

**Introduction notes
for future Erasmus project participants**

Roskilde
2008

Contents

Contents	1
1. Introduction	2
2. Accommodation	2
2.1 Living conditions	2
2.2 Rules of the kollegium (halls of residence)	2
2.3 Laundry	2
2.4 Bikes	3
2.5 Transport	3
2.6 Radio and TV and computers	3
2.7 Shopping	3
2.8 Telephones	4
2.9 Computers	4
2.10 Getting CPR number and health insurance	5
2.11 Getting bank account	5
3. Cultural life	5
3.1 General events/experiences	5
3.2 International club	6
4. Study system	6
4.1 System	6
4.2 Equipment and study materials	7
4.3 Relationships between students and teachers	7
5. Danish courses	7
6. Addresses and contact persons	8

1. Introduction

Many students, that were participating in ERASMUS project and studying in Roskilde Business College for half a year, mentioned, that their stay here was especially useful for learning languages (Danish, English). And furthermore useful for finding out about some aspects of software development, that are not emphasized in Lithuanian universities, getting acquaintance with culture of Northern Europe countries. Students got the opportunity to learn something about different studying system, different living conditions, etc. It helped to gain some perspective in seeing social changes in Lithuania during last few years.

Here we will shortly present some aspects of staying in Denmark, preparations for this stay, overview of studying system and cultural life.

2. Accommodation

2.1 Living conditions

Living conditions here you'll find more than satisfactory. Especially those, who've been living in Vilnius University hostels back in Lithuania, where students live two or more in one room, not bigger than this, you'll find here. Here you have one room apartment with bathroom all for yourself. In one side of the room you have little kitchen with electric stove, fridge, and dresser. In the bathroom there is a shower without curtains, so after showering all bathroom is dripping because of the steam. Several chairs, table for computer, another for other needs, little bookshelf and wardrobe - not very big one, considering that you came here for several seasons. You won't have to bother about cold winds, blowing outside - windows are well hermetic, and there is possibility to adjust the warmth of the heaters.

Your grant (650 euro) is sufficient for personal expenses. Expenses for room and living conditions improving or for bike reparation could be compensated. Consult Michael Claudius about the details.

2.2 Rules of the kollegium (halls of residence)

Living here you must obey the rules for residents of Duebrødre Collegium. This includes cleaning of the stairs - the order is different from building to building, but this usually happen no more than 3-4 times during the stay. You better do this, or else it can cost you 100 Kr. fine!

2.3 Laundry

Of course, you can do this with your own hands, but when it comes to washing bedclothes, this just won't do... There are automatic washing machines in the cellar under one of collegium buildings. All you need is Danmønt phone card (you can buy these in the gas station near collegium). To wash max. 5 kg of laundry costs only 20 Kr., to dry it - 5 Kr.

2.4 Bikes

That's really important thing! Forget overcrowded city busses (they're pretty expensive here) and enjoy using ecologically clean mean of transport. Roskilde is ideal city for bikes - no big hills, roads for cycling everywhere. You'll get a bike, when you'll come here. Be prepared to have flat tires twice a month - don't worry, you'll get used.

The best place to repair and clean your bike is basement under the big red building (Duebrødre's skole) just in front of collegium. If you have more serious problem with your bike you might need to bring it to workshop. These usually can be found near every bike store. Reparation is rather expensive so don't forget to take a bill for it - you will get your money back probably. You shouldn't cycle without lights at night - fine is 500 DKK.

2.5 Transport

Tickets in Danmark are common for trains and buses. You can transfer freely between buses and trains using the same tickets and discounts cards (clip cards). Territory is divided in zones. You must however travel within the period of time tickets are valid and within the zones they cover. Coloured zones maps are posted at stations and bus stops. The price of the ticket depends on the number of coloured zones you travel through.

First buses and trains start at 5am weekdays and 6am Sundays and stops at 00.30 am. After 00.30am night buses run until 4.30am. Tickets can be purchased at rail station. The tickets are stamped with time, date and departed zone. Clip cards are available for ten journeys for two, three, five six or all zones. Before beginning your journey punch the card in a yellow car clipping machine in a bus or at the station.

You will get clip cards (ten tickets) for all zones to travel all through the Zealand. One clip is valid two hours from the moment it is marked.

2.6 Radio and TV and computers

There are very outdated radios or no radios in every room. Two -- with built in alarm clocks, so you can choose any radio station to wake you up. Most station makes you wake up very quickly -- just because you want to turn them off as quickly as possible. TV if you are lucky, or use your PC. All movies are shown in their original language with Danish subtitles - good possibility for listening and reading practice.

2.7 Shopping

It should be mentioned, that all shops here don't work on Sundays, as we're used to in Lithuania. From Monday to Friday they work until 20:00, on Saturdays - until 17:00.

You'll get about 1kg of advertisements in your postbox every week. Sometimes you can find rather useful information there - where what products are cheaper and so on. Be sure after reading to throw them out into special container for paper in the yard (there is one more, for glass)

2.8 Telephones

There are two kinds of public phones in Denmark - for use with Danmønt card or with coins. Both can be used for international calls. You will NOT be given a possibility to call to Lithuania several times for free from the school. It is recommended to use the Skype free phone system on computers.

2.9 Computers

Yes, there are computers with Internet access in the rooms! Of course, they're not very up-to-date, but enough for programming in C++, writing letters (which you later will be able to send via e-mail from college), small word documents (and large, if you're patient enough to wait for poor 386 to handle it) and playing Supaplex. But don't worry - in the school you will find fully equipped computer classes with powerfull computers, laser printers, colour scaner and a xerox machine.

Special access cards are needed to use computer classes. You will get it from Michael Claudius. Access code for the card will be four last digits of your person number in Denmark.

2.10 Getting CPR number and health insurance

Every person staying in Denmark for more than 3 months has to get CPR number (Cpr.No.). This number is used for all operations related to commune, banks etc.

For getting CPR number and health insurance card every student must go to commune town of halls and the county state office to fill corresponding forms and choose the doctor. After few weeks you will get health insurance card that gives right to free doctor consultation or treatment in hospital.

You have to inform commune that you are leaving the country in the end of the stay.

2.11 Getting bank account

It is recommended to get account in one of the local banks. Consult Michael Claudius about details of this procedure. Or just use your visa-cards in the drawing machines.

3. Cultural life

3.1 General events/experiences

One of our visit in Denmark purposes was to make some acquaintance with people and their ways of living, that is a bit different from Lithuania. People have different working, free time spending habits that are interesting point of study.

In Roskilde there are a lot of cultural events - of course not so much as for example in Vilnius, but we must remember that Roskilde is a little town not very far from Copenhagen. Every spring in Roskilde takes place huge rock festival. Spring semester students have possibility to take part in this fiesta. Another big event is "Roskilde Night" - town foundation day. It is going on in autumn, so autumn semester students have possibility to take part in big social event too. In 1998 there will be exactly 1000 years from Roskilde foundation and preparation for this event is already going on few years. Of course there are a lot of little events in various year seasons.

Students, participating in ERASMUS project usually get 2 days Copenhagen cards two times during their stay in Denmark. These cards give possibility to free and unlimited travel by bus and rail through the metropolitan region, including North Zealand, Roskilde and Køge, free admission to more than 60 museums and a lot of discounts. It gives possibility to visit famous Copenhagen places. Students also can visit Sweden (Malmo) for their own money.

Of course culture is not only visiting museums and famous places. It is people and their relationships that are different than in Lithuania.

There are a lot of students parties every Friday - in college (Loginn cafe), in Roskilde University, some times in the collegium cafe under the building. Every last Friday of the month in one of Copenhagen cafes takes place Lithuanian's meeting. Information about these meetings and other events (for example Christmas party) is available in Lithuanian embassy (phone 3963 6207). College organizes Christmas and Easter prates too. Also look at www.lietuva.dk.

After you get CPR number you can borrow books from Roskilde Library or Roskilde University Library. Also there is free access to Internet from Roskilde Library

3.2 International club

As Erasmus students you can become a member of International Club Roskilde.

They are offering a lot of different activities.

See local page: www.laerer.rhs.dk/pernilleunv

Or the official home page: www.international-club.ruc.dk

4. Study system

4.1 System

Education system in Roskilde Business College is quite different in comparison with Vilnius University. First of all theory goes together with practice. What's the use of the knowledge if you can't use it in practice?

During one semester students usually have 3-5 subjects covering app. 10 related topics. Lessons are from 8:20 until 14:00 or 15:00 (depends on schedule). One lesson lasts 45 min. There is one big lunch break from 11:45 to 12:10.

All subjects are taught exactly from the books and teacher is only explaining material from the book. In the beginning of the week all students get list of topics in that week and list of literature that students must read. All books we read were in English, and based on Danish authors.

During semester in every subject students get a lot of practical exercises for themselves and one or more 1-2 weeks assignment/project, that must be done in groups of 3-5 people and delivered in very well documented form. It's recommended to make groups together with Danish students - usually they have experience of working in groups and making good project documentation. During big projects there are no lessons at all and students can concentrate on this assignment.

Students in a second semester have to pass a project exam. The group work will be evaluated. Try to look at your project objectively and find out your mistakes and purposes. In the theoretical exam individual knowledge will be estimated.

It is very strange for Lithuanians that there is one examination for several subjects. Simply you draw one main question (from one of the subjects) and several secondary questions for other subjects. After preparation (you can use all literature you were able to bring to examination) students must give answers orally. For main questions you have 20 min. and for the secondary questions - only 2x10 minutes each. One of the most important criteria is how you present your knowledge and how you fit into time. If you know subject, but you cannot do a good presentation marks can be lower. If presentation is shorter than time limit you will get a lot of additional questions.

Examination commission consist of all your teachers and an external evaluator from another college or university.

The mark system is different. The maximum grade 13(thirteen) is given for perfect understanding of all subjects and more than this - a student should have additional knowledge and look at the relative subject from different point of views.

Marks from 6 to 11 are positive and correspond to ours 5 - 10.

Negative marks are 5, 03, 00.

In case you fail a second chance is offered, normally 2 weeks later.

4.2 Equipment and study materials

There are a lot of computers in college and it is always possible to find free work place. Computers are rather new and powerful. Students have possibility to print their documents for free using laser printers. Usually every student get account on one of college UNIX servers. Unfortunately in 1997 autumn mail system didn't work most of the time so it can be good idea for you to get one account at home or in Internet. All computers in college have unlimited and fast access to Internet.

Normal opening hours for computer rooms is 8.00-16.00. However by use of special access cards the computer rooms can be used from 8:00 until 20:00 from Monday to Thursday and from 8:00 until 16:00 on Friday. It is possible to work until 21:00 on Thursdays, Weekends only enter between 9.00 – 15.00. The alarm system is very advanced and in case you initiate an alarm don't run away stay and wait for the guards to come.

Students participating in ERASMUS project usually are given all necessary books and other study material. There is possibility to make photocopies of material. You can buy copy cards in college.

4.3 Relationships between students and teachers

Teachers are always friendly. They are ready to help you with understanding subject material or text anytime. Teacher guidelines for the project are almost necessary. So don't be afraid to ask for help when needed. However your professional skills will be evaluated very objectively during the exams.

5. Danish courses

For students participating in ERASMUS project it is possible to have free Danish language courses in your home country.

Here in Denmark you will get possibility to attend free Danish courses at the local community language center.. You will get official document confirming that you finished this course. This document can be used in Vilnius University for getting credits for foreign language studies.

6. Addresses and contact persons

College address:

Roskilde Computer Science College
Bakkesvinget 67
4000 Roskilde
Denmark

Phone: +45 8852 3200; 8852 3331
Fax: +45 8852 3209

Contact persons:

Michael Claudius
phone private: +45 3961 1744
mobile: +45 4082 9344
e-mail: claudius@rhs.dk