

Erfahrungsbericht European Nursing Module in Køge

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Køge Hospital, Denmark

Student, Bachelor Nursing, 3rd year of study



Even in Switzerland, the Danish health care system has the reputation of being one of the best functioning health care systems in Europe. This made me curious about why professionals all over the world praise the way the health care system is structured in Denmark. The European Nursing Module allowed me a unique insight into the work area of a nurse in Denmark, and also an impression of the cultural dimension of my own profession.

I was thrilled when I received the confirmation of spending my two weeks observing at an Emergency Room (ER) in Køge Hospital, although I would not have the experience of a Swiss ER to compare with. In Denmark, the Emergency Room concept is a relatively new development. Before, acute injuries were transferred to the problem related specific department (for example: a heart attack would be transferred to the cardiology ward). Therefore, the medical staff at the ER do not have a specially designed training as an ER nurse or doctor, all of them are specialised in different medical fields. The Emergency ward at Køge Hospital, which transformed from a regional to a university hospital, is divided into three sections: the acute ward, the observatory and a smaller ward for minor injuries that can be treated in a day, like epistaxis or an A-Line fracture.



If one wants to believe the statistics, Denmark has the happiest population worldwide and I would like to confirm this from only two weeks working and living among Danish people. Compared to my previous clinical placements in Switzerland, I experienced a precise and

efficient work policy but also an extremely relaxed and balanced work climate. I experienced doctors and nurses caring less about hierarchy but rather working hand in hand and profit from each other's strengths and experience. In my first hour at the ER, I was amazed about the extra-skills nurses had here when I observed a nurse doing an artery puncture for a blood test.



Ninety percent of the nursing staff were Danish, 10% were from abroad. The foreign nurses were remarkably adapted to the Danish lifestyle and language.

What I will take home from the ENM is the system of free medical service for every Danish person (also reduced paperwork!), the work climate at the ER including the relaxed working hours from 07:00 – 15:00 o'clock with no over-time, addressing patients by their first name and the effort my colleagues made for me to overcome the language barrier.



In my free time, I explored my surroundings by train. I seized the opportunity to visit a lecture in an international interprofessional class at the Health Care School in Naestved where I could exchange clinical and theoretical experience from all over the world.

I explored Køge where I was staying at an AirBnB house with a Danish lady and an Indian couple who spoiled me with Danish and Indian dishes and entertaining conversations.

I had the most amazing day in Roskilde on a rented bike discovering the sea, the woods and the countryside covered in golden and most importantly warm sunshine. The biking routes are marked very well, the route itself was not always cycle-able but I did not mind pushing my bike, as I got distracted from the simply stunning view all around me.



Copenhagen's charm made me immediately fall in love with Denmark's capital city, where in every restaurant, pub or coffee shop there are lit candles on the table, the streets and houses are covered in colours and flowers. I recommend the canal tour to get an overview of the must-have-seen tourist attractions and some background information about the city. Also, the boat is covered and heated and a great opportunity to take a rest from walking and to warm up again.

I could fill ten more pages about my experience, especially at the ER, but it would still be a poor representation of this amazing country. It is best to explore it for yourself. All in all

I spent an amazing time in Denmark, taking home new experiences, impressions and both practical and personal growth.

To me the ENM-Program is a small step toward working on an international level and a great improvement for my professional role in a multicultural world. It won't be my last visit to Denmark, as I had far too little time to explore everything this country has to offer.

