

brianberry

Copenhagen,
Denmark



— Draped in the national flag, Brian Berry stands near the town square on the day the Crown Prince got married. “It was a big deal. Everything closed, and we sat in the town square all day,” he said. “Eventually, the Prince and his bride took a carriage ride, and they came around the town square.”

BRIAN'S MAJOR(S): sport marketing and management

YEAR/TERM ABROAD: spring 2004

REASON YOU CHOSE THIS PROGRAM: I needed a program taught in English with a large selection of classes, and I wanted to be in Europe. It came down to Dublin or Copenhagen, but it was easier to travel from Copenhagen so I chose it. Eventually, I traveled to 12 countries; we had three weeks for spring break, and I stayed for three weeks after the program.

FAVORITE CLASSES: European Conflict and Security: 1600s to Today - the teacher was from the Defense Department of Copenhagen - and Islam and the West. I usually don't like these types of classes, but I enjoyed them.

DESCRIBE THE HOUSING SITUATION: I lived in the Kollegium, which was a dorm but the meals weren't included. I was the youngest one there at 21 when I thought I'd be the oldest (the next youngest was 23). I met many Danish people, but I wish I would've known Danish to get to know them better.

GREATEST CHALLENGE: The little things. I don't speak Danish, so how do you get food, find a grocery store and how do you get there (since I didn't have a car)? It's the simple things that we take for granted here.

WHAT I WISH I KNEW BEFORE I LEFT: The weather - I had to buy some sweaters over there; also, more about the history and culture of the people. They did a good job of educating us when we were over there, but I wish I knew more beforehand.

EXPERIENCES WITH CULTURE SHOCK OR REVERSE CULTURE SHOCK: Everyone did a good job of making me feel comfortable. Getting used to the size of things comes to mind - everything there is smaller, and then you come back here to super-duper Wal-Mart. And little things, like tipping - you don't tip there, so to have five months of not tipping, and then to come back here and remember to tip was an adjustment. But it was a pretty smooth transition overall.

“Academically, it's more rigorous, so be prepared for that. It's not a blow-off curriculum, but I would hope that it would not deter anyone from going because *it's a great place to study abroad.*”

GOING ABROAD VS. STAYING ON CAMPUS, DISCUSS: I would certainly encourage students to go; it is something that you would never forget. It strips down everything you've ever known; everything you were comfortable with is gone. Some days were not fun, but I would definitely do it again.