



HAWAII TO HYGGE

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This summer, I was able to study abroad in Denmark at Copenhagen Business School, an internationally ranked business school. Before this, I have never been out of the country or even travelled past the west coast. However, despite the fear and risk, I can safely say that studying abroad is an eye-opening journey that can't be fully understood until you experience it firsthand. Not only is it a way to stand out to future employers, or an excuse to travel, but it's also a way to develop a sense of self and learn who you are.

Before arriving in Denmark, my friend and I stopped in New York for a week since it seemed like a good resting spot between Hawaii and Europe. I was so excited about this because Manhattan has always been on my bucket list and I'm so glad that we stopped there for a little bit. In fact, once we got off the plane, I could already tell that this summer would be full of opportunities and diversity. After our time in New York, we flew to Copenhagen and made our way to our dorm for the summer, Copenhagen Business School's Nimbuspark Residence located in Frederiksberg. During our stay in Denmark, so many things happened within the short six weeks that we were there. But, as a highlight, one of my favorite memories while being in Copenhagen is having a glass of wine while sitting on the canal banks in Nyhavn with Caitlin, one of my best study abroad friends from Liverpool, England. It was a perfect evening because we got to see the beautiful Copenhagen sunset as it shined on the canals and reflected off of the

beautifully colored houses while listening to the street performers and talking about life. Another one of my favorite memories while being in Copenhagen is remembering the feeling of nervousness but also reassurance while walking to our summer program's first introductory meeting. Although I was nervous because it was the first official event of the summer, it was one of the first times that my study abroad friend group hung out and met one another, which brought about a feeling of reassurance because I knew that we were all feeling the same anxious-excitement. Being able to grow close to people from England, Croatia, France, Hong Kong, and other parts of America was not something that I expected, but is something that I am whole-heartedly grateful for. The weeks flew by and before any of us knew it, we were all studying for our finals and had to say our bittersweet goodbyes. Denmark, Copenhagen Business School, and "Taco Night" (our friend group name) will always have a piece of me because of the lessons I learned, and memories I made. Finally, to wrap up my summer adventures, some of my friends and I took the opportunity of being in Europe and visited Rome, Italy for a couple of days then went to Paris, France for about a week. This ended up being a fantastic way to wrap up my summer because I got to experience additional cultures and their way of living, which only opened my horizons even more.

To wrap everything up, it's amazing to think and realize the impact studying abroad can have on someone. For me, it opened my horizons by exposing me to

different points of view, developed my professionalism and personal skillsets, and gave me a better sense of self. Meeting and befriending people from all around the world, even from countries that I did not know existed, allowed me to not only learn more about global and societal topics, but also develop traits that I would not have gained if I did not go abroad. For instance, before this summer, I thought languages were not that important since it just made communication a lot harder than it needed to be. However, now, I believe that without languages or other cultural differences, the world would not be the same as it is. There wouldn't be things to explore or adventures to undergo and the world would not have any of the rich colors that makes us all unique and individual. Also, from this experience, I became more independent, that in return, helped me to realize some of my passions and future goals, which I have been very unsure of for a while now. One of these goals is to pursue a graduate degree in Europe, a thought that I would never have conceived without studying abroad but also one that I fully intend on working towards. This summer, I gained a valuable mindset that could be described as wanderlust but is so much more than just that. I've developed a need to see the world, meet new and different people, and discover who I am layer by layer. All in all, if I were to sum up every lesson and memory from my experience into one sentence, it would be "The world is too big to stay stagnant."

Photos:

Dorm building, Nimbuspark:



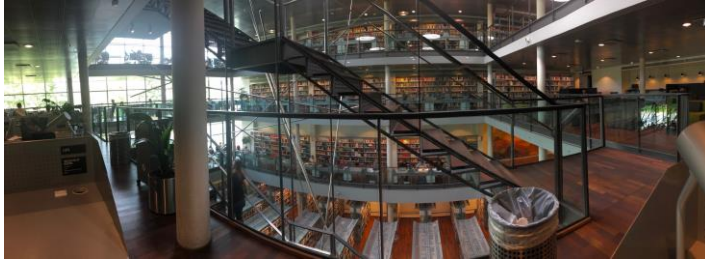
Panorama of our shared dorm kitchen:



Panorama of the dorm room I lived in:



Panorama of Copenhagen Business School's library, located in their main building,
Solberg Plads:



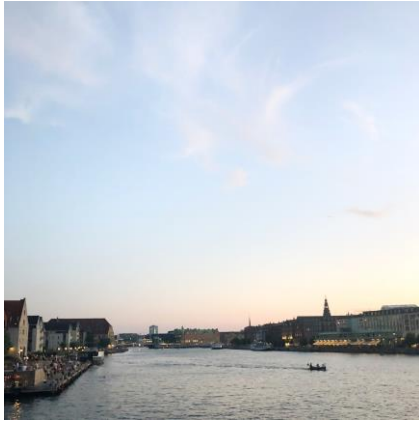
Copenhagen Business School Kilen Building:



Copenhagen Business School Dalgas Have Building:



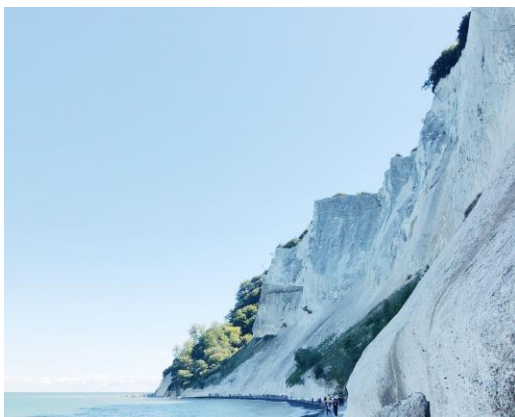
Copenhagen's famous Nyhavn neighborhood:



View from Copenhagen's famous "Round Tower":



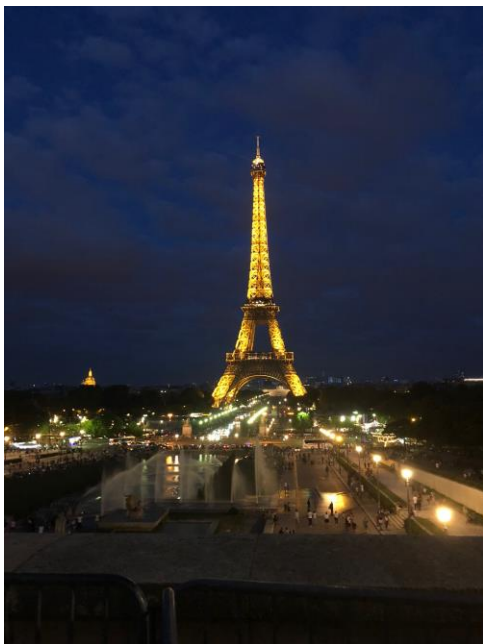
Denmark's famous "Møns Klint", a Cliffside made entirely of chalk:



Rome:



Paris:



Part of my friend group while abroad:



(Different places everyone in friend group is from: Hawaii, New York, England, Norway, Croatia, Canada, Australia, Switzerland, France)