when he was skating at the city's main skateboard park. That's how he got in the community. When it didn't rain as much, he would go skating every day. "I would just find myself here for 6 hours", Colin admits. He shares with me the "official" Instagram group born out of their community @aarhusif, where you can find a link to become a

member. They have grown into an association which gives them the chance to apply for funding to organize cool events.

The place means a lot to him because people are really welcoming there. "They just break the idea of being a Dane. Danes you think of as reserved and hard to get to know, but once I de-facto joined this community, they welcomed me, and now I have all these friends there. Even if I don't really know them, we have mutual trust."



"When I'm gonna think of Aarhus, I'm just gonna think about hanging out on the street in this spot. When I first got here, I didn't know anyone. I met these rollerbladers and they were so welcoming. It is a total stress release through activity, through sport. I have been learning to rollerblade recently and doing grinds and tricks. It is a fun and challenging way to express myself."



Restaurant Grød: Graven 24, 8000 Aarhus



Yael AND THE CRADLE OF AÇAI
For Yael, Grød (oatmeal) was a taste of home when she needed it the most. After a long flight from Brazil, she spent the night with an empty stomach. A picture of an açai bowl at the entrance dragged her into this cozy restaurant. It was summertime then; people were sitting outside in colorful chairs. The atmosphere was lively. Plants, Chinese lanterns, and a sample of bowls decorated the small L-shaped room. Behind the counter, Julia, from the Canary Islands, with her contagious smile, made the place even more comforting.

Grød is near Yael's apartment, and she loves to sit by the window to see pedestrians passing by. Having açai brings her close to Rio de Janeiro, where she used to eat it after going to the beach. She likes how the menu changes depending on the season and declares herself a fan of their tomato and mushroom risotto! There, you can get a 10% discount by downloading their app or showing your student card. Even then, the price is probably the only reason preventing Yael from eating there more often, as it is not so student-budget friendly. We ordered a bowl

of açai, which costs 85kr, and a pumpkin risotto, which is 98 kr. The açai was of an intense purple color, fruity and fresh, with toppings. Yael loved it but commented that it tasted different from the traditional one, which they usually just dressed with "granola e banana" (granola and banana).

Grød managed to unite for a few hours our Danish autumn reality with one of Yael's warm Brazilian beach afternoons.





Viet Food Street Kitchen: Bangårds-gade 9, 8000 Aarhus

PRIS AND MEMORIES AROUND PHO
Right after coming to Aarhus, Pris and her husband were desperately looking for a place where soup would be served, so they could warm up. Pho is a traditional Vietnamese dish based on a noodle soup made from beef stock and spices to which sliced meat is added. But Pho is also one of Pris'

comfort foods and now also one of her remedies to combat the gloomy, cold Danish weather and heartache from separation from a loved one soon to come.

On a walk, they saw a restaurant, Viet Food Street Kitchen. It seemed intriguing with its promise of warmth and food. "They were closing soonish, but we adventured and went there anyway".

The decor was so green and cheerful that it made them forget the cold weather outside. It was one of her husband's last nights in Aarhus and thanks to their gastronomic discovery, it turned out to be a great evening filled with good conversations, hearty Pho, and happiness.

Pris still cherishes the moment: "I remember feeling so nice upon the first taste of the Pho, while it was

pouring rain outside. Now, every time I go back and have the Pho, it reminds me that I can feel cozy in this weather. I also always think of the great time and conversations I had with Romain there."

She goes there whenever she needs something to "warm her heart". With her choice, Pris has shown us that good food and good company can light up even the darkest of days. Undoubtedly, the best recipe against seasonal depression!

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Kloster Grønt & Frugt, Kloster gade 33, 8000 Aarhus

PRIS' SECOND LOVE: TOMATILLOS & CHIPOTLE

Pris was pleasantly surprised to find out that at the back of a fruit store she usually goes to, Kloster Grønt & Frugt, she could find all sorts of Mexican products; tomatillos and chipotle included. Tomatillos look like ordinary unripe tomatoes with their beautiful bright green color, but don't let them fool you. Their flavor is more acidic than normal

tomatoes. Chipotle is a smoked-ripe jalapeño chili pepper used for seasoning. Its flavor is sweet with smoky notes of bitterness. They are both the base of many Mexican traditional dishes that Pris loves preparing and eating. She made them forget the cold weather. Pris already frequented this grocery store because it was close to her house in the city center. There, she bought fruits and vegetables by the piece, without plastic containers, and at a better price than in some supermarkets. The shop also has imported food products from all over the world and even some prepared meals. The owner, Denis, is half-Turkish half-Danish and Pris appreciates that he "remembers you." "It makes me happy and at ease knowing that just a few meters from home I can find Mexican ingredients that I can buy when I'm craving real Mexican food", she concluded.



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Hundeskov near Marien- lunds Allé (Aarhus Kom) bus station

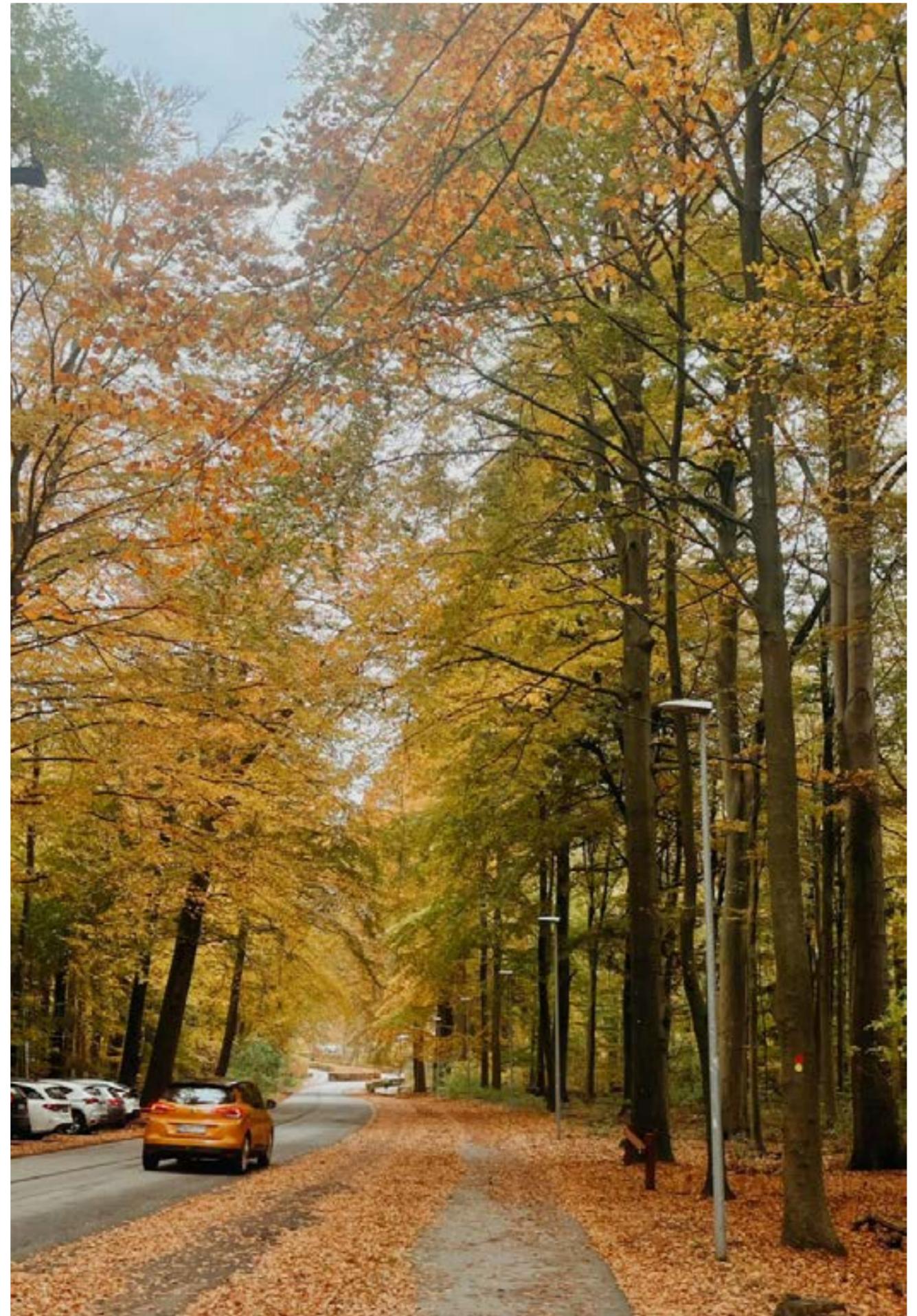


A WALK INSIDE "HUNDESKOV" (DOG FOREST) WITH SHUYI

"Reds, greens, browns, huge dead trees lying on the ground, maple leaves mixed with mud and rain, and I even found a hut with ashes from a fire," describes her favourite hideout. She found the "Hundeskov", which means "Dog Forest" in Danish, while aimlessly wondering. Eventually, she found her way through the forest, right to the seaside.

A forest Shuyi passes by every day on her way to school, as it is near the bus station. She always wondered how it would look like if she stepped in, but scared to explore alone, she never dared to do so... Until she saw people on their daily run. She went in. What she found instantly made her feel warm, hygge, peace and freedom. A place that connected her to her memories of excursions and adventures in Chinese forests, lakes, and parks. Describing herself as an introvert, Shuyi told me that exploring the forest by herself was her way of recharging her social battery. "I can do anything without considering other people's feelings. I can imagine myself becoming united with nature. I can just be myself." While doing so, she listens to Chinese music. "Although it's cold in Aarhus, the music can make me feel warm", she states.

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Deer Park Ørnerede- vej 6, 8270 Højbjerg

GETTING LOST AT THE BEACH
– MARSELISBORG DEER PARK
– ANNA

On the 9th of September, many Mundusians headed to the beach to make the most out of the summery, sunny weather. I invited my Mexican flatmate, Lilith, to join me for a calm beach day and to socialize with my course mates through a picnic. We got lost on the way to the Marselisborg Strand, which led to a discovery of unexpected treasures: a deer park, where you can enter and feed the deer for free. Spending time with animals has always been my go-to stress relief. Even though I've only had guinea pigs myself, any animal can make me feel happier by petting and hanging out with them. I already knew that reindeer became a symbol in Sweden, however, the red deer were a surprise for me, and I discovered that they are native to Denmark. I enjoy bringing carrots and other vegetables to feed them and it soothes me when they appreciate it very much. If you would like to spend some time with wild animals for free, head to Marselisborg and bring some treats to your furry friends!



Dokk1, Hack Kampmanns Plads 2, 8000 Aarhus C

AUTHOR'S FAVORITE?
DOKK1, WHERE YOU CAN FIND ME
SMILING – ELENA

After listening to other people's stories I realized that my reasons for choosing

Dokk 1 as my special place had to do with why I fell in love with other people's chosen places. For me, Dokk 1 was a combination of unique people and connection, comfort food and positive memories. I first discovered it on the 8th of September, like many others in my cohort, due to a CPR appointment. Dokk 1 is a government building, public library, and cultural center, which means that for us foreigners, it is the bureaucratic entrance to Denmark. - For this reason, many people end up hating the place as they associate it with endless queu-

es and MitID meetings. However, from the first time I walked in, I fell for their incredible collection of books in all languages, its study spaces with huge windows, in front of which you can read while contemplating the sea. I was mesmerized by "The Gong", the curious tubular bell in the centre of the study area, that rings every time a baby is born at Aarhus University Hospital.

As time has gone by, there was something that has made me addicted to the place. Now that I think about it, it was probably the beautiful human connections that the place continues to bless me with. I fondly remember when I met Sara, the most patient and friendly bookseller in all of Jutland. From that moment on, whenever we see each other, she always asks me about my Danish discoveries, and I ask her for literary recommendations. Or when I met Chahad, the young woman who helped me with my MitID, whom I later interviewed for a class exercise, and has become my close friend. Or how a normal study day turned into a meal with Cecilia, a 78-year-old Chilean, and Eric, a Panamanian cinema worker talking about the Pinochet dictatorship, marrying Danes, and other anecdotes from Cecilia's life as a teacher and librarian. The place transmits a lot of tranquillity while at the same time it provides the opportunity for fun moments of spontaneity. Whenever I go there, something good happens or I meet someone that makes me smile.



Truly Criminal Podcast

Chloe Lovatt



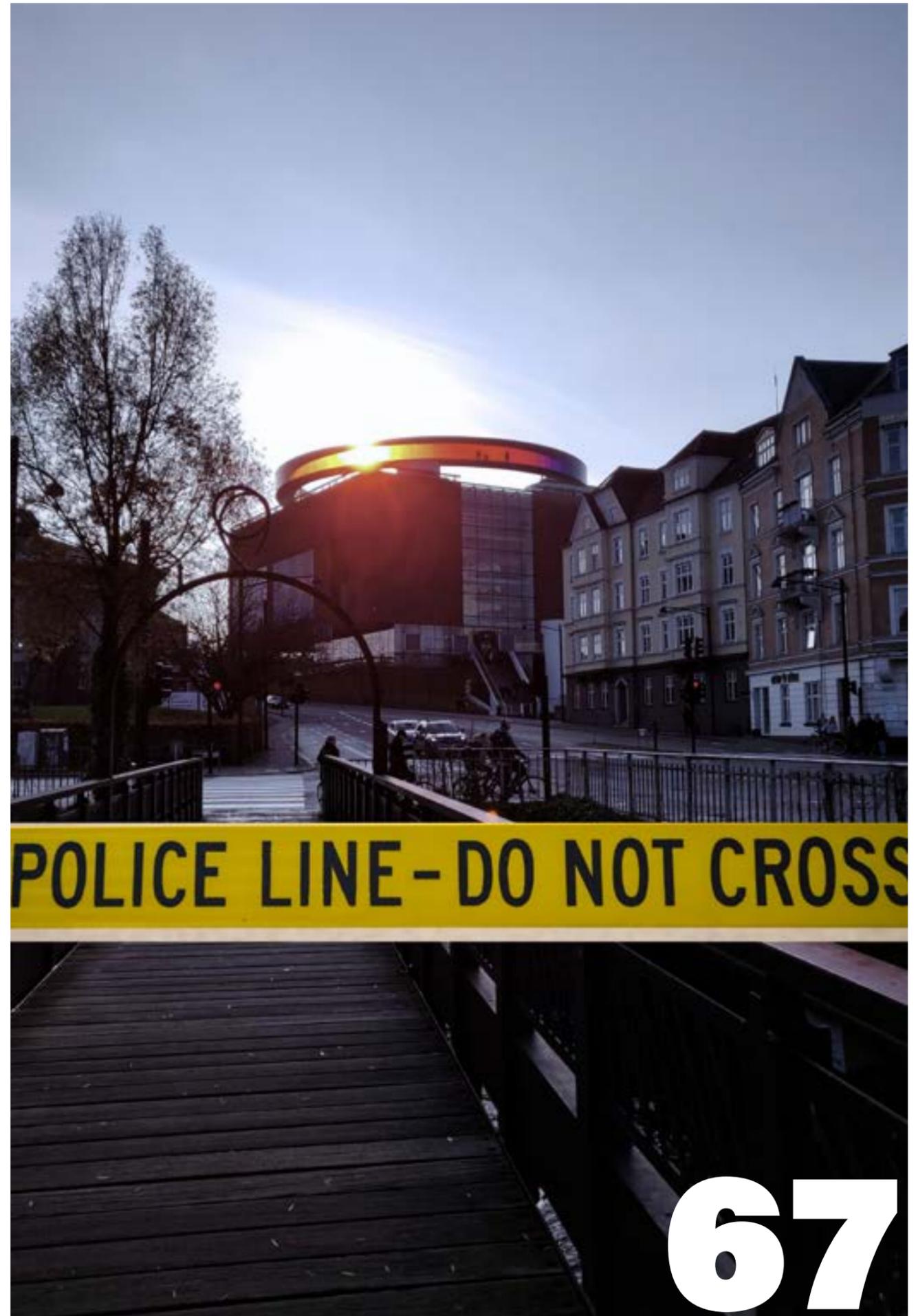
<https://soundcloud.com/chloe-lovatt/truly-criminal-podcast>

Listen Up Now

Erasmus Mundus students are an outgoing and welcoming bunch, yet they are not all as innocent as they seem.

Moving to a new country may bring with it a certain level of stress, however, the current cohort has responded to these new pressures in a number of deviant ways. Deception, corruption of Danish social norms, and, in some cases, even crime*.

Join Chloe, a current first-year Mundusian, as she investigates the offending actions of her fellow cohort. Scan the QR code to dive deep into the seedy behaviour the smiling faces you see try so hard to hide.





CHN AAR PRG EMJ



I think a lot and live by the books I love. I like media studies and journalism because they allow me to work with words. I hope that someday I can find a way to make the world a better place.

A word with special meaning:
萱 - It's the last character of my Chinese name and means a type of pretty plant.

Contact:
Email: agnesliu99@gmail.com

NAME	DEPARTURE
Agnes Zixuan Liu	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Prague	2025
NATIONALITY	
China	
BA	
Communication and Media	

DEU AAR PRG EMJ



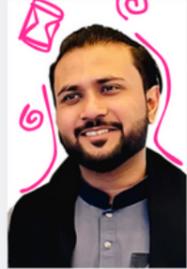
Storyteller from Germany. I love capturing people's lives in the form of videos. I like traveling to different countries and getting to know new perspectives.

A word with special meaning:
Fernweh - homesick for a place you've never been to.

Contact:
Instagram: alinaa_braun

NAME	DEPARTURE
Alina Braun	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Prague	2025
NATIONALITY	
Germany	
BA	
Journalism	

BGD AAR AMS EMJ



A professional wordsmith from the Old Dhaka. Love to be in the thick of things (inside a newsroom). A lifetime activist. A numismatist. There is always room to improve and grow in a bid to make the world a better place, and that's the end goal.

A word with special meaning:
ঔষধ (patience) - No matter how tough it gets, you must have "ঔষধ" - it's your anchor through the storms.

Contact:
Email: adittohari@gmail.com
Facebook: Aditto Ahsan Bari
Instagram: adittoahsan

NAME	DEPARTURE
Ahsan Bari	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
Bangladesh	
BA	
English	

HUN AAR AMS EMJ



I am an adventurer who is always eager to leave their comfort zone. I've lived in London and Paris before, thus I consider myself a citizen of the world! I chose this Master to improve my journalistic skills, hoping to get a job at EU organizations afterwards.

A word with special meaning:
Bandukol - It is an imitative word that means walking in a slow, hesitating manner, lost in thoughts.

Contact:
Email: halaszanna2000@gmail.com
Instagram: _annamirjam_
LinkedIn: Anna Mirjam Halász

NAME	DEPARTURE
Anna Mirjam Halász	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
Hungary	
BA	
Film and Communication Studies	

PER AAR MUC EMJ



I'm here thanks to many people who helped me in my informal education as a science communicator by teaching science and critical thinking through memes. Idealist, dreamer, neurodivergent, happy and trying to positively change the world a little.

A word with special meaning:
The Incas said "tupananchiskama" for "goodbye". It literally means "until life makes us meet again".

Contact:
Website: www.doctortronico.com

NAME	DEPARTURE
Alessandro Strobbe	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Munich	2025
NATIONALITY	
Peru	
BA	
Law and Science Communication	

USA AAR AMS EMJ



I am part of the 7% (Red Cross) of the world population that has the universal O-negative blood type. So my blood is liquid gold. I rather spend my time watching sports, documentaries, and exercising than doing class readings.

A word with special meaning:
Persevere - To continue making an effort to do or achieve something, even when this is difficult.

Contact:
X: @WTFAmerica_98

NAME	DEPARTURE
Anthony Plazola	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
United States	
BA	
Humanities and Communication	

KAZ AAR MUC EMJ



I am journalist passionate about interviews.

A word with special meaning:
Tocka is an untranslatable Russian cultural concept of longing and despair.

Contact:
LinkedIn: Alexandra Kossolapova

NAME	DEPARTURE
Alexandra Kossolapova	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Munich	2025
NATIONALITY	
Kazakhstan	
BA	
International Journalism	

IND AAR AMS EMJ



I love gadgets. At any given point, there are five gadgets around me. I'm also a big tennis fan and play a little. Fun fact: I got my tennis gear (racquet, clothes, shoes, accessories) to Aarhus, but didn't get a chance to play here: wet weather and outdoor courts don't gel.

A word with special meaning:
सफ़र (safar) - A journey. There's a song called "Safar ka hi tha main, safar ka raha..." I belong to the journey and I'll remain hers.

Contact:
Instagram: apekshabhateja

NAME	DEPARTURE
Apeksha Bhateja	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
India	
BA	
Journalism and Mass Communication	

PAK  AAR  AMS  EMJ



A 24 year old who talks like a 40 year old. From having a dream of becoming a professional footballer, ended up becoming a professional sports analyst. I love football, love to sing, write and talk about life. My favourite actor is Bradley Cooper.

A word with special meaning:
Ikhlaiyat - It means morality. For me, it's the most important thing for someone to have.

NAME	DEPARTURE
Asad Nawaz	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
Pakistan	
BA	
Defense and Strategic Studies	

USA  AAR  AMS  EMJ



I'm from New York, but I've always wanted to work in Europe! I'm interested in human rights and socio-political issues, working in foreign correspondence or conflict reporting, and later, I hope to own my own company.

A word with special meaning:
Sonder - "The realization that each random passerby is living a life as vivid and complex as your own"

Contact:
Email: carlyrb218@gmail.com
Linkedin: Carly Brister

NAME	DEPARTURE
Carly Ryan Brister	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
United States	
BA	
Political Science and Media Arts	

ITA  AAR  MUC  EMJ



A fervent believer in the transformative power of words. Journalism is my way to reveal truths, stand against injustices, and ignite change for a better world.

A word with special meaning:
Valori - The things you believe in, shaping your essence and entire existence.

Contact:
Linkedin: Aurora Alliegro

NAME	DEPARTURE
Aurora Alliegro	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Munich	2025
NATIONALITY	
Italy	
BA	
History	

ITA  AAR  AMS  EMJ



My main interests rely on migration and environmental issues. I love poetry, literature, photography and making people smile telling my funny stories. My biggest dream is to become a reporter in the field of political journalism.

A word with special meaning:
Girandola (Southern Italian dialect) - "A person that wanders around". People used to call me like this when I was little.

Contact:
Linkedin: Carmen Critelli

NAME	DEPARTURE
Carmen Critelli	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
Italy	
BA	
European Studies	

SVK  AAR  AMS  EMJ



I would love to do something great and noble in journalism but in case it will not work out for me, I say to myself that I can always open a bakery.

A word with special meaning:
Krupička - My brother's favourite dish, I always make it for him when I am home. Also brings childhood memories.

Contact:
Instagram: barboralabudova

NAME	DEPARTURE
Barbora Labudová	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
Slovakia	
BA	
Journalism	

DEU  AAR  AMS  EMJ



To me, all the different people out there are the most beautiful thing in the world. I never planned to be a journalist and somehow landed here through my curiosity and passion for documentary films. In life, I modestly only want happiness, peace, and sunshine (and bubbles for breakfast).

A word with special meaning:
Sehnsucht means longing and like many things in life, it contains both joy and sadness.

Contact:
Linkedin: Chiara Fürst
Instagram: chiara.fuerst

NAME	DEPARTURE
Chiara Fürst	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
Germany	
BA	
Communication Science and Economics	

THA  AAR  AMS  EMJ



I applied for EMJ as soon as I finished my bachelor's in International Relations. As a person with a strong wanderlust, the main reason I applied was to experience more of the world and its wonderful people. That is exactly what I receive from EMJ.

A word with special meaning:
สุข (sùuang) - A sense of relief, especially after completing a task, the best feeling in the world. (Northeastern/Isaan dialect of Thai)

Contact:
Instagram: bheemps

NAME	DEPARTURE
Bheemapos Seemawut	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
Thailand	
BA	
International Relations	

GBR  AAR  AMS  EMJ



I've been freelancing as a content writer and journalist, I eventually want to be a full-time freelancer, focusing more on sustainability and climate journalism. I am a yoga enthusiast and want to become a yoga teacher as well as enjoying traveling and trying local food.

A word with special meaning:
Duck, not to describe the bird but as an affectionate term used in the North of England. As in to say to someone "y'alright duck?".

Contact:
Website: <https://globeshuffler.wordpress.com/portfolio>

NAME	DEPARTURE
Chloe Lovatt	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
United Kingdom	
BA	
English Literature	

DEU  AAR  MUC



Reasons that brought me to Aarhus:
 1) My love for Scandinavia (Mundus might have been an excuse for me to live here). 2) My love for tall, blond men. 3) I suppose, the education - I want to work in cultural journalism. See you in Munich!

A word with special meaning:
 Ohrwurm refers to a song stuck in your head. For me: Anti-Hero, literally since September.

Contact:
 Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/claraleo>

NAME	DEPARTURE
Clara Meyer	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Munich	2025
NATIONALITY	
Germany	
BA	
Journalism and Strategic Communication	

RUS  AAR  MUC



When I want to impress, I often mention my five dogs – totally true, by the way! As for the essentials, I'm a Russian-born journalist, braving Moscow's cold, Aarhus' storms, and London's gloom, all to craft compelling narratives for a radiant future.

A word with special meaning:
 Почемучка (Pochemuchka) - A curious person who incessantly asks "why" questions, eager to learn and explore.

Contact:
 Instagram: [mikhailina_d](#)
 LinkedIn: [Daria Mikhailina](#)

NAME	DEPARTURE
Daria Mikhailina	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
London	2025
NATIONALITY	
Russia	
BA	
International Journalism	

USA  AAR  MUC



My journalism has concerned itself with the popular struggles and conflicts in Cuba, Chile, Chiapas, the United States, and now Denmark. I believe in unapologetic, independent and accessible journalism. Feel free to reach out to me by email.

A word with special meaning:
 Solidarity.

Contact:
 Email: monahancolin@gmail.com
 Instagram: [oofmyimage](#)

NAME	DEPARTURE
Colin Monahan	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Munich	2025
NATIONALITY	
United States	
BA	
Political Science and Latin American Studies	

ARG  AAR  LHR



I discovered my passion for journalism when I was 12 years-old, when I made a radio programme with my classmates from primary school. I have more than 10 years of experience, with a focus on political affairs. I believe that journalism is a continuous learning process.

A word with special meaning:
 Che - Typical Argentinian expression used to call another person affectionately.

Contact:
 Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/diegozequielsanchez>

NAME	DEPARTURE
Diego Sanchez	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
London	2025
NATIONALITY	
Argentina	
BA	
Social Communication	

MNE  AAR  LHR



From the University of Montenegro, through universities in Spain and Greece, I ended up in a joint degree programme run by Aarhus and City University. Rugby player for national team of Montenegro. Freelancer: creating content for several media outlets and blogs in Montenegrin and English.

A word with special meaning:
 Merak - Pleasure that comes from doing little things; soul bliss.

Contact:
 Email: damjannikcevic111@gmail.com
 LinkedIn: [Damjan Nikcevic](#)

NAME	DEPARTURE
Damjan Nikcevic	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
London	2025
NATIONALITY	
Montenegro	
BA	
Media Studies and Journalism	

HND  AAR  LHR



Still searching for a good analogy between stock markets and the ups and downs in life. Born and raised in Tegucigalpa, Honduras – but with a little piece of my heart in Madrid. Faithful listener of the Financial Times morning podcast.

A word with special meaning:
 Maje – You'll never catch me not using it with my friends. How we informally refer to each other.

Contact:
 X: [@dinazelayav](#)

NAME	DEPARTURE
Dina Zelaya	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
London	2025
NATIONALITY	
Hunduras	
BA	MA
Finance	Financial Markets and Wealth Management

GTM  AAR  LHR



I specialize in digital innovation and investigative methods for depth-reporting. I write about LGBTQ+ issues, human rights violations and culture change. My work as an investigative journalist has won several recognitions. Human Rights Fellow at Columbia University (2021) and "Journalist of the Year Award" (2022).

A word with special meaning:
 Ahorita ("now" in indefinite tense) - can be used as an evasion for something that will never happen.

Contact:
 LinkedIn: [Daniel Villatoro](#)

NAME	DEPARTURE
Daniel Villatoro	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
London	2025
NATIONALITY	
Guatemala	
BA	
Communication	

KOS  AAR  PRG



I've been playing hide-and-seek with the truth for nearly ten years through my work as a journalist, producer, and TV host. I was a fellow at Radio Free Europe in Prague. I also produced and hosted 33 episodes of a videocast/podcast for the Nationale in Kosovo.

A word with special meaning:
 Loçkë - It's not precisely heart or soul (we use different words for those) but it's a mix of both.

Contact:
 LinkedIn: [Donika Gashi](#)

NAME	DEPARTURE
Donika Gashi	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Prague	2025
NATIONALITY	
Kosovo	
BA	
Political Science	

RUS AAR LHR EMJ



Planning to become a businesswoman in London! I'm a marketing lead in a crypto startup, fond of data journalism, signing, hiking the mountains, and the guitar.

A word with special meaning:
Ryabina - A red berry that becomes eatable only when the first snow covers the ground in Siberia.

Contact:
Instagram: _kkhari

NAME	DEPARTURE
Ekaterina Kharitonova	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
London	2025
NATIONALITY	
Russia	
BA	
Journalism - Media, communications, and design	

BEL AAR LHR EMJ



A book lover who fell in love with London five years ago. I wish I could tell you I started studying journalism because of an inspiring award-winning journalist, but it truly was Andie Anderson and Rory Gilmore.

A word with special meaning:
Gezellig - The Dutch sidekick of hygge if you will.

Contact:
Instagram: evaeeckhout

NAME	DEPARTURE
Eva Sofia Eeckhout	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
London	2025
NATIONALITY	
Belgium	
BA	
Journalism	

ESP AAR MUC EMJ



Someday I'll be a journo with a podcast. Until then, I'll keep living as an emotional 22-year-old who loves to read, run, and meeting strangers. If you see me, say hi; if I don't answer, I'm either listening to a podcast or in a hurry.

A word with special meaning:
Merienda - Mid-afternoon snack between lunch and dinner. How does the rest of the world live without it?

Contact:
Instagram: elinverso

NAME	DEPARTURE
Elena Campo	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Munich	2025
NATIONALITY	
Spain	
BA	
International Relations	

GBR AAR MUC EMJ



A British-Belgian journalist with a background in climate journalism. Like many others, I discovered Erasmus Mundus during an exchange during my BA. Since then, I've wanted to see as much of the world as possible, observing and writing about it on the way.

A word with special meaning:
Illuminate - To shine light on or explain, and the beautiful drawings in medieval manuscripts.

Contact:
Linkedin: Flora Tucker

NAME	DEPARTURE
Flora Tucker	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Munich	2025
NATIONALITY	
United Kingdom	
BA	
English Literature	

RUS AAR LHR EMJ



Worked for some time at one of the top news agencies in Russia but now I want to actually make money. So I hope London is waiting for me. I also like learning languages and dancing.

A word with special meaning:
Мир (peace) - It's something that should be simple but it turns out so difficult to achieve.

Contact:
Instagram: so_ellina
Linkedin: Ellina Sorokovikova

NAME	DEPARTURE
Ellina Sorokovikova	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
London	2025
NATIONALITY	
Russia	
BA	
Journalism	

DEU AAR MUC EMJ



After my Bachelor's, I knew I enjoyed journalism, but now I'm clueless about which field I would like to end up in. However, during my Erasmus in Ljubljana and my internship in Rome, I learned that I wanted to gain a more international approach to journalism.

A word with special meaning:
Gluscht - Describes the feeling of craving a certain food without being particularly hungry in a Bavarian dialect.

Contact:
Instagram: franzi.gml
Linkedin: Franziska Gömmel

NAME	DEPARTURE
Franziska Gömmel	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Munich	2025
NATIONALITY	
Germany	
BA	
Journalism	

KOR AAR AMS EMJ



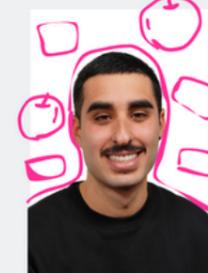
I've always dreamed of being a journalist, but here I realized I didn't even know the "J" in journalism. I still feel lost, but I'm trying to enjoy this learning path! This year's goals: restart studying French and stop killing my desk's plants...

A word with special meaning:
겨울 (winter) - It was the name of my deceased dog who is now in heaven.

Contact:
Email: ghddmstj1104@gmail.com

NAME	DEPARTURE
Eunseo Hong (Hayden)	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
South Korea	
BA	
Media and Communication & French Language and Literature	

BRA AAR PRG EMJ



So far, I've been spending time seeking discounts on groceries, but at least my friends here are insane. Someday, I hope to write long-form pieces about people worldwide and have holidays on the beaches of Cabo Frio with beers and meus amigos.

A word with special meaning:
Goiabada - An original, precious Brazilian sweet, although some clueless people say it's from Colombia.

Contact:
Instagram: moraisgabriel_
X: @moraisgabriel_

NAME	DEPARTURE
Gabriel Morais	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Prague	2025
NATIONALITY	
Brazil	
BA	
Journalism	

ITA  AAR  MUC EMJ



I'm an Italian activist, writer, and video maker who has produced independent documentaries collaborating with organisations across Europe and South East Asia. I'm passionate about video making and storytelling, focusing primarily on gender inequalities, migration, and social justice. I aim to inspire and help people tell their stories.

A word with special meaning:
Armonia - Combines happy and sad moments, high and low waves that make us who we are.

Contact:
Instagram: gaiulla
Linkedin: Gaia Guatri

NAME	DEPARTURE
Gaia Guatri	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Munich	2025
NATIONALITY	
Italy	
BA	
International Relations and Anthropology	

CAN  AAR  MUC EMJ



My journalistic work mostly focuses on human rights, international relations, and the global legacies of colonialism. In my free time, I really enjoy learning about new cultures. I particularly love discovering new music, film, and art from countries around the world!

A word with special meaning:
Not really a word, but 'bubba' because it's what my grandpa used to call me.

Contact:
Linkedin: Henry Stevens

NAME	DEPARTURE
Henry Stevens	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Munich	2025
NATIONALITY	
Canada	
BA	
History	

BRA  AAR  PRG EMJ



I'm a 23-year-old journalist fascinated by little things. As an observer of life, I believe that simplicity can guide us to the real essence of people and their stories. One of my greatest passions is to talk and listen about feelings, and explore their nuances through writing.

A word with special meaning:
Apaixonar-se - To fall in love

Contact:
Linkedin: Giuliana Mason Purchio

NAME	DEPARTURE
Giuliana Mason Purchio	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Prague	2025
NATIONALITY	
Brazil	
BA	
Journalism	

CHN  AAR  MUC EMJ



I come from a business family in a business city. Before coming to Aarhus, I did five years of in-depth China reporting as a journalist. Also, I would like to believe that I'm a good listener and an immersive traveler.

A word with special meaning:
老夫聊发少年狂 - Old man, young spirit.

Contact:
Email: titiantuc@gmail.com

NAME	DEPARTURE
Huihui Jiang	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Munich	2025
NATIONALITY	
China	
BA	
Journalism	

KRD  AAR  PRG EMJ



I'm a Kurdish documentary filmmaker and journalist. I have always had a passion for storytelling and have been working in media for more than a decade. While studying in this program, I also direct and produce documentary films, one of which I've just submitted to international festivals.

A word with special meaning:
Berxwedan Jiyan e! (Resistance is Life) - Important slogan for us Kurds fighting against oppression.

Contact:
Instagram: halimeaktrk

NAME	DEPARTURE
Halime Akturk	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Prague	2025
NATIONALITY	
Kurdistan/Canada	
BFA	
Image Arts: Film, Cinema and Video Studies	

IND  AAR  LHR EMJ



Straight out of grad school but not that straight anymore (lol)!

A word with special meaning:
Tehzeeb - It means specific "etiquette" that people from my hometown usually possess.

NAME	DEPARTURE
Iffat Fatima	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
London	2025
NATIONALITY	
India	
BA	
History and Spanish	

IND  AAR  PRG EMJ



I'm a multimedia journalist dedicated to bringing impactful stories to the forefront. Having delved into conflict, human rights, environment, art, and culture across India, I bring a multifaceted perspective. As an adventure enthusiast, I love traversing the mountainous terrains of India on my Royal Enfield motorcycle.

A word with special meaning:
Kashmir Zindabad (Long Live Kashmir)

Contact:
X: @toogo_haris

NAME	DEPARTURE
Haris Jeelani Toogo	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Prague	2025
NATIONALITY	
India	
BA	
Multimedia and Mass Communication	

CZE  AAR  AMS EMJ



If I'm sad, I bake. That's how much of a people pleaser I am. I'm trying to be better tho (I also spoke at the United Nations at a Global Goals Summit in New York, but the pies are the really important bit).

A word with special meaning:
Kolíčky/naběračka (pincloths/ladle) - I can never remember their translation. I taught my roommates the Czech words instead.

Contact:
Instagram: ilikumsova
X: @IliKumsov

NAME	DEPARTURE
Ilike Kumsová	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
Czechia	
BA	
Communication Studies	

NLD AAR PRG EMJ



Journalism is ever-more important in our polarized society. I want to get close to people and make sense of the different worlds we live in. But more importantly, that other people get closer to each other, so they can make sense of the worlds others live in.

A word with special meaning:
Lieveheersbeestje - It means "ladybug" but it literally translates to "dear lord's little animal"

Contact:
Instagram: indy_vdheijden
Linkedin: Indy van der Heijden

NAME	DEPARTURE
Indy van der Heijden	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Prague	2025
NATIONALITY	
The Netherlands	
BA	
International Studies	

IRL AAR AMS EMJ



I previously tried out dance teaching and legal careers, but decided on journalism because I want to know and share stories about how the world works. For me, writing provides the greatest space for experimentation and discovery. Some would say my cooking is pretty experimental too.

A word with special meaning:
Faigheann cos ar siúl rud nach bhfaigheann cos ina cónaí (as Gaeilge) - "A walking foot comes upon something that a resting foot wouldn't."

Contact:
Linkedin: Laoise Murray

NAME	DEPARTURE
Laoise Murray	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
Ireland	
BA	
Law	

LUX AAR AMS EMJ



I mainly write for magazines and newspapers about queer topics. Coming from a very small country, reporting about community matters has been a fulfilling and emotional task. Hereafter, I would love to dive into EU politics and connect local reporting to the broader picture of European politics.

A word with special meaning:
Bouneschlupp - A traditional Luxembourgish soup I mostly ate at my grandparents' (the literal translation is "sip/swallow of beans").

Contact:
Email: kapgenjang@gmail.com
Instagram: kapgenjang

NAME	DEPARTURE
Jang Kapgen	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
Luxembourg	
BA	
Media and Culture	

AZE AAR AMS EMJ



In the 8th grade, I started to work for a youth newspaper and met real journalists for the first time. They told me: "Remember, the main goal of a journalist is to make people's lives better." With this thought, I continue my journalistic path.

A word with special meaning:
Eşq - A feeling stronger than love: "If you love a rose, you will pluck it and want to own it, but if you treat it with "eşq", you will plant it in your garden, grow and multiply it."

Contact:
Facebook: Leyla Eminova

NAME	DEPARTURE
Leyla Eminova	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
Azerbaijan	
BA	
Journalism	

DEU AAR LHR EMJ



Pros and Cons about being 1.86 meters tall. Pro: I could play Gandalf in our school's theater play "The Hobbit" and the kids did actually look like dwarfs. Con: The weather up here is fineeee. And yes I do play Basketball.

A word with special meaning:
Schwarzwälderkschichtorte - A very delicious German cake and a long word that shows how weird and complicated German can be.

Contact:
Instagram: total_kathastrophe

NAME	DEPARTURE
Katharina Bews	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
London	2025
NATIONALITY	
Germany	
BA	
Physics	

KAZ AAR LHR EMJ



I'm a data journalist interested in politics and economics. I wrote a series of investigations, reports and analytical articles for the Kazakhstani media outlets HOLA News, Factcheck.kz, Ras Aitamyn, among others, and led the media management of Eurasian Fashion Week.

A word with special meaning:
Shukir - A Kazakh expression of gratitude/satisfaction even in the presence of difficulties.

Contact:
Instagram: madai5y

NAME	DEPARTURE
Madina Zhaxylykova	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
London	2025
NATIONALITY	
Kazakhstan	
BA	
Journalism and Reporting	

DEU AAR AMS EMJ



Three realizations: (1) I'm extraordinarily late for a German, but for some reason, manage to be on time here. (2) I used to hate cycling, but am kind of starting to like it again. (3) Describing myself in a few words is harder than expected.

A word with special meaning:
Marmeladenglasmoment - Collecting memories (in an 'imaginary' jar) that have a special place in your heart.

Contact:
Instagram: klblatt
Linkedin: Kay-Lee Blatt

NAME	DEPARTURE
Kay-Lee Blatt	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
Germany	
BA	
Journalism and Strategic Communication	

NLD AAR AMS EMJ



As long as I'm surrounded by nice people, some good food and nature I am a happy person. I love to discover the world and its plethora of cultures and countries. And as many of you have discovered: I LOVE to play football table. :)

A word with special meaning:
Gezellig - Almost the same meaning as the Danish 'hygge'. Without a direct translation in English.

Contact:
Instagram: magali_meijers

NAME	DEPARTURE
Magali Rosa Meijers	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
The Netherlands	
BA	
Communication and Media	

KAZ AAR AMS EMJ



I was born in Almaty, Kazakhstan, survived my bachelor's, being an exchange student during the pandemic, and a position of editor-in-chief at 21. Now I'm here.

A word with special meaning:
 Ғылым - A Kazakh word with Arab roots. It means "knowledge" or "science".

Contact:
 Instagram: mvl1kv

NAME	DEPARTURE
Malika Mukhanova	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
Kazakhstan	
BA	
Journalism	

PAK AAR AMS EMJ



I'm a freelance journalist, photographer and documentary filmmaker from Balochistan. I'm excited to develop my artistic practice in the Mundus programme and contribute more to Pakistan's documentary landscape. If there's one more thing you need to know about me, it's my chai (tea) making skills. Just ask the other Mundusians!

A word with special meaning:
 In Baluchi, we say Mennath-waar (meaning: thank you!)

Contact:
 Facebook: Mashal Baloch
 Instagram: mashalbaloch_
 LinkedIn: Mashal Baloch

NAME	DEPARTURE
Mashal Baloch	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Prague	2025
NATIONALITY	
Pakistan	
BA	
Media Sciences	

COL AAR AMS EMJ



The thing I've enjoyed the most of my professional career has been going to movie premieres for free (and writing about them, of course). I only ask for cookies, proper bike lanes and lovely people. So far, my time in Aarhus has been full of them.

A word with special meaning:
 Bocado - A typical beloved Colombian sweet. Brazilians say it's called "goiabada". They cannot be more wrong.

Contact:
 Instagram: manetesia

NAME	DEPARTURE
Manuel Restrepo	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
Colombia	
BA	
Linguistics & Social Communication and Journalism	

SWE AAR MUC EMJ



I've wanted to be a journalist since I was little. The reporter character Tintin was my big hero, I learned to read and write thanks to those magazines. It feels nice to stay true to a dream that has been nurtured for that many years.

A word with special meaning:
 Sommarstuga (summer cottage) - A holiday home you visit in summer. My family's sommarstuga in Sweden is my favourite place, my true home.

Contact:
 Instagram: mirja_k

NAME	DEPARTURE
Mirja Kvarnevik	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Munich	2025
NATIONALITY	
Sweden	
BA	
Political Science	

SLV AAR PRG EMJ



Investigative journalist & editor. I have a passion for compelling stories and Spanish grammar. A sucker for sunsets and life underwater.

A word with special meaning:
 Apapachar - Comes from náhuatl and it means to cuddle someone tight.

Contact:
 LinkedIn: María Luz Nochez

NAME	DEPARTURE
María Luz Nóchez	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Prague	2025
NATIONALITY	
El Salvador	
BA	
Communication Sciences	

PAK AAR PRG EMJ



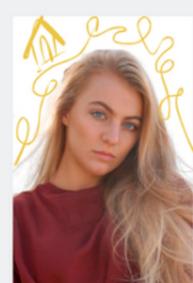
I live by Voltaire's principle: 'I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.' Sharing human impact stories in conflict and politics, I celebrate the beauty of diversity. A free thinker and staunch supporter of women's empowerment, I stand against oppression, support minorities, and strive to make a more tolerant and peaceful world.

A word with special meaning:
 Jwand (life) - Encapsulating the essence of vitality, energy, and the dynamic force inherent in existence.

Contact:
 X: @ibmhere

NAME	DEPARTURE
Muhammad Ibrahim	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Prague	2025
NATIONALITY	
Pakistan	
BA	
Journalism and Sociology	

DEU AAR AMS EMJ



Wanderer and ponderer. Seeking joy in the small, little, simple things in life - strolling the city, exploring new places, seeing the sun rise and set every day. Sometimes this happens even in Denmark.

A word with special meaning:
 Fernweh - Being homesick for a place you have never been.

Contact:
 Instagram: _mariekristin_

NAME	DEPARTURE
Marie-Kristin Schmid	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
Germany	
BA	
Communications	

PAK AAR MUC EMJ



I will always stan sweet & savoury. That's a yes to pineapples on pizza, donut burger, and fries with ice cream. Pilates is my first love. Writing is my passion. And my life needs a soundtrack to truly romanticize all moments because I'm Bollywood at heart.

A word with special meaning:
 Sukoon (state of absolute peace and serenity) - For me, it's the search for sukoon within.

NAME	DEPARTURE
Munnazzah Raza	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Munich	2025
NATIONALITY	
Pakistan	
BA	
Media Science	

PAK AAR LHR EMJ



I would travel, make art, pet cats, watch quality cinema, and laugh with friends 24/7 if I could. I was born & raised in the heart of Saudi Arabia, Riyadh, and pursued my Bachelor's in MN, USA. I aspire to work towards changing today's troubled world marred by genocides.

A word with special meaning:
يقين (Yakeen | Certainty) - Every dream that I've manifested is rooted in the certainty that I'll either make it or discover something better.

Contact:
Instagram: @nibras.art
Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/nibras5>

NAME	DEPARTURE
Nibras Ahmed	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
London	2025
NATIONALITY	
Pakistan	
BA	
Mass Communication-Advertising	

CHN AAR MUC EMJ



Journalist with experience in Macao news outlets, specializing in immigration and minority issues in China's Great Bay area. Aim to provide valuable investigative reports that promote understanding throughout Greater China.

A word with special meaning:
海納百川有容乃大 - Embrace diversity like a vast sea.

Contact:
Email: raetiachan@hotmail.com

NAME	DEPARTURE
Qiqi Chen	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Munich	2025
NATIONALITY	
China	
BA	
Journalism and Communication	

PAK AAR PRG EMJ



Multimedia journalist with hundreds of thousands of followers across all digital platforms.

A word with special meaning:
Aman Ghawaro - A lover of peace.

Contact:
Facebook: Nouman Khan

NAME	DEPARTURE
Nouman Khan	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Prague	2025
NATIONALITY	
Pakistan	
BA	
Media Science	

CAN AAR PRG EMJ



I'm a documentary filmmaker and photographer who is always trying to remain curious about the world. Storytelling is my life, though I also wish I was a better chef and guitarist.

A word with special meaning:
Witness - I'm inspired by the photographer Abbas who called himself a "historian of the present."

Contact:
Instagram: [rondavidbutler](https://www.instagram.com/rondavidbutler)
Website: www.rondavidbutler.com

NAME	DEPARTURE
Ron Butler	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Prague	2025
NATIONALITY	
Canada	
BA	
Film and English	

MEX AAR MUC EMJ



Journalist finding her way back to school. Sending memes and cooking are my love languages. Embroidery helps me keep my eyes away from doom-scrolling.

A word with special meaning:
Apapachar - With náhuatl origins, the "true" meaning differs but it's a very affectionate, warm way of showing love.

Contact:
Instagram: [priss_nu](https://www.instagram.com/priss_nu)
X: [@priss_nu](https://twitter.com/priss_nu)

NAME	DEPARTURE
Priscila Navarrete	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Munich	2025
NATIONALITY	
Mexico	
BA	
Communication Sciences and Journalism	

USA AAR PRG EMJ



A twenty-one-year-old small town girl who loves people, hates small talk, and wholeheartedly believes in the power of photojournalism to cultivate global connection and change. Most likely traveling to a new country or rewatching Gilmore Girls – no in between.

A word with special meaning:
Coddiwomple - To travel in a purposeful manner toward a vague destination.

Contact:
Instagram: [savs.w](https://www.instagram.com/savs.w)

NAME	DEPARTURE
Savannah Webb	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Prague	2025
NATIONALITY	
United States	
BA	
Multimedia Journalism	

KSM AAR PRG EMJ



My stories are about people, for people. I write on the intersections of human rights, politics, gender and technology. When I am not writing, I crave freedom. One day, I will write the most beautiful sentence and it will be about freedom.

A word with special meaning:
Wande czale, Sheen Gali Beyi Yi Bahaar (Winter will flee, snow will melt, again spring will arrive) - Kashmiris use this to express hope in despair.

Contact:
Website: <http://qadriinzamam.contently.com>

NAME	DEPARTURE
Qadri Inzamam	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Prague	2025
NATIONALITY	
Kashmir	
BA	
Journalism	

IRN AAR PRG EMJ



Having worked as a professional journalist in video and text for more than a decade I am here to expand the boundaries of my understanding by critically examining the interconnection among several aspects of world culture. Culture and art remain my passions as I seek to learn more about them through the lens of journalism.

A word with special meaning:
Mehr or (مهتر) - Meaning the sun and kindness at the same time!

Contact:
Email: sheranjbar@gmail.com

NAME	DEPARTURE
Shekufe Ranjbar	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Prague	2025
NATIONALITY	
Iran	
BA&MA	
English and Literature	

CHN AAR LHR EMJ



Heyy, I am Shuyi. Half-pisces and half-aquarius. :)

A word with special meaning:
自由, which means freedom.

NAME	DEPARTURE
Shuyi Zhao	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
London	2025
NATIONALITY	
China	
BA&MA	
Sports Journalism	

BGD AAR LHR EMJ



I became a journalist by chance and now am a journalist who sometimes hates writing. Born and raised in Bangladesh, trying to explore the world and create memories.

A word with special meaning:
আবার দেখা হবে কোনো এক শহরে, কোনো এক মোড়ে - Will meet again someday in some city, on some random roads.

Contact:
Email: itspurbahere@gmail.com

NAME	DEPARTURE
Syeda Mehbuba E Zannat	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
London	2025
NATIONALITY	
Bangladesh	
BA	
Journalism	

IND AAR MUC EMJ



I'm an occasional journalist and a perpetual work in progress! Started as a writer with leading Indian publications six years ago and felt like it was time for new challenges. I'm interested in re-learning/un-learning about the media landscape and journalism. I'm restructuring my career goals with EMJ and going with the flow.

A word with special meaning:
Jugaad - In Hindi means to find ingenious ways to do something. Helpful when you're living abroad!

Contact:
Instagram: Simran_76
Linkedin: Simran Ahuja
X: Simranahuja76

NAME	DEPARTURE
Simran Ahuja	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Munich	2025
NATIONALITY	
India	
BA	
Communication Studies	

BRA AAR LHR EMJ



Economics and data-journalist, but my career highlight was joking with Ryan Reynolds. I'm interested in social inequality and finance literacy stories. I hosted a related podcast in Brazil and was awarded for it. My deepest passions are old rom-coms, television and John Mayer.

A word with special meaning:
Xodó (something beloved) - It's unique from Brazil and in our best songs. It's funny to make gringos pronounce it!

Contact:
Linkedin: Thaís Matos Pinheiro

NAME	DEPARTURE
Thaís Matos	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
London	2025
NATIONALITY	
Brazil	
BA	
Social Communication - Journalism	

NGA AAR LHR EMJ



I was born and raised in Lagos, Nigeria. I am in Europe in search of new experiences. I consider myself an eclectic music freak! And as a former bard, I hope to one day rekindle my love for poetry (and maybe publish that dusty chapbook!).

A word with special meaning:
Iye - means "mother" among the Yoruba people in Nigeria. It's what I call my grandmother who raised me.

Contact:
Linkedin: Solomon Oladipupo

NAME	DEPARTURE
Solomon Oladipupo	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
London	2025
NATIONALITY	
Nigeria	
BA	
Mass Communication	

VNM AAR AMS EMJ



I have 3 years of experience investigating wildlife trafficking and reporting sociocultural issues on national television and NGOs in Vietnam. Recently, I won 2 awards in environmental journalism and got sponsorship from WWF and the US Embassy in Vietnam. I speak Vietnamese, English, Chinese, German and Spanish.

A word with special meaning:
"Trộm vía" (touch wood) - Vietnamese use it at the beginning of a compliment to avoid turning it into bad luck.

Contact:
Email: tranthikhanhlinh0511@gmail.com
Facebook: Linh Khánh
Linkedin: Linh Tran

NAME	DEPARTURE
Thi Khanh Linh Tran	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
Vietnam	
BA	
Broadcast Journalism	

CAN AAR AMS EMJ



Interested in a future of journalism that is curated, evocative, and collaborative so that sharing stories builds and maintains relationships of reciprocity that transcend borders, and digital tools are harnessed to amplify voices.

A word with special meaning:
Bisous (kisses in french) - Also a polite "hello" or "goodbye" - and it's fun to say xx.

NAME	DEPARTURE
Sophie Crawford	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
Canada	
BA	
Political Science and International Development Studies	

CHN AAR AMS EMJ



I love traveling and watching concerts. I had an internship as a marketer and public relations. But since my bachelor's is in journalism, I still want to dig into it.

A word with special meaning:
15 - My lucky number and also the nickname my father gave me, since my birthday is on 15th.

Contact:
Instagram: shirleyyy_ma

NAME	DEPARTURE
Tianxue Ma	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
China	
BA	
Journalism	

PAK  AAR  PRG  EMJ



Camera work satisfies my soul. Photojournalism and documentary filmmaking is what I am most interested in.

A word with special meaning:
Humrah (Hum - ra | companion) - Life is a journey accompanied by people, but the soul wants the special one (Humrah) to be with forever.

Contact:
Email: omernawaz212@gmail.com

NAME	DEPARTURE
Umer Nawaz	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Prague	2025
NATIONALITY	
Pakistan	
BA	
Media Studies - Film & TV	

BRA  AAR  MUC  EMJ



Carnival addict, wig lover. Can't choose between the beach and music. Interested in working on structural solutions to curb the spread of disinformation, particularly when fuelled by hate speech. Before moving to Denmark, was working at AFP's office in Rio de Janeiro.

A word with special meaning:
Marchinha - Traditional carnival music genre that can still be heard nowadays in Rio's street parades.

Contact:
Email: yael.bermans@gmail.com

NAME	DEPARTURE
Yael Berman	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Munich	2025
NATIONALITY	
Brazil	
BA	
Communication Studies and Journalism	

SYR  AAR  MUC  EMJ



Journalist & media student. My work focus and motivation is on migration and people on the move. Borders and the meaning of it are very interesting to me.

A word with special meaning:
حرية - It means freedom.

Contact:
Linktree: <https://linktr.ee/wqarssifi>

NAME	DEPARTURE
Wael Qarssifi	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Munich	2025
NATIONALITY	
Syria	
BA	
Communication and Journalism	

CHN  AAR  AMS  EMJ



I was a journalist for three months. I came to Europe 50% for love and 50% to pursue my dream. I am two-thirds hesitant and one-third persevering. In the future, I want to use my pen to help people.

A word with special meaning:
延 - This is my first name and in Chinese it means "extension".

Contact:
Email: 466300519@qq.com
Instagram: threewoodsgirl

NAME	DEPARTURE
Yan Zhang	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
China	
MA	
Regional Studies & American and British Culture	

CHN  AAR  AMS  EMJ



Being a curious coward, I am frighteningly excited about doing things that scare me. Being a shy extrovert, I need a lot of self-persuasion to drag myself into a party. Yet once I am there, I always enjoy it.

A word with special meaning:
My first name Xiao (潇), meaning "deep and clear water", tells what I want to be like.

Contact:
LinkedIn: Xiao Yang

NAME	DEPARTURE
Xiao Yang	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
China	
BA	
English Literature and Linguistics	

CHN  AAR  MUC  EMJ



A rebellious ENFP girl studying journalism.

A word with special meaning:
忍冬 (Lonicera japonica) - It's a symbol in Dunhuang murals that represents life's cycle, enduring the winter without dying.

NAME	DEPARTURE
Ziyi Wang	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Munich	2025
NATIONALITY	
China	
BA	
Journalism	

CHN  AAR  AMS  EMJ



"I'm your future boss, not your future wife."

A word with special meaning:
来日方长 - There are many days ahead for good things to come.

Contact:
LinkedIn: Xueshan Zhao

NAME	DEPARTURE
Xueshan Zhao	2023
SPECIALISATION	ARRIVAL
Amsterdam	2025
NATIONALITY	
China	
BA	
Communication	

The background of the image is a vibrant blue sky filled with soft, white, fluffy clouds. The clouds are scattered across the frame, with a large, prominent one in the lower right quadrant and several smaller ones in the upper left and lower left. The overall mood is bright and open.

mapping mundus
**EVERYONE
EVERYWHERE
ALL AT ONCE**