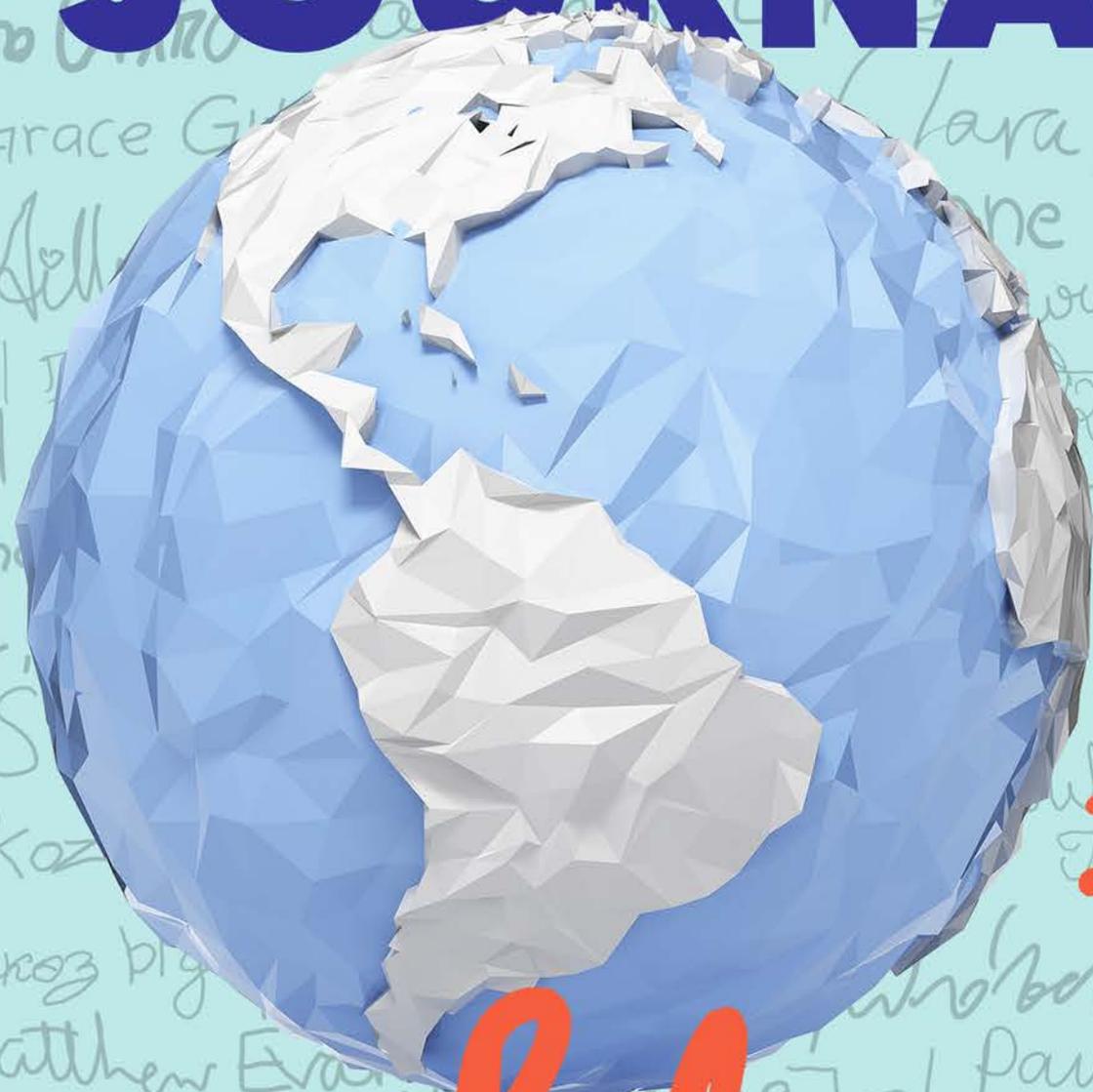


# ERASMUS MUNDUS JOURNALISM



2019-2021

Blue Book

# EDITOR'S NOTE



Hi there!  
Welcome to the Blue Book of Erasmus Mundus Journalism 19-21 cohort. 64 students from 32 different

countries... wow, that's a lot of cultural diversity and tons of different experiences, right? While you flip through the pages, you will meet all of us and get a taste of what being a Mundusian is like; so, if you ended up here because you are interested in applying to the programme, my advice will be to definitely go for it! And give us a shout if you need some help - tips on how to survive without drowning into readings are included, so no worries for that. We had lots of fun and some mental breakdowns in the making, so we hope y'all will appreciate the work!

- **Giorgia**

*Make sure to read the Blue Book while listening to the songs that our cohort associates with the past weeks of this life-changing experience!*



Scan me!

## THE BLUE BOOK TEAM

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Snigdha      Nabil

Ayee      Dasha

Giorgia      Asif

Christa      Clara

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Being a founding parent, Mundus Journalism is one of my loving babies who has now grown into the most lovely and handsome teenager. We try to put ourselves in the shoes of our newly arrived students from around the world to organize a program that is both stimulating, warm and welcoming while at the same time not too overwhelming. We try each year to make it even better based on the feedback from the previous students, and by integrating as many students and alumni in the program as possible.

## WEL- COME!

This year's cohort seems to be well-functioning and very dedicated. It is a pleasure and a privilege to be working closely with you. The truly special thing about the Mundus programmes in general is their international breadth. The alumni is amazing with about 1000 from 105 different countries. Apart from the fact that we offer the only mundus master in journalism, the truly special thing about Mundus Journalism is the opportunities it offers to our students.

- Bettina, Morten and Inger

(They're the best!)



*The Mundus Journalism Consortium, Prague 2019*

# OUR MUNDUS MAP



# THE CRAZY

# FIRST WEEKS

It was cold, confusing and foreign. Aarhus was so different than busy, bustling and unpredictable Mumbai. Everything was manicured and ordered - I

was not used to such an organized approach to life. My first few weeks were all about missing home and figuring out how to get around without having to jump in the dryer afterwards.

When I just started getting comfortable, lectures began. Coming

from a place where meal preparation is as important as punctuality to the Danes, fitting meals, lectures (9am sharp!), the not so occasional assignment and a generous number of readings into one day, was initially very unnerving. All when you are just figuring out how to maintain dry feet in a new land...

It took a while until I felt at home. But everything that had unsettled me about Aarhus in the begin-

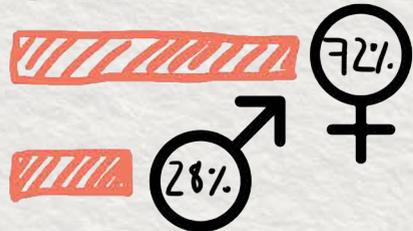
ning, slowly became an essential part of my daily routine. You will realise that too, especially once you admit your classmates can be your home away from home and "hygge" is what you make of it. While the rain doesn't, the initial jitters soon disappears. I am now something more than a tourist and less than an immigrant in this land, where the flag is printed everywhere - just because it means "happy"!

- Aarti



# ABOUT US...

## GENDER

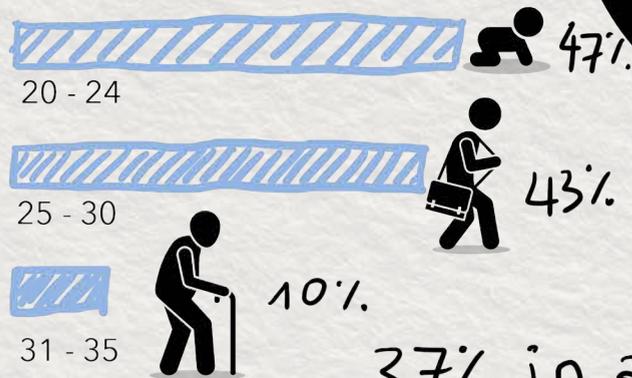


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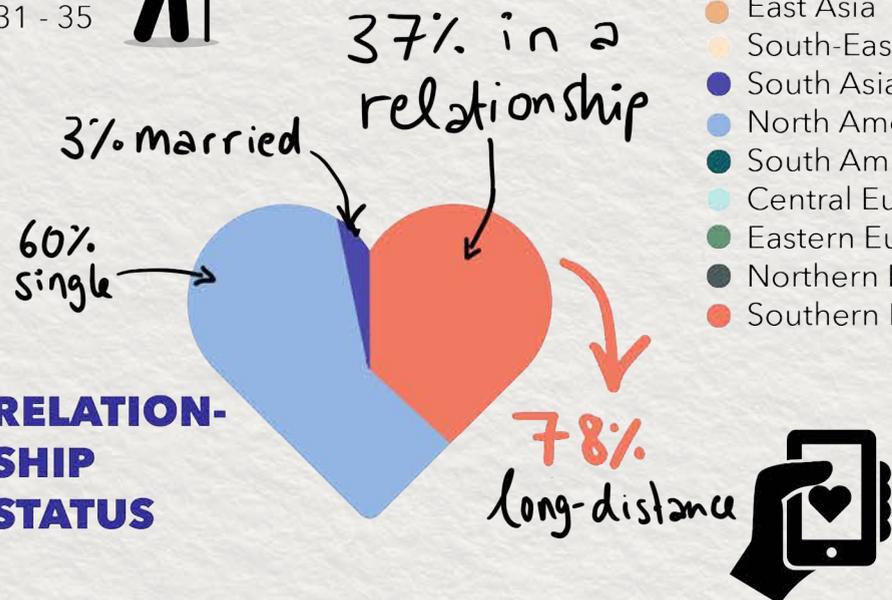


- Africa
- Central Asia
- East Asia
- South-East Asia
- South Asia
- North America
- South America
- Central Europe
- Eastern Europe
- Northern Europe
- Southern Europe

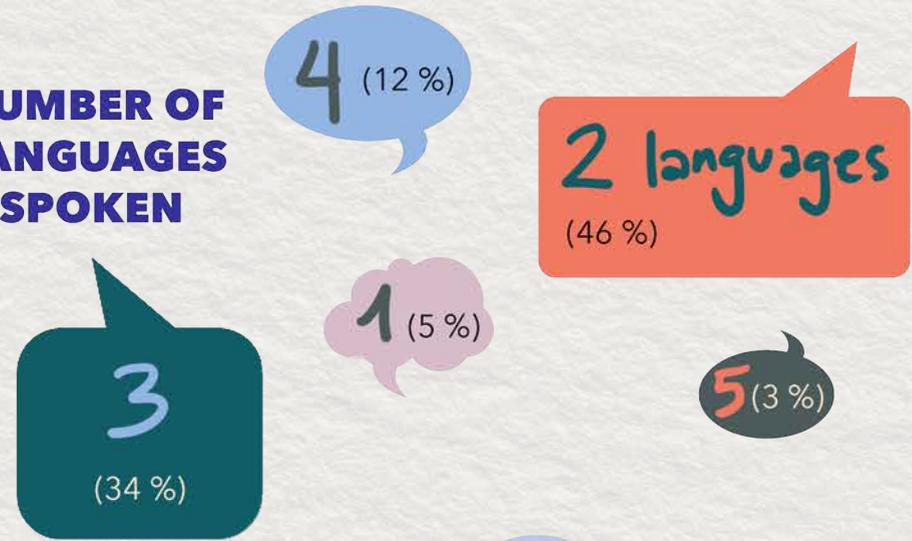
## AGE



## RELATIONSHIP STATUS



## NUMBER OF LANGUAGES SPOKEN



## ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

- Journalism
- Communications
- Int. Relations
- Media Studies
- Pol. Science
- Languages & Literature
- Business & Finance
- Other
- Social Sciences



11% already have a Masters degree!

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- > 10 years
- 5 - 10 years
- 2 - 5 years
- < 2 years



**Galia, Mexico**

***“Unique combination of IR, media studies, and political science”***



Since I found out about the Mundus program I knew I wanted to follow the Media and Politics specialization in

Amsterdam. One of the things I liked the most about the program is that it gives you the opportunity to live in two different cities (sometimes even 3), and its unique combination of international relations, media studies, and political science.

**Aarti, India**

***“ It was time to unlearn whatever I have learnt about journalism”***



I chose the programme because I felt it was time to unlearn whatever I have learnt about journalism: the fact that I get to do this in two different countries in Europe is also

an added bonus for a travel buff like me. I dislike politics, and in order to grow in life, you need to embrace

the things you hate the most. I'll be learning the nitty-gritty of Politics and Media, for my second semester in Amsterdam.

**Lisa, Germany**

***“Challenging and fascinating”***



Why did I choose Mundus? It looked like the most challenging programme out there. The amount of people from different nationalities is sheer fascinating and we

learn from each other.

**Ricardo, Spain**

***“Global perspective and open-mindedness”***

I chose Mundus because it is based on the adoption of a global perspective and open-mindedness: these are the ideas on which I would love to build up my professional career. This reason was more than enough reason to make this Spaniard leaving the bright and sunny Spain and coming to the dark and wet Denmark.



**Asif, Bangladesh**

***“A space where easy answers are challenged by other cultures”***



I strive to shift myself into a space where I can begin to function as a citizen of the world at large, where the relatively easy answers are challenged by other cultures, other society's easy answers. I believe Erasmus Mundus program would give me this opportunity.

**Morten, Denmark**

***“The specialisation I had always dreamt of”***



An internship as a journalist with the Defence Command Denmark, where I had the opportunity to report from conflict areas such as Kabul, Afghanistan assured me of my dream to work in this field. I applied for the programme because of the specialisation 'War and Conflict', that I had always dreamt of without knowing it existed.

**Ayee, Philippines**

***“An open door to more international and diplomatic reporting”***

I chose the Mundus programme because I am passionate about geopolitics, women's rights, and the role the media plays in democracies. The Media and Politics specialization will open me the door for more international political and diplomatic reporting.



# WHY

# MUNDUS?

**The Mundus Journalism programme attracts students from all around the world: here's why!**

आरती

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**Going to Amsterdam**

If you find me with a question mark on my face, which you will (most of the time), is because I'm probably wondering what to eat next. Being 4,035 miles away from home makes the choice even more difficult.

The idea to pursue a second masters struck when I found myself looking for the next adventure.

My job as a features writer/ editor was getting too monotonous and it was time to step out of my comfort zone.

You know you love your job when you choose to work on a meagre salary, for more than nine hours a day, six days a week. It was time to make a switch and unlearn everything I have learnt about journalism.



The fact that I get to do this in two different countries in Europe is a bonus for a travel buff like me. I'm a chronic overthinker and I plan to put that skill to use in Amsterdam next year.

Born in Barcelona, I was raised in the beautiful coastal Spanish city of Alicante. I also lived in other Spanish cities such as the beautiful Seville and Cuenca where I graduated as a journalist in July 2019. My interests lie in politics and I'll be going to Amsterdam. I want to work for an international outlet like Al-Jazeera or BBC. When I'm not defeating my opponents in the foosball, I'm also busy dreaming of working as a sports journalist - covering football or Formula 1. Sports has played an important role throughout my life as I have always loved playing football, tennis or basketball.

Apart from sports, I also enjoy watching TV series, playing video

games or drinking tasty beers and hot coffees.

Travelling, which in most cases means discovering new cultures and new people, is likewise another passion of mine. Probably my biggest one.

Adnan

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**Going to Amsterdam**



窦晓明

**Ailly Xiaoming Dou, 27**

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**Going to London**

After channelling my inner wanderlust for the past five years, and travelling over 70 countries I decided to quit my job with Emirates Airlines and get back to journalism.

My Bachelor's background is in broadcasting journalism and English studies. Back in school, I practised journalism in Xinhua News Agency, GDTV international news team as an intern. After graduation, I worked for HKSTV as a reporter for a year and did some freelance reporting post that. My goal after this program is to produce a travel-documentary focusing on globalisation. My dream would be combining travelling and journalism and show people how diverse the world is.



I love the dynamic vibe of London and will be pursuing my second year studying business and financial reporting. Perhaps if you want to spot me in a crowd, I'm the girl who is always looking for her lost phone!

Having completed an IB programme in Poland, I moved to the UK to study business. Back in 2015, I was not sure about my professional aspirations, but that changed two years later when I worked for the EPP Group in the European Parliament and POLITICO Europe. These experiences made me realise how passionate about politics I am and since then I cannot imagine doing anything unrelated to it.

Apart from politics, my Brussels stint was also largely about developing communication skills. In the EPP I have been drafting newsletters on developments in Poland, while POLITICO was a purely journalistic internship. I enjoyed both so much that it became extremely vital to me to find a Master's course that would

combine media with politics. The Amsterdam specialisation ticks the box!

My dream would involve EU politics and my homeland, Poland. I can see myself writing for an EU-centric media outlet, working in political communication or serving as a Brussels correspondent for Polish media.

Aleksandra

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**Going to Amsterdam**



# Amanda

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**Going to Hamburg**

It never occurred to me that I would end up as a journalist. I studied communication for my Bachelor's degree and continued with a Master's degree.

It was by pure chance I got accepted to work at one of Indonesia's biggest investigative journalism magazine in 2013. Since then I've worked as a journalist covering politics and human rights.

It wasn't easy for me to get back to studies and leave everything behind after a long gap. But I chose Mundus Journalism because I know this program will be able to give me a new perspective and network that will enable me to grow personally and professionally.



Which is why I chose Hamburg as a specialisation. I dream to work in a newsroom somewhere in the world, outside my comfort zone in Indonesia. Ultimately, I want to cover stories that matter.

This spring I wrote an in-depth article about women's chromosome deviations. I handed it in as my ending project for my Bachelor's degree in Journalism at the Danish School of Media and Globalisation.

After working for five weeks as a substitute reporter at the local newspaper, Bornholms Tidende, I started at the Mundus Master. My specialisation is War and Conflict at Swansea University. I don't have a lot of experience with reporting abroad. Other than a six weeks trip to Cuba where I interviewed regular people about their views on everyday life, which was later published on a student based website, I have mostly worked as a local journalist - but I am very interested in

how reporting can be a part of making the world a better place. The climate crisis, especially, has caught my focus, and I believe that it is very important to educate journalists who are equipped to report on these worldwide changes to see on-ground real changes.

# Anna

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**Going to Swansea**



# Anna

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**Going to Amsterdam**

I am Italian, and since I hate disappointing others I try to fit into most of the stereotypes: I am always late (Even in submitting this presentation of myself, sorry guys!), I love pizza, and I shake my arms like a tree when I speak. I'm also a feminist and a political activist, so when it comes to gender stereotypes, I really love screwing other's expectations. I have worked as a journalist in different ways for more than eight years now, but of course, the tricky part is to get paid to do so. Luckily, another thing about me is that I don't care for a well-paid job. I love to share my home with other people, I prefer cheap beers to fancy ones, and I don't mind staying home for dinner if it



is in good company. What I really care about is to be a good journalist and to be able to talk about what I want, how I want, and to make enough money to live off of it. To summarise, I would say that my dream is to be a journalist that lives in a house full of nice people and cheap beers. And, of course, to smash the patriarchy!

After my first day as an intern in a local newsroom, I did internet research on how to become a journalist and accidentally stumbled upon the Mundus Journalism programme. Eight years later, I applied. And here I am. People probably recognize me by my bright yellow raincoat - as a "Hamburger Deern" I know that it's better to come prepared to rainy cities like Aarhus. Once the ice is broken, I am a loyal friend with whom you can have a lot of fun. But you will rather find me in a cosy café, by the waterside or on my yoga mat than in a crowded nightclub. In my free time, I do hand lettering and bullet journaling. My friends appreciate that I am a good listener and observer. That has helped me in the

field of cultural sociology, where I come from academically, and will help me in my future job: my goal is to unpack the stories behind contemporary phenomena to make them approachable - may it be as a magazine editor, a developer of journalistic formats or as a social science researcher.



# Anna-Lena

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**Going to Hamburg**

# Anne

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**Going to Swansea**



When I first met journalism students from other universities in Germany at the time of my BA studies, it was fascinating and inspiring. They had other courses and read different literature. These differences became even more apparent when I first met journalism students from other European countries. I wanted to have more of these meetings, getting to know more perspectives. What should I say? Now I'm doing a Master's together with people not only from Germany or Europe but from 32 countries all across the world. The academic comparisons of media systems and press freedom somehow become vivid, when talking with people about

their personal journalistic experiences in their home countries. I hope that all these perspectives will help me to gain a broader picture of journalism, for the purpose of practical journalistic work as well as for academia.

I've always been a bookworm, but my interest in journalism was sparked while I was still in school. I loved reading the newspaper because it brought news from distant corners of the world, and made the whole world seem more accessible somehow. It was this interest that led me to get a Bachelor's degree in Mass Media with a specialization in journalism. After graduation, I worked as a copy editor with children's magazines first, and with a digital media firm later. My decision to join the Mundus program was guided by the feeling that I wasn't doing enough. With India going through a lot of social and political turmoil, I felt that getting a master's degree with a focus on media and poli-

tics could help me understand the system better and play a bigger role in bringing about a positive change. Ultimately, I'd like to work with governmental or non-governmental agencies at the national or international level to promote social change through political means.



# Apeksha

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**Going to Amsterdam**

Asif

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**Going to Swansea**



I am from Bangladesh, and like everyone, I live in a finite social space, limited to a large degree by the way I have been brought up, and the influences I have directly experienced.

However, I try not to see myself as an eternal prisoner of that small republic. Instead, I strive to shift myself into a space where I can begin to function as a citizen of the world at large, where the relatively easy answers are challenged by other cultures, other society's easy answers. I believe the Erasmus Mundus program would give me this opportunity. I like travelling, music and books and taking walks. I am both experienced and effective, partly by nature and partly through self-

development. One of the roles that have really extended me is working as a research fellow at Central Queensland University, Australia, since 2018. My work has also involved providing support to 'the Great Bholia Cyclone 1970' book project, an archival research.

I've done theatre, ballet and philosophy but journalism is my one big love. I'm a proud Filipina wearing and loving all things pink, but I see the world through a critical, not a rosy lens. Covering the crazy world of politics has brought me from the halls of my country's Senate to top Asian diplomatic summits to the UN General Assembly in New York.

I've been a journalist for 11 years - an incredibly stressful job, but I relish every minute of it. I thrive in the adrenalin of breaking news and get great satisfaction from explaining issues in-depth. I've recently worked with Agence France-Presse (AFP), and I hope to continue representing Asian female journalists in international

media. Yoga gives my life balance as well as learning French. I am a big fan of the performing arts and while I may seem shy and reluctant, I have on-camera and acting skills and experience, that become even better with a few glasses of red wine.



Ayee

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**Going to Amsterdam**

# Barbara

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**Going to Amsterdam**



When I was a child, I loved to create and tell fantasy stories. After studying diplomacy and international relations; however, I realized that there are more things in the real world than what a child's mind would contemplate, things that just need to be discovered and told.

My approach to journalism is a combination of storytelling and facts. With the first element, I want to narrate the challenges of today's society and politics, with the second I mean to give an amusing narration the foundation of a journalistic understanding of the world.

If we ever meet while I am biking, you would recognize me immediately: I love to sing when I am on my bike, especially when I am

going downhill. I also love to read when I am waiting in queues, even if I tend to lose my sense of time and space while doing so. After Mundus, I dream to work as a political or cultural journalist. I would love to become a foreign correspondent for an Italian journal, but I am also fascinated by the immaterial, though mighty, power of radio programs.

If you'd ask my friends from back home, they'd say I'm always away traveling. Getting to know new cultures and new food is what I do best. My other hobbies include dancing (sometimes Lindy Hop, sometimes in a bar), photography and going to museums. This spring, I finished my Bachelor's in Communication Science at the University of Amsterdam, even though technically I'd already been working the whole year. Starting out, I wrote for the human-interest department of a women's magazine, and soon after that, I spent my time writing and producing for the websites of three TV-shows. However, now it's back to school! I love being at university and the lifestyle that comes with it, but

more importantly this degree is exactly what I was looking for. When I "grow up", I want to be a foreign correspondent or do travel-related journalistic work - as I dream to visit every country in the world, of course.

# Christa

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**Going to Hamburg**



Clara

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**Going to Hamburg**

About two years ago I did an interview on conducting interviews with the editor-in-chief of a regional German newspaper, who only focuses on interviews. I was fascinated and definitely challenged but I knew I felt at home. I don't see myself in the daily news business, but rather interviewing interesting people on issues in a broader sense and providing context. I chose the Mundus program with the prospect of creating an extended and diverse network at an early stage in my career as well as focusing on global issues that are important to me, such as gender rights and environmental sustainability. After graduating in Comparative Literature and Commu-



nication Sciences, I have already worked in cultural surroundings as an online editor for the National Museums of Art in Berlin, at a local department of the Süddeutsche Zeitung and in producing literary radio broadcasts. I am also intensely into the outdoors, so you will most likely find me on a trail. If not, you can contact me via email.

My academic background is in communications and journalism and I studied at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM).

During my Bachelor's I had the opportunity to do a one-year internship at a national journal in Mexico. After that I worked a couple of years for the UN system in Mexico. The main topics I'm interested in are migration, asylum, and internally forced displacement.

I chose to study the Mundus Journalism programme, and particularly the media and politics specialization, because I think it provides the tools that will allow me to dive deep into these topics from a media perspective, and better understand the media

coverage on these areas. To share of my dreams, I think it's complicated and simple at the same time. It is about contributing from a computer keyboard whatever I can to make the world a better place.

Daniel

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**Going to Amsterdam**



Daria

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**Moldovan**

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**Going to Hamburg**

Hello, it's me! I was wondering if after the many presentations someone would like to read mine! I am obsessed with making lists, I love quotes and poetry, I hate saying goodbye and I overthink everything. Red color, Diogenes, and coffee with watermelon are things I like.

Hello, how are you? It's so typical of me to talk about myself! I have been hosting the daily morning program at the national radio station, however I feel that photography has always offered me the possibility to say more than I could ever put into words. I have co-founded an NGO where I am heading external relations. I truly believe that the non-profit sector is one of the most potential drivers for changes, and this is why I



set out for Journalism and Media across Cultures.

It's no secret that the both of us are running out of time, so, if you like good wines come to Moldova, we have the largest wine cellar in the world and if you like good music, the birthplace of the Kill Bill soundtrack might be a lovely discovery for you.

I am a study nerd who's desperately trying to act like a normal human being. Basically, the main reason why I'm here is because the programme inspired me in academic terms (especially because of the financial journalism specialization). However, from what I've seen so far, Mundus is so much more than just studying at university.

My professional career mostly consists of internships, though it helped me to gain experience in almost every area of the media industry and even do it in three different countries. Talking about "the real job", I spent the whole of 2015 working as a music journalist.

I'm a huge fan of music, so basically I can talk about, write about

and, obviously, listen to music almost all the time. Also, I'm a language enthusiast, cinema-goer and spontaneous traveller.

My biggest dream is to speak five foreign languages so fluently that I could cover financial agenda in all of them - it's ambitious but definitely worth trying!



Dasha

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**Going to London**

# ELISA

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**Going to Hamburg**



I grew up in Madrid, Spain, but I have travelled quite a lot and lived in different countries: England, Australia, the US and now in Denmark.

I love playing sports and have played field hockey since as long as I can remember. I also love music, going to the cinema and going out to pubs.

I always wanted to be a sports reporter. However, I have lived so many experiences and met so many people from different countries that it made me want to explore more about the different cultures around the world.

I do not have a dream job yet. However, I know that it's going to have something to do with communications, so maybe this program will help me find out!

I am a writer-photographer who balances between media and arts; an investigative artist and a performing journalist in the making.

A hopelessly curious geek, I edited my first Gravity and Planets themed "magazine" when I was six years old. Then at sixteen, I pitched some equally nerdy stories at a local newsroom and journalism officially became my walk of life.

Contributing to the cultural scene and helping the community in Lapland keeps me going. I also tend to say 'yes' to challenges. This has led me to politics, dreamy odd jobs and eventually, a true millennial burnout. In 2017 I found myself stuck with my BA studies and recovering from an epileptic seizure. Yet I still had the

old flame burning inside of me. I began to seek for a Master's that would simultaneously inspire me to slowly get better and provide me with some skills needed in the ever-changing world of the 21st century. So I applied and eventually joined this lovely circus called Mundus Journalism.



# Emma

**Emma Kähkönen, 26**

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**Going to Swansea**

فرید صابری

**Farid Ahmed Sabri, 25**

**Pakistani**

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**Going to Amsterdam**

I was born in a small-city, but grew up in the capital of Pakistan during the time news business was transforming from print to TV. Being on TV was an honour and pride then. Like many, I also dreamed of becoming a broadcast journalist. I got into writing since I was enrolled in media studies in my Bachelor's. I worked for news-wire, newspapers and TV in the past five years. I am not addicted to tea or coffee, and not even smoke and drink, which is the reason some people in Pakistan doubt my journalistic skills. Meeting new people and exploring the world is my hobby. Also, I am a ping-pong lover. I've been to China in a journalist exchange program which motivated me to pursue my Master's abroad.



I am a budding journalist with a clear vision to become a war correspondent; thus, going to Swansea for specialisation. It's risky! And that word motivates me. If I get the chance, I would like to report the actual happenings in the internationally recognised conflict zones like Kashmir and Jerusalem and even war-torn countries.

I am genuinely interested in art. I love photography and have a weakness for well-written poetry and short stories. I also like being outdoors and travelling a lot, exploring different cultures and places.

I have two Bachelor's degrees, one in German Literature and one in Communication Design with a focus on editorial design and photography. As a journalist, I am especially interested in investigating social issues (e.g. exploitation in the working environment, stigmatization of minorities, diversity in the working environment). Having worked mainly for local newspapers, I chose Mundus because I wanted to get a better understanding of the world, the relationships between the dif-

Franziska

**Franziska Martin, 27**

**German**

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**Going to Hamburg**

ferent countries and the effects on the population. I think it's really great to study with so many people from different countries and backgrounds. In the future, I would love to work as an investigative journalist for Spiegel or Sueddeutsche Zeitung (prominent German newspapers).



# Galia

**Galia Guajardo Gongora, 25**

**Mexican**

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**Going to Amsterdam**

Born and raised in Mexico City, I did my BA between Mexico City, Boston, and Chicago. Afterwards, I had the opportunity to move abroad to Quito to work for the UN. As a result, I've been fortunate to have friends all over the world and I've become a foodie. My ideal weekend plan involves eating out, from poke bowls to chicken tikka masala, ceviche, shawarma or ramen. My main interests are diplomacy, gender, and democracy; since I found out about the Mundus program, I knew I wanted to follow the Media and Politics specialization. My dream job is continuing my career working for an international organization and having my own ethical fashion brand. One



of the things I like the most about the program is that it gives you the opportunity to live in two different cities (eventually even three), and its unique combination of international relations, media studies, and political science.

P.S. In Aarhus, I recommend: Street Food, Mammis Gelato, and La Cabra Coffee.

I am an aspiring multimedia journalist and I am so hyped to be a part of the Mundus program. Being here is like a dream come true as I always wanted to study abroad! I grew up in Hyderabad, India, where I completed my Undergrad in Mass Communication. I later moved to New Delhi to do a PG diploma in Radio & TV Journalism and worked as a multimedia journalist.

When I am not working, I am either binge-watching, reading or inside my room turning scraps into DIY gifts for friends and family. I am not very athletic, but I love playing badminton. Also, I never miss a chance to dance, so if I am in a party, I am definite-

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**Indian**

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**Going to Hamburg**

ly the one dancing the hardest! Choosing this program was a no-brainer. It felt like a great opportunity to study in two European countries with a class full of international students. I do not have a solid goal but I want to return to India and continue working as a multimedia journalist, preferably in a leadership role.



# George

**George Sichinga, 31**

**Zambian**

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**Going to London**

Victoria Falls? No. It's the Mosi-Oa-Tunya. Honesty is my strength and my weakness, I speak when I should, I also speak when I shouldn't. It kind of helps when you have a duo personality. Hello, George. Those who've met the journalist say I am easy to talk to, an all-round good guy. Oh hey, Milan the poet, didn't see you there. Not the easiest of people to talk to but maybe the more creative of the two. I've watched the Godfather at least 16 times and Milan has read all of Stephen King's novels. I have not yet won the Commonwealth Writer's prize. Westworld is the only TV show that drills our mind, right Milan? The most traumatic event of our childhood was the 1998 world cup final, Brazil losing



3-0 to France. The documentary, Zeitgeist, is the reason I am single. Maxwell's Symptom Unknown will play at my wedding, and at my divorce trial. When not doing school you can find me trying to win back my beautiful ex-girlfriend. That's my life. Sorry, that's our life.

Signed, George and Milan

I'm a creative and enthusiastic little Italian with big glasses and an even bigger smile, always keen on meeting new people and exploring different cultures. With a background in foreign languages, marketing and communication, I was able to travel a lot and live and study in 3 different countries - well, they will be 5 counting Denmark and the Netherlands.

I chose Amsterdam's specialisation because I would like to become a journalist covering integration and immigration issues in Italy and across Europe, but we will see where life takes me. I also like the Hamburg specialisation... and here my indecisive soul comes into play.

I love cooking (and of course

eating), dancing, writing poems and traveling, but my biggest passion is music: everybody knows I'm the girl with the uku-lele. I also play the piano and write my own songs. I'm concentrating my energies in two big dreams, but I'm positive I will connect them in a very unique way!



# Giorgia

**Giorgia Macrelli, 23**

**Italian**

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**Going to Amsterdam**

# Giovana

**Giovana Fleck, 22**  
**Brazilian, Italian**  
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**Going to Amsterdam**

I graduated with a degree in Journalism from PUCRS in Brazil in 2018. Part of my degree was placed at the University of Uppsala in Sweden, where I attended courses focused on human development. I worked as a reporter for an independent medium called Sul21 and, prior to that, I was a video and audio editor. I also did a specialization in Data Journalism at Columbia University (Lede Program). My work has a focus on multimedia, trying to integrate different platforms as much as possible to better tell a story. I don't believe in a framed journalism - when you report an issue from only one area or perspective.



I come from a place where regionality matters and where the North and South have different things to say about the same affair; my ultimate goal is to connect those narratives, that's why I chose to be a part of Erasmus Mundus Journalism.

My name is a mouthful, but you can just call me Mafor. It means Queen Mother where I come from and sometimes, with the right people, I feel like one! I have lived in 8 out of 10 regions in my country, which also reads "I love travel!" It's one of the 5 loves of my life besides music, Jesus, food and spoken word poetry. My life spins around word and sound; hence my love for media / communication. After my Bachelor's in Mass Communication, I produced and anchored some radio programs back home while working in corporate communication for a couple of local and international NGOs. My dream career path is in International / Intercultural Communication... UN, maybe?

# Glory

**Glory Mafor Aza Mboh, 22**  
**Cameroonian**  
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**Going to Hamburg**

I am that quiet girl who enters a café, orders a steamy cup of hot chocolate - not coffee - and sits down to her favorite novel. When I am not being nerdy, I travel around performing poetry (Kenya), leading worship (Nigeria), editing books or preaching creativity (anywhere).



# Grace

**Grace Gitau, 25**

**Kenyan**

**grmumbi@gmail.com**

**Going to London**



Growing up, I earned the title “the ever-smiling girl”. That aspect has not changed much, only that it has been spiced up with the go-getter spirit and now I describe myself as a girl boss building an empire.

Before I joined the Mundus family, I was a writer at the Nation Media Group, a leading media house in East Africa. Crunching numbers was my favourite thing to do in the newsroom, and with that came my passion for data journalism which explains why I will specialize in Business and Financial Journalism at City, University of London.

Over the years, I’ve learnt the importance of being resilient and strong willed in pursuing one’s

dreams and ambitions. Joining this programme is a dream come true. It has come with its own set of challenges, but am confident that I will rise above them and that come May 2021, I will graduate and become a business reporter. I enjoy having my own space, sleeping and taking walks.

Having a political science background, I’m truly excited about this completely new page of my life.

I consider myself a cosmopolitan. I grew between Indian and Kazakh cultures, lived in France and the Czech Republic, speak 4 languages. Like a real nomad, I like travelling, and dream of having a world trip with my twin sister.

Throughout my life I have been RJ at the radio, interviewer, logistics manager, actress in theatre and films, artist, singer, poet, film and theatre director, script-writer, designer, managaka, political delegate and social entrepreneur... This is how I synthesized journalism!

I love music (especially experimental and indie genres) and art-house cinema.

My ideal job would be contributing to the media freedom and global justice as a journalist or a politician at NGO. I’m somewhat idealistic in this sense but dreaming big is certainly an asset.



# Gulden

**Gulden Timur, 22**

**Kazakh**

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**Going to Amsterdam**



黃慧瑜

**Huiyu Huang, 28**

**Taiwanese**

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**Going to Amsterdam**

I studied linguistics for my undergraduate, and worked three years for an English media outlet in Taiwan, covering art and lifestyle stories on a daily basis. After staying in the same position for years, I found myself wanting to engage in journalism with a more analytical and international approach. I started looking for jobs overseas and journalism programs, and soon came across a journalism opportunity in Cambodia; after a few months in the kingdom of wonders, I received the admission letter from Mundus Journalism, everything went smoothly and now here I am in Aarhus. Thanks to my previous job, I've grown to become a movie nerd, and spent most of free time in



theatres. What I would really like to do in the future is to write movie critics, feature stories, and cover news stories that I am interested in, basically what I used to do, but at a more professional and skillful level.

After school I ended up working for Disney World in Orlando for one year (not as a princess). When I came back I studied Literature, Communication and Philosophy. During my Bachelor's I worked for a local newspaper and radio in Germany and when I finished my degree, I interned for six months doing digital journalism. The last place I worked for was BurdaNews in Hamburg. The places I lived in: Hawaii, Lisbon, Mexico. On top of my list for future travels: South America and Africa. I chose this program because of its internationality and the combination of Journalism and Politics. The first time I read about the Mundus Master I thought: "I'm never gonna get in." Here I am, 2 years later.

Johanna

**Johanna Rumphorst, 23**

**German**

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**Going to Amsterdam**

After the program, I want to travel and make new experiences in journalism; I would also love to write a book at some point. At the end, I don't want my future job to limit me too much and stop living life. My dream is to make a difference and if it's just for one person - it's still gonna be worth it.



Jose

**José Roberto Castro e Silva,  
31**

**Brazilian**

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**Going to London**

sé Roberto, Zé, Castro. I've had different names since I left my parent's house. In my small hometown, I was only Beto; life was good and comfortable. But I needed something else: new people, new places, knowledge. Since I arrived in Aarhus, I have been José - to make it easier for people from more than 30 countries. What a completely new, different and exciting moment. I finished my BA in Journalism in 2011. Since then, I've worked in newsrooms, reporting on political and economic issues, trying to explain what was going on in my country. My country has changed dramatically, the world too. Mundus is a chance to pause, to ponder about the transformations I've witnessed.



My professional attention is on politics and economy (and the vast field of study between). The programme is also an opportunity to explore personal interests, Europe and its history, food, wine, music and football; to explore cultures. For the future, the aim is to bring journalism to more people, covering complex issues in a more understandable way.

My parents knew I was going to be a journalist since I was 8. During a football match, I stayed near the goalkeeper reporting the game instead of running behind the ball as the rest. I probably should have known it back then, too. Anyways, I did my Bachelor's in Social Communication and immediately after pursued a Master's in International Studies. Now, studying media and politics with people from all over the world in a foreign country... How could I not be in this program? I'm a huge political nerd; I love to analyze the government's communications. I told you I am a NERD and proud of it. I've worked since high school (first in my hometown's and later in the National Chamber of Deputies) in

this area, and I love it. My dream right now is to work for the UN trying to make every day the world a better place for everyone. If I have slightly improved the day of someone by the time I go to bed, I consider the day a success.

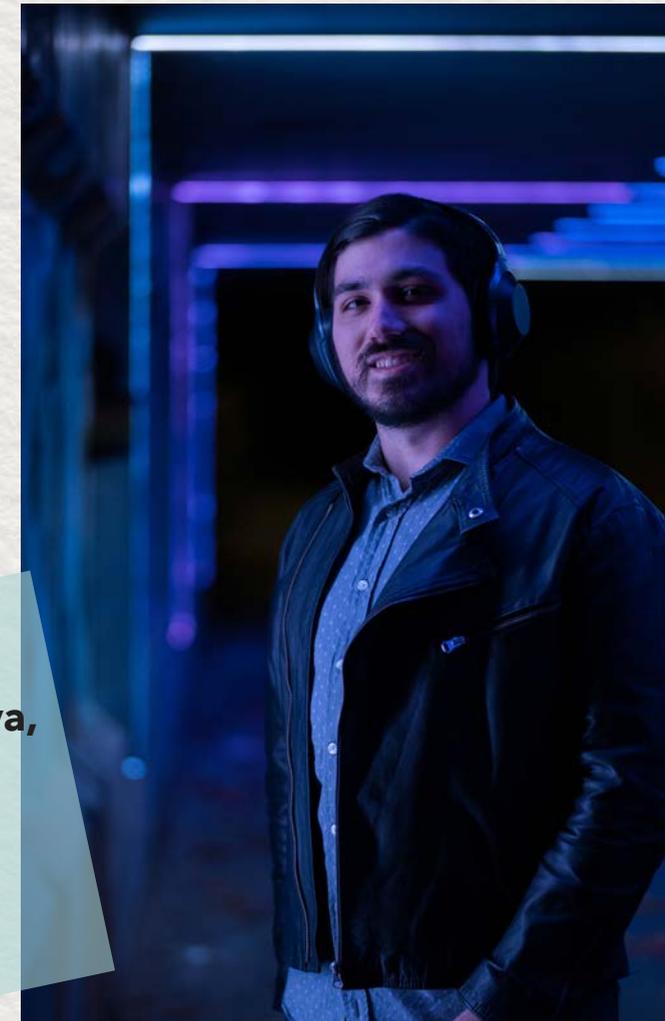
Nalé

**Juan Nalé Barbieri Pederiva,  
25**

**Argentinian, Italian**

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**Going to Amsterdam**



*Karakoz*

**Karakoz Ydryrys, 22**

**Kazakh**

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**Going to London**

Two years ago, I had never imagined coming back to Aarhus to study. At that time, I was 21 years old “quite lost” Bachelor’s-in-finance student, who arrived at Aarhus University as an exchange.

I knew a few things about myself: I loved writing, wanted to have Masters & soon will get a Bachelor’s degree in Finance. I had no clear answer to other big questions in my life: who am I going to become, which program am I going to choose, and where. I hadn’t found the answers to my questions even after graduation. Rejected all the financial job offers, as I’ve never planned to become a financial expert, I sent my CV to news agencies and took some additional courses in jour-



nalism. After a while, I became the economic correspondent at Interfax-Kazakhstan and now I’m here. “Journalism said yes to me”, - I thought.

A program in Aarhus (the place where I always wanted to return), with the financial focus in the second year, seemed like one of the weighing answers in my life journey.

I had it all figured out. To complete a Master’s programme two to three years into my career. To go to North America – no compromises there. The Erasmus Mundus programme just came up during a get together with friends who encouraged me to apply. I turned a deaf ear. Soon enough, another friend sent me the link of the programme, urging that I apply. I applied but my plans for North America were set in stone. But being accepted into the Mundus Journalism programme was a game-changer. Now, here I am. I LOVE Aarhus. So very vibrant. Back at home, I worked for three leading news outlets. I’ve worked on the news desk and also reported vastly for feature pieces on human rights,

gender issues and politics. I was almost going to Amsterdam for my specialism but eventually picked Hamburg as its focus is broader. The multi-faceted programme prepares me for reportage on global issues along and adds to my potential as a researcher and PhD candidate.

*Kaukab*

**Kaukab Shairani, 25**

**Pakistani**

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**Going to Hamburg**



**КСЕНИЯ**

**Ksenia Badamyants, 21**

**Russian**

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**Going to Amsterdam**

I'm an adventurer from Moscow, Russia. Joining the Mundus programme is an adventure for me as well - my academic and working background is for sure different from the majority of the students, but it makes the whole thing even more exciting. Why have I decided to join this programme? Well, I have my reasons... first of all, I believe that this unique international experience will help me to look at global processes from a completely new perspective. Currently I'm mostly passionate about investigative journalism, which requires cold analytical thinking apart from idealism and active citizenship, so I really hope that studies here will help me



to structure my knowledge and, most importantly, approach to regular work. Though I've been here only for two and a half weeks I already feel that, despite all the challenges and insecurities, in two years we'll all be grateful for choosing to take this path!

This is not the first time I packed my bags to move from sunny and hot Brazil, but coming to lovely Århus, where sunshine is a rather rare and valuable asset, was for sure the most radical (and distant) move. I've been lucky to live in the US and Canada before (and for a short while in Chi-Chi-Chile). When I'm not doing / thinking / breathing journalism, I'm traveling - it being a weekend at the beach near São Paulo or a bigger trip to a new country - reading (books, not news!), playing sports and enjoying time with family and friends. Writing is also a big passion of mine, it's where I feel most comfortable. After working for the last few years for Reuters in Brazil, I would say that my biggest dream today is being

a correspondent, reporting for my country from abroad. In general, the areas that interest me the most are politics and social issues - education, women's rights, human rights - but I'm always up for telling any good story!

**Lais**

**Lais Ferreira Martins, 23**

**Brazilian**

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**Going to Amsterdam**



Lisa

**Lisa Ossenbrink, 25**

**German, British**

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**Going to Amsterdam**



Originally from a small town in rural Germany, I've travelled around quite a bit because I had an obsession with seeing as much as possible of the world a couple of years back. Obviously, I didn't manage to see everything - yet.

I moved to Australia at 19, France at 22 and Namibia when I was 24. Now Denmark. Before coming here, I did my Bachelor's in Philosophy and Media across Cultures in Cologne and Paris. Then I went off to Namibia to volunteer for Deutsche Welle Akademie and never looked back. Mundus Journalism looked like the most challenging programme out there. I didn't actually want to spend another two years

in Europe, but the amount of people from different nationalities is fascinating and we learn a lot from each other.

I have a clear vision of being a Foreign Correspondent. If that doesn't work out, maybe working as a project manager for something regarding media freedom.

I'm a 30-years-old Cuban journalist who worked as a correspondent for six years before entering this programme. However, I feel that right now my motivation has nothing to do with journalism; yet, it defines the way I am. Four years ago, after an accident, a doctor told me that I would never walk normally again. As a lover of hiking, cycling, birds, flowers, forests... this meant almost the end of the world. Thus, I decided to overcome it with hard work. And I did: I celebrated my accident's 3rd anniversary running a half marathon! Of course, I want to do my best in this programme, but my dream is simpler: to run a marathon for the 5th anniversary! Helping people also makes me happy.

Tony

**Luis Antonio Gómez Pérez, 30**

**Cuban**

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**Going to Amsterdam**

Advice? Be aware that not everything is rosy in this journey. Being away from home is just the tip of the iceberg. Do whatever makes you feel comfortable (e.g. I packed my walking cane, an angry teddy bear, a stuffed guinea pig, my luck-charms and lucky underwear), and go for it!



*Marcelo*

**Marcelo Elizardo da Silva, 27**

**Brazilian, Portuguese**

**marcelo.elizardo@  
gmail.com**

**Going to Amsterdam**

Carioca. That's the word to define a person who is born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, a city known for having whole year summer. But what leads a Carioca to leave his sunny and warm home town to live in a rainy, windy and freezing place? Amazing experiences. I worked as a reporter for six years in Rio de Janeiro, but I felt that I needed more.

Erasmus Journalism offered a 2-year specialization in completely new cities, with completely new lifestyles to a Carioca. It was the perfect opportunity to develop my knowledge and expand my world vision!

In the first days, you'll struggle with the weather, uphill bike rides, you'll feel cold on your hands, heat on your body and you will become wet and sweaty



at the same time... but trust me: you're about to live a unique experience. Aarhus is a beautiful city with a young atmosphere. Even though I got attached to the city, I'll never forget Brazil, the place I came from. After this experience, I hope to continue seeking great stories in Europe and reporting them to Brazilian citizens!

Here's a little bit about me: I'm proudly Mexican! I grew up in a city called Monterrey, but my journalistic career developed in Mexico City where I worked in a magazine for over a year. I have also lived in Canada and I participated in a program for correspondents in Finland in 2018. One word to describe me is curious. For this, I like to write stories about varied topics (that go from lifestyle to corruption). But my main passion is gender: Latin American movements like #NiUnaMenos or #AbortoLegal have really shaped my career. I chose Mundus Journalism for two reasons: 1) to expand my perspectives, because sharing class with colleagues from all around the world opens you up

*Mariana*

**Mariana Limón Rugerio, 25**

**Mexican**

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**Going to Hamburg**

to new ideas and points of views, and 2) to learn, because education is crucial in a world full of misinformation. My dream after the program is to keep telling stories that - hopefully - are relevant, inspiring and helpful to society. Traveling is also on my bucket list!



# Marie

**Marie Schønning Jensen, 25**

**Danish**

**mariesj@live.dk**

**Going to Amsterdam**

I'm pretty much a typical Dane: tall, blond-ish, and I rarely say no to a beer or coffee (besides being one of the happiest countries, Denmark also has a high rank when it comes to coffee consumption). I've always had an urge to travel as far and wide as possible and to live in several different countries, but in recent years I've also come to see the beauty of stability. Before the beginning of the Mundus adventure, I lived in Copenhagen where I did my BA in Journalism and International Studies. I don't have just one specific dream for my professional career. I would like to try many different things and hopefully be able to follow my personal interests



along the way. But one thing I do hope is to participate in creating something new: let it be a podcast, a brand-new medium or something entirely different. Whatever it might be, I hope my inner entrepreneur will come into play.

If anyone is reading this and wondering about applying to this awesome Mundus Journalism programme ... My advice? Just go for it!

Good manners first though - My name is Marta Silvia Viganò, Marta for friends. I'm 23, made in Italy and (currently) based in Aarhus. I did my BA in Political Science, International Relations and Human Rights at the University of Padua, Italy.

Right before graduating I realised that my own way of combining human rights advocacy and my long love for writing was journalism. So that brought me here and I'll be going to Swansea for my second year of specialisation. Journalistic experience-wise, I did a few internships and ended up writing and editing for an in-

dependent webzine called The Bottom Up, which I can't express how much I believe in. In my free time I travel, do cultural stuff, read and sip my coffee.

My dream? To be on the ground, meeting people, experiencing otherness, creating togetherness. Long story short - to make a difference.



# Marta

**Marta Silvia Viganò, 23**

**Italian**

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**Going to Swansea**

Matthew

**Matthew Evans, 24**

**British**

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**Going to Amsterdam**

I'm Matthew, but just call me Matt. I grew up in the small city of Lincoln in the UK but have lived in Denmark for most of this year, so I would like to think that I already know a fair bit about the Danes! My academic background is in history and politics. Otherwise, I am a huge football fan and general sports lover. I would also consider myself a bit of a film buff too.

I'm drawn to the course because it is so interdisciplinary and international in its outlook.

What are my dreams? I see myself living in Denmark in the long-term, so I would love to return after the specialisation year. I would love to work in communications, preferably for



an NGO or an organisation that works with clean energy. Other than that, I have always dreamt about writing a book, although I must confess that I wouldn't even know at this point if it would be fiction or nonfiction!

While doing a Bachelor's degree in journalism from the Danish School of Media and Journalism, I did an 18-month internship as a journalist at the public communication section at Defence Command Denmark. I had the opportunity to report from conflict areas such as Kabul. This experience, coupled with studying in Beirut, Lebanon for six months, assured me of my dream to work in this field.

I applied for the Mundus Journalism programme for several reasons - first, it had the specialization 'War and Conflict', that I had always dreamt about without knowing it existed. This was also an opportune moment to supplement my very practical-oriented first degree in journalism with a very academic one. And last but

not the least, it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to study in a diverse environment with people from various nations, academic backgrounds, having different dreams for the future.

My ultimate dream would be to work either as a reporter for a media or with an NGO working in a conflict area.

Morten

**Morten Just Brandstrup, 27**

**Danish**

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**Going to Swansea**



# নাবিল

**Nabil Muhammad Zahir  
Hassan, 31**

**Bangladeshi**

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**Going to Hamburg**

The bike lanes of Aarhus seemed like runways for me to take off as my bicycle and I were among the lone soldiers swaying between unruly rickshaws and vehicles on hectic Dhaka streets.

A newsman from the global South, I am keen on sensible reporting on research findings to drive positive impacts. I studied communication, journalism and photography in Dhaka, and media and cultural studies in London. My adventures include editing for a news photo agency, covering contemporary affairs for an English daily, working for a think tank tackling policy dialogue and economic research before embarking on science journalism for a health research institute, being a nerdy academic



journal intern and exploring new cultures through exchange visits. I aspire for a career in communicating research, and journalism with interests in cultural history and migration.

As for secrets, I suffer from sub-zero calmness, an enlarged sarcasm gland and incurable chronic wanderlust. Help me by telling where to travel!

My mum is Kenyan, my dad is German, and I am both... or neither, depending on who you ask. But luckily I have so much more to identify with than my nationality: I am a painter, a feminist, a hard worker, a creative mind, a bike-fanatic in the making, a language enthusiast, a Beyoncé-fan and always the one with the loudest laugh.

I was born in Stuttgart, moved to Nairobi as a child and returned to Germany (Kiel) for my Bachelor's in Multimedia Production. The course ignited my passion for cross-media and interactive storytelling as well as for journalism studies. After my Bachelor's I interned as a reporter with the Kenyan broadcaster Citizen TV. Growing up, I was notorious for my boundless accounts of my

# Natalie

**Natalie Shiro Beck, 23**

**German, Kenyan**

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**Going to Hamburg**

experiences and imaginations. So initially, it was my passion for storytelling that led me to journalism, but it was recognising my multicultural background as a virtue, that kept me at it. My dream is to work as a video journalist focusing on features and documentaries on social and political issues.



# Niall

**Niall Moore, 28**

**British**

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**Going to Amsterdam**



I took a meandering path to Aarhus. After university I spent a year working as a journalist in London, where I helped launch an app that aimed to get young people more engaged in the news. It did well for a while but ultimately ran out of steam, as start-ups tend to. After that I went into advertising as a comms strategist, which allowed me to satisfy my interest in people and society for as long as I could bear the guilt. Not that long, it turns out.

Eventually, I got up the courage to drop my career and get back to what I knew I loved - journalism. That brought me to Aarhus, because where better to learn about the recording of human life

than a city where life for humans is so good? My dream is to get working again on bringing more people into the news, so they are informed and ready for the big challenges that democracies (and indeed Democracy) will face in the coming decades. What form this will take I'm really not sure, but if you've got ideas I'd love to hear them.

Sometimes it's easy to stay where you're comfortable, but for me, it was the right decision to try something new. I was born and raised in the Netherlands, completed the bachelor International Studies at Leiden University and afterwards did several internships: at the local broadcaster of Amsterdam, at a radio show about current affairs, and at NOS Jeugdjournaal, a news program for children around the age of 12. After the internship, I was offered a job, so I spent two years working in Hillywood (the Dutch Hollywood, so to say). Although I enjoyed the working life (I've never been on so many trips before as working = salary = travelling), I missed studying. I was ready to learn something new and meet inspiring people

from all over the world. I'd love to become a travelling journalist, to live and work in a country only for a certain time, reporting about ongoing issues. These can be pressing issues but also "forgotten" problems, regions or people. Whether it will be audiovisual or written, I don't know yet. Let's see what the future brings.



# Pauline

**Pauline Bakker, 25**

**Dutch**

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**Going to Amsterdam**

# Ricardo

**Ricardo Acuña Martín, 23**

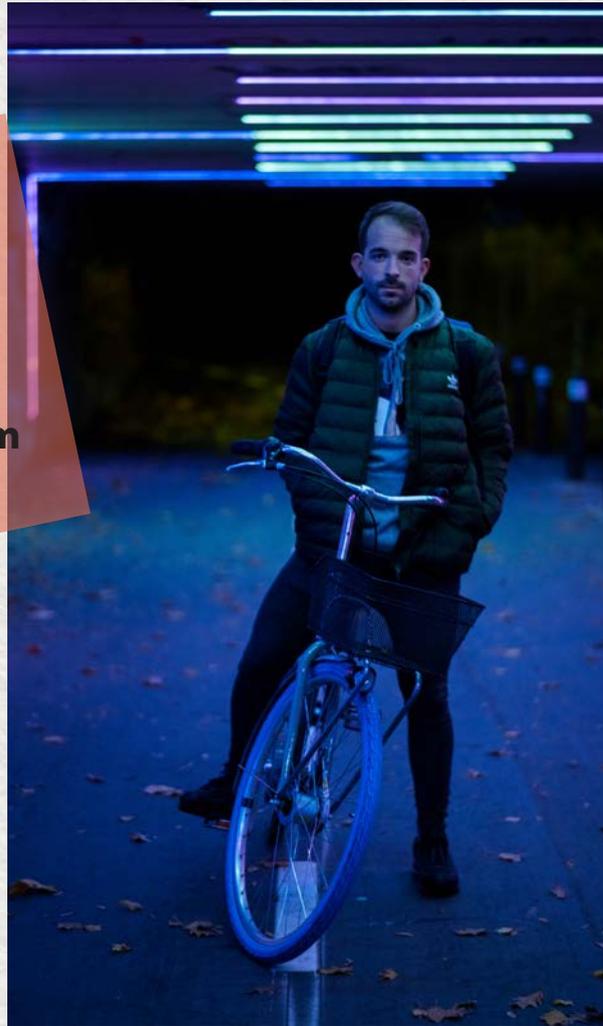
**Spanish**

**ricardo.acumar@gmail.com**

**Going to Amsterdam**

My name is Ricardo, but everybody calls me Richi. I was born and raised in the lovely city of Madrid. My list of interests are pretty much endless but to sum up, I would say that I'm a sports geek, a music lover and a cinema enthusiast.

Unfortunately, my talent wasn't enough in these fields so I decided to go behind the cameras and in front of the keyboard and start a dual bachelor in journalism and film, TV and media studies. While studying I've been working for different media - TV, radio, online magazines - mainly focusing on sports journalism. I would define the Mundus Journalism experience using two key concepts: global perspectives and open-mindedness. Precisely these are the ideas on which I



would love to build on my professional career - reasons enough for this Spaniard to leave the bright and sunny Spain and come to the gloomy and rainy Denmark.

I hope the hard work will pay off. Although my career goal is still unclear I'm sure this programme would give us a bright future. My ideal job? Communication strategist in the UN. Dare to dream!

I come from the port city of Karachi in Pakistan and did my Bachelors in sociology in the country's bustling capital Islamabad. I have been working in the field of journalism for the past three years and now I am here to expand my horizons.

I chose the Erasmus Mundus Journalism Programme because of the unique opportunity it provides to exchange knowledge with people from so many different countries. The knowledge I receive during this programme is not only limited to the lectures in class but also the discussions that I have with my fellow mundasians outside the class. I can say the Mundus experience gave me friends from all over the world. Each day I see myself learning

and developing. New place, new people and hence, a completely new experience. I would say I am here to face my fears, to explore, to experience and to learn.

ریڈا فاطمہ واقدار

**Rida Fatima Waqar, 25**

**Pakistani**

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**Going to Amsterdam**



# SIMON

**Simon Rasmussen, 26**

**Danish**

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**Going to Swansea**

Hej allesammen! My name is Simon, one of the native Aarhusians in the program - I did my BA in Political Science at AU. After, I wanted to focus on journalism so I did a self-arranged internship at a paper in Uganda. Specifically, I wanted to focus on crisis mediation and development, and Uganda proved to be the perfect place!

Here I did stories on yoga for street-kids living in the slums, mental illness in Kampala's most congested suburb and boda-boda drivers becoming business owners. I learned how people love to read passionate stories, even in Uganda, where issues regarding poverty is widespread. This only put fuel on the fire of my wish to join Mundus Journa-



lism. The programme was the perfect mix between political science and journalism. In the future I hope to show more stories from countries affected by war or crisis, hopefully changing the world for the better in the process. This is of course also why I am going to Swansea for my specialisation!

I was born and raised in Sri Lanka, did my undergrad in the US, and went on to work in Canada and India. My most recent professional experience was a reporter with The Hindu, India's oldest English-language daily. Choosing the Mundus Journalism programme seemed like a very natural decision. I really liked my job in India, but at the same time, I felt that my curious nature would benefit a lot from being in a new environment (or two), surrounded by a diverse cohort of classmates. I have a degree in political science but I am particularly drawn to stories that show us the intersection of art, experiences, trials and tribulations. I am constantly trying to make sense of this unfathomable world

we live in – how did we get here and where are we going? And incredibly personal narratives make my heart sing. That's something I continue to explore in Creating Life, a podcast that I co-host and co-produce, and that's the kind of work I want to do more of in the future.

# සින්දු

**Sindhuri Nandhakumar, 27**

**Sri Lankan**

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**Going to Amsterdam**



# स्निग्धा

**Snigdha Bansal, 22**

**Indian**

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gmail.com**

**Going to Amsterdam**

After working extensively in the social sector across India and especially in Mumbai and surrounding rural areas through school, I worked with an AI-based news start-up. I learnt a lot at my job, including the fact that I never want to work a 9-5 desk job ever again. I also discovered that my passion lies in politics and human rights, and the drive to learn more about those brought me to Mundus Journalism. The fact that I'd be sharing a whole new world with people from such different backgrounds only added to it. However, being one of the youngest in class among people who know and have experienced so much more is also quite unnerving. The imposter syndrome has kicked in, and how! But it has



brought along the realisation that my dream looks a lot like the journey I have embarked upon - every day a new experience and a step closer to making myself and everyone around me happier! And on the gloomy days, I still have more books to read, food to cook and friends to share some cocoa with.

I grew up in Hamburg, but I'm probably not the typical German. Until now, I have lived in 8 countries and my proudest achievement is acquiring some basic Quechua skills. Obsessed with watching sports, my academic background is in international relations, with a focus on visual global politics. A lover of good movies, I energize over Reggae-ton or any other beat that gets me moving.

I got into writing very young and since then, have been motivated by storytelling around the globe. After two years of working in Geneva, I opted for the Mundus programme, because of its unique outlook. I'll spend my

second year in Swansea to focus on war and conflict. My dream is to report from conflict-hit regions, still the other part of my heart pounds for sports reporting.

# SOPHIE

**Sophie Timmermann, 25**

**German**

**s.e.timmermann@gmail.com**

**Going to Swansea**



# Susanna

**Susanna Carta, 24**

**Italian**

**susannacarta95@gmail.com**

**Going to Amsterdam**

I'm originally from a sunny Italian island, but I spent four years studying international relations in the proverbial gloomy weather of Scotland, where I discovered an amazing international environment and a great music scene. After graduation, I did an internship in Brussels where I've dabbled in writing, doing interviews and video editing, and I loved approaching political issues from a more creative perspective compared to academic writing. I applied for the Mundus programme as I wanted to keep studying international politics while also delving in journalism. Apparently I wasn't done with the rainy,



cold Northern cities as I have come to Aarhus. My dream would be covering international politics and doing long-form journalism, but let's see where life takes me.

After graduating from a U.S. high school, I studied bilingual journalism with law in Madrid, with a year abroad at the University of Richmond in the U.S., and an economics program at the Shanghai University of Finance and Economics. Later I worked for the University of California and for the international desk of a national newspaper in Spain. While I have always been passionate about politics, my biggest focus has been in geostrategy, economics, defense and intelligence services. To learn more about it I took courses with the Spanish Army and did a master's in prevention of money laundering and funding of terrorism. I decided to attend the Mundus program for the opportunity to meet people with a passion for

journalism, from all across the world - more than 30 countries as I learn now. I want to expand my perception of the world and learn from my peers. In the future, I want to work in long-format journalism, writing features, investigative pieces, and nonfiction books, and also explore data journalism and slow journalism.

# Thess

**Thess Mostoles Martinez, 23**

**Spanish**

**Thess.f.m@journalist.com**

**Going to Swansea**



عمر بن اجمال

**Umer Bin Ajmal, 28**

**Pakistani**

**umerbinajmal@gmail.com**

**Going to Hamburg**

I'm a big fan of cricket and have a passion to take photographs of landscapes, mountains, heritage, and people going about their daily lives. Unfortunately, I couldn't find any cricket field in Aarhus, but I'm content in being surrounded by so much of nature that it nicely compensates the lack of outdoor sports.

I haven't travelled much outside Pakistan, moving to this beautiful country was equally overwhelming and adventurous. I'm looking forward to living to the fullest here and in Hamburg where I would be heading to for my second year. I hope to be able to explore, investigate, and write more on media freedom in South Asia. I'm very passionate



about this since I believe that the importance of free media in the age of fake news will impact our overall freedom in more ways than we can imagine.

Living independently in Denmark so far has also taught me a very important life skill: cooking. And, I'm loving every bit of it. Who knows, I may in future even become a part-time chef too!

I was born in Pakistan; grew up in Canada; have done research in Ethiopia; and have worked and reported from Singapore, Ecuador and Mexico. Now I find myself studying in Denmark and Wales. All of this has been serendipitous - a word I love so much that I have a tattoo of it!

The Mundus Journalism program was, therefore, a no-brainer. Being trilingual in English, Urdu and Spanish, I was excited about this opportunity to learn from journalists around the world. I became passionate about journalism when I co-founded a media outlet focused on social justice issues. And I fell in love with Latin America after I moved there to work for one of the region's largest media networks. My dream is to work for an inter-

Urooba

**Urooba Jamal, 26**

**Canadian, Pakistani**

**uroobajamal.com**

**Going to Swansea**

national news agency, first as a correspondent, then later as an editor. I'd also love to teach on international reporting at a journalism school.

When I'm not typing away at a keyboard, I love weightlifting, eating, learning about social movements...and enjoying a good party!



Василина

**Vasylyna-Kateryna Bulyk, 23**

**Ukrainian**

**vasylyna.kateryna.bulyk@gmail.com**

**Going to London**

I knew I wanted to be a journalist since I was 5. We were digging potatoes next to our summer-house, which is a very traditional thing in Ukraine. Actually, that was my family who was digging – and I was coming from one relative to another retelling everything I hooked out from the previous one. Then my aunt asked, “Hey, Vasylyna, don’t you wanna help?”. I replied, “Of course, auntie. You keep digging, and I’ll come to you soon with a nice story”. She laughed and called me a small journalist.

Many years later, I found out that being a good journalist required not only talking but lots of hard work as well. I worked as a reporter for the Interfax Ukraine News



Agency for two years, and at that point, I really felt a lack of education. Other than advancing my knowledge in economics, during my specialisation year, I hope to gain some experience working abroad for a few years, before contributing my piece to the development of economic journalism in Ukraine.

Creating voices for the vulnerable through the media is my passion. I strongly support gender equality and LGBT rights. I worked as a social media editor for Justice-4Her program in China’s Office of Radio Netherlands Worldwide Media, where I carried out several online campaigns against gender-based violence. I believe that if you support gender equality, you are a feminist.

During my leisure time, I am really into pop music and a fan of Lady Gaga, Sia and Madonna. They are not only superstars to me but also give me the courage to be myself. I appreciate that they speak up for the vulnerable and show empathy to people suffering.

I have been living and studying in Mainland China for more than

韩典帝

**Xiandi Han, 22**

**Chinese**

**hanxiandi1997@163.com**

**Going to Amsterdam**

20 years. Hence I am really curious about the outside world. I know that Mundus Journalism is a truly global program, where I can further my studies in a culturally inclusive atmosphere. In the long run, my goal is to start an online talk show based on hot international political and social issues, aimed at Chinese youth.



# FEELING AT HOME

**We asked Mundusians how they make themselves feel at home and fight homesickness and comfort-zone nostalgia; we think roots are down-to-earth, but also they grow in many directions.**



## **Elisa, Spain:**

What is hygge for me? Having a nice chat with my friends, chilling in someone's room and then going out and have fun! Cooking is also an important part of my hygge: when I cooked my first Spanish omelette for my dorm mates (while facetimeing my mum eheh), I felt as my spanish roots were merging with a new concept of home created over bonding, nights out and delicious smells!

## **Laís, Brazil:**

The most precious thing I have here is a booklet my twin sister Louisa made for me! It's full of recipes, tips for those not-so-good days, comfort tv series to watch, funny anecdotes... One day I was cycling home from the market, looking at the people enjoying the autumn sun. I suddenly felt that I was embracing my new home.



## **Dasha, Russia:**

A friend made this embroidered sweater for me with one of my favorite quotes from the musical Hamilton - which I am a huge fan of! It says "you are not throwing away your shot". Before coming here I was a bit hesitant. I didn't know if I was doing the right thing... and this sweatshirt was the answer!



## **Nalé, Argentina:**

Take mate, music, beer, dulce de leche... and you get a Nalé! - I brought 4 kg of yerba mate from Argentina, let's see how long it takes to finish it) I also have my guitar and a little midi keyboard to keep making music! Whenever you are sharing something of your culture with others, that's hygge for me.

## **Gaura, India:**

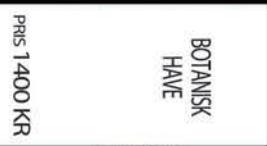
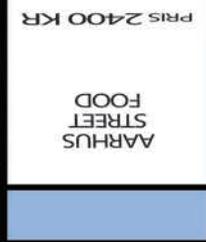
This is my spice rack! Since I never experienced winter before, I think eating my favorite food will warm me up a little and make me less homesick! New experiences are what really build my concept of home; here these are definitely biking and doing my own groceries!



## **Giorgia, Italy:**

Wherever I go, music and poetry follow. That's why I couldn't have moved to Aarhus without my notebook and my ukulele! Being able to play at open-mics in town connects me with the local community while bringing my culture to the stage, because my songs are in Italian!





## KAUKAB

Mapping out her independence piece by piece is what Kaukab does in all that is her life as a Mundus student. After this independence there comes McDonalds - even at 2am with the girls. Kaukab's evenings in Aarhus usually evolve around reading, eating, a lot of me-time generally, until Mum calls or the walls are caving in and it's time to hit the road again to grab some more food at the McDonalds close by. When she gets back to her cosy room fairy lights are switched on and for the Danish touch a hygge candle is lit. On free days friends might join for some solid biryani, which will probably last for the next two days, because Kaukab comes prepared. "Living on my own and taking responsibility is actually new to me," she says. But talking about how important it is to become independent, her face lights up with a smile. While fellow Mundasians keep complaining about the hilly cycling adventure that is Aarhus, Kaukab just walks everywhere. Usually she keeps a coffee in her hand, brought to her by her espresso machine that she started saving for when still in Pakistan. When you ask her how life in Aarhus has been treating her, she emphasizes that not once since her arrival she has been homesick.

## SOPHIE

Sophie is as much of a library person as Forest Gump. While autumn and winter present harsh conditions to her running ambitions, there's always the gym, which offers navy seal training classes at 8.30am. After heavy rope pulling, it's time for a light breakfast, some dedicated hours in class and the occasional printing session at the library afterwards. The evenings with housemate Giorgia are filled with cooking, making music, stand-up comedy and doing the laundry that an active life produces. Of course Sophie does study. But if you are wondering how she can still get her nine hours of sleep a night while doing all of the above, there's more to it: study related stuff is also banned from the weekend. When she's not away to see her boyfriend or friends, she loves to have coffee in cosy spaces around town. Or, you might catch her reading The Economist or watching some biathlon event for four hours straight. This seems to be a distraction from her actual passion: "I'm lonely, please play cards with me!". Besides bodyweight training, obsessions also include card and board games. One might want to challenge her and turn this obsession into a sociable Mundus experience, albeit one should know: Sophie and her friends run their own website on it.

<http://doppelkopfhalfprofis.website2.me>

A DAY IN THE LIFE

**Coffees/day**  
3-4 2

**h of sleep/night**  
7 8-9

**h of studying/week (excl. lectures)**  
6-7 10

**Mum-calls/week**  
7 max 1

**Alarm snoozes**  
>7 max 1

**Meals/day**  
2 3



# CULTURE SHOCK

Arriving in a country with a different language and way of life can be daunting for any traveller, even for globally minded Mundusians. Here is their journey from comfort zones to culture shock.



## Adnan, Spain

"One thing that shocked me was the bikes because it seemed like there is a military armed force in bikes. Biking to DMJX was my worst experience in Denmark. It was hard. I used to hate biking but now I am bike-sexual. I love my bike. I even named her Swappy."

## Grace, Kenya

"I pretty much cried. I just wanted to book the next flight home. I was an emotional wreck. I have not left my country since I was born. Everything felt different. Mostly the food and the fact that everything is in Danish made it difficult for me to shop. But when we started the lectures, I felt the purpose of me being here. I remember exactly why I am here and I need to finish."



## Ksenia, Russia

"In social gatherings, I was completely surprised by the fact that Danes prefer playing board games to actual communication. Danish people are open to meeting new people but it depends on the purpose of the event. Sometimes they need their privacy. But you should also be brave, take the initiative."



## Glory, Cameroon

PUNCTUALITY! Coming from a culture where keeping time is considered strange and out of place, I have had to adjust really quickly to being on time here, and when I slack a little I miss a lot. I am learning to keep time but I have had to run after buses some days so I am learning it the hard way.



## Marcelo, Brazil

"Brazilians are famous for being very warm. We make friends easily. Here, even though people are really sympathetic, I think for you to get into a deeper relationship, it takes more time. I am generally careful about what I'm saying and try to do things slowly."



# MY FAVOURITE PLACE IN AARHUS

The spots that we have come to love!

**Giovana**

## **Dome of Vision**

"It's a super cosy and warm café where you get to see the outside, unlike most other places where you're in a closed up space. It also has a lot of cultural events."



**Marcelo**

## **Den Uendelige Bro (The infinity bridge)**

"Being from Rio de Janeiro, I'm familiar to beaches. I used to go to the beach whenever I was sad. While Aarhus is quite different as a city, I'm glad to see the ocean, especially from the beautifully constructed bridge."



**Tony**

## **Salsa Night at Studentterhus Aarhus, every Sunday**

"The Cuban songs they play seem to me like my people talking. When I'm in there, I close my eyes and repeat what I'm hearing. At that moment I really believe that, if I cross the door, I'll come home to my friends, my family, my city."



**Anna G.**

## **Café Elmely**

"I love that it's vegan. Despite being the second largest city in Denmark, Aarhus doesn't have a lot of options for vegans or those with allergies (like me)."



**Thess**

## **The Botanical Garden**

"I love the green, walking around and noticing all the different colours of the leaves. I is really peaceful and I often come here when I have to talk to my family"

**Simon**

## **El Loco, Mejlgade**

"As a frugal Dane, it's the best place to enjoy some beers for just 10 kr each. It has a great atmosphere and isn't as crowded as most other pubs in Aarhus"

**Farid**

## **Dokk1**

"Dokk1 has the best library in the city with an amazing view and a relaxing vibe. The basement has some must see art installations."

**Ricardo**

## **ARoS Art Museum**

"At level 0, you can find some impressive works of installation art. The aesthetics create an overwhelming atmosphere that makes one feel like they're in a film by Nicolas Winding Refn or Gaspar Noé. It is also ideal for a cool photo shoot."

**Galia**

## **Salling Rooftop**

"It has a great view of the city with a crystal floor and a rooftop bar. You can curl up with a book and a blanket they provide, or enjoy the workshops they offer."





# SURVIVAL TIPS



## We asked Mundusians for their Aarhus life hacks...

1. Make friends, but learn to enjoy experiences on your own!
2. Bring a raincoat, rainproof pants, umbrella and windproof jacket!
3. Get yourself a bike (and learn how to ride it)
4. Learn to cook.
5. Carry your own box of spices.
6. Scout for Friday bars and the places that sell cheap alcohol!
7. Make your room feel like home - Create some Danish hygge :)
8. Go to the beach as often as you can.
9. Inform yourself about the different supermarkets to save money!
10. Leave your comfort zone. Go for it.
11. Bring some of your own favourite alcohol from home.
12. Bring as many cozy sweaters and socks as possible.
13. Bring a router along.
14. Always carry food with you, eating out is expensive.



16. If you ask for regular coffee and then ask to add milk you'll pay less than ordering coffee with milk ;)

17. ALWAYS check the weather app BEFORE stepping outside!

18. Trust in God then take a day at a time.

19. Be open and ask for help if needed.

20. Convert kroner from your home country if possible

21. Always push the "stop button" in the bus in advance

22. Eat Danish Cakes

23. Be patient when dealing with Danish institutions.

24. Go outside whenever the sun shines, remember to wear layers.

25. Make your peace with rain!

26. Always look for discounts.

27. Food and music from home will help you fight homesickness.

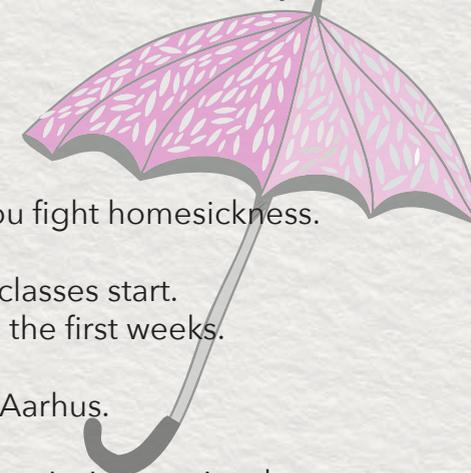
28. Arrive in Aarhus at least a week before classes start. Relax about the little issues that will happen the first weeks.

29. Save enough money before moving to Aarhus.

30. Don't be afraid to check into the garbage, its impressive the high-quality stuff that Danish people just throw away.

31. School is important, but don't neglect your well-being. Don't forget to take some time to do what you love

**32. Do not think, even for a second, about it as survival... moving to Aarhus is a blessing, so just enjoy!**



# EMJ 2019

# QUIZ



**So how well do you know us now?**

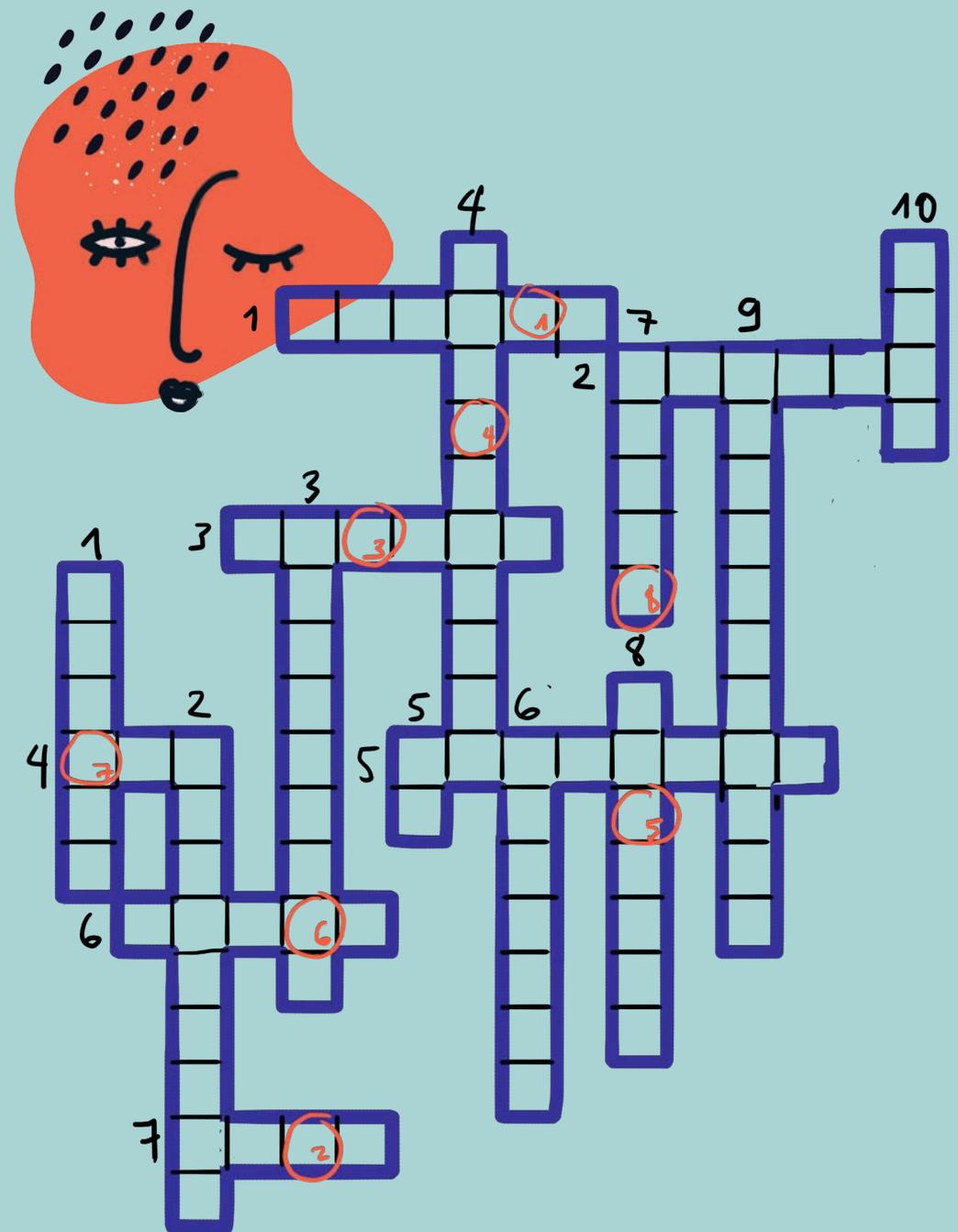
Complete the puzzle, send the correct answer to [bluebook1921@gmail.com](mailto:bluebook1921@gmail.com) and stand the chance to WIN an awesome prize!

## ACROSS

- 1** Has beer for only 10 DKK
- 2** Our cards and sport enthusiast
- 3** Student who walks everywhere, without complaining
- 4** Artist of the song "Super Economy" in the Mundus Soundtrack
- 5** Must-have item in rainy Aarhus
- 6** Loooves his bike
- 7** Richi's favourite spot in Aarhus

## DOWN

- 1** 60% of us are ...
- 2** Demonym for students of the Erasmus Mundus programme
- 3** Second year destination for political nerds
- 4** Most common academic background
- 5** Institution at which most students say they want to work
- 6** Who we contact when things get a little too overwhelming...
- 7** Gaura's secret to make Aarhus feel like home
- 7** State with the most representatives in this year's cohort
- 9** What Glory is still trying to adapt to
- 10** The professionally most experienced member of the cohort



Have   !