

Presentation:

The Good Welcome

- How international students experience the Danish housing market and study environment

Done in 2011 by UngdommensAnalyseEnhed for the housing think tank of the Danish student movement DSK and the Danish Agency for Universities and Internationalisation

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Presentation:

1. The method of the survey
2. Background information
3. Who are the international students in the survey?
4. Experiences from the housing market
5. Reflections and questions

The method of the survey

- Internet questionnaire
- Quantitative questions + qualitative data from the respondents' comments to the various questions
- Forwarded to appx. 2.900 of the 5.617 participants in the 2011 Danish International Student Barometer
- 1.026 respondents during September 2011
- Comparison on key data from the 2011 Danish International Student Barometer confirms that the survey is representative

Background

- Growing interest in international students due to the ongoing global competition for young experts
- The number of international students in Denmark almost tripled from less than 10.000 in 2000 to almost 26.000 in 2009/2010
- Previous surveys and field experiences point to the housing market and lack of integration with Danish students as especially important problems

Background

2011 Danish International Student Barometer:

➤ **Accommodation cost:**

5 % below ISB benchmark – satisfaction down 5 % since 2008

➤ **Accommodation office:**

9 % below ISB benchmark

➤ **Halls welfare:**

10 % below ISB benchmark

➤ **Host friends:**

15 % below ISB benchmark – satisfaction down 3 % since 2008

Who are the international students in the survey?

- Europe, China, and Anglo-saxon countries abroad.
- 2 full degree students for every 1 exchange student.
- Age: exchange students are typically 20 to 25 years while more than half of the full degree students are 25 +.
- 3 women for every 2 men among exchange students – 1:1 among full degree students.
- For every 10 of them 5 live in Greater Copenhagen, 2 in Aarhus, 1 in Aalborg, and 2 in other cities.

Experiences from the housing market

- Where do they live?
- Satisfaction levels related to housing conditions
- Reasons for changing accommodation
- Differences between exchange and full degree students
- Housing preferences
- Social integration

Where do they live?

- 4 out of 10 live in dormitories/halls of residence.
- 3 out of 10 share a rented private room/apartment/house.
- 2 out of 10 live alone in a rented private room/apartment/house.
- For those who change accommodation during their stay in Denmark the general trend is moving away from dormitories/halls of residence and into sharing a rented private apartment/house with at least two rooms.

Satisfaction levels

Overall quality of accommodation:



Size of accommodation:



Interior and furnishing:



Accommodation costs:



Why do they change accommodation during their stay?

Almost every second change their accommodation one or more times during their stay in Denmark.

The five most cited reasons:

- | | |
|---|------|
| ➤ I was offered better accommodation | 48 % |
| ➤ I was offered cheaper accommodation | 40 % |
| ➤ My rental agreement expired | 38 % |
| ➤ I was dissatisfied with the rent | 34 % |
| ➤ I was dissatisfied with the travel distance to my educational institution | 29 % |

Differences between exchange students (ES) and full degree students (FDS)

1. Most ES live in dormitories/halls of residence while most FDS live in rented private homes

54 % – Dormitories/halls of residence – 36 %

36 % – Rented private homes – 56 %

2. A much larger proportion of FDS than ES change accommodation:

16 % – 64 %

3. A larger proportion of ES than FDS are satisfied with accommodation:

73 % – Size of accommodation – 60 %

57 % – Interior and furnishing – 45 %

69 % – Transport from home to education – 61 %

78 % – Transport from home to city centre – 70 %

71 % – Overall accommodation satisfaction – 64 %

Differences between exchange students (ES) and full degree students (FDS)

4. A far larger proportion among FDS than ES experiences termination of a temporary rental agreement as an important reason to change accommodation :

8 % – 22 %

5. A far larger proportion among ES than FDS received some kind of help from their Danish educational institution to find accommodation:

91 % – 67 %

6. A far larger proportion among ES than FDS was offered accommodation by their Danish educational institution:

74 % – 40 %

Differences between exchange students (ES) and full degree students (FDS)

7. Among those who received help to find accommodation more ES than FDS are satisfied with the help they received:

3 out of 4 – 3 out of 5

8. A far larger proportion among ES than FDS know before arriving in Denmark that they are ensured some kind of accommodation:

89 % – 69 %

Where would they prefer to live?

Accommodation preferences among international students living in dormitories /halls of residence:

- | | |
|---|------|
| ➤ Dormitory/hall of residence | 65 % |
| ➤ Share a rented private home with 2 or more rooms | 27 % |
| ➤ Alone in a rented private room | 23 % |
| ➤ Alone in a rented private home with 2 or more rooms | 14 % |

Social integration

Among the international students living in a dormitory or hall of residence:

- ***3 of every 4 have shared accommodation with Danish students and/or have had them as neighbours.***
 - More than 1 of every 3 has shared accommodation with Danish students.
 - Almost 3 of every 4 have had Danish students as neighbours.
- ***Almost 1 of every 4 has neither shared accommodation with Danish students nor had them as neighbours.***
 - Among these 2 of every 3 answers that they would have liked to live with Danish students.

Positive experiences from living together

- Among those who have shared accommodation with Danish students the Danish students is the single most popular group:
 - 39 % prefer to live with Danish students.
 - 35 % prefer to live with international students from other countries.
 - 6 % prefer to live with international students from their home country.
- Among those who have not shared accommodation with Danish students the Danish students are not most popular group:
 - 40 % prefer to live with international students from other countries.
 - 18 % prefer to live with Danish students.
 - 16 % prefer to live with international students from their home country.

The positive experiences...

“Hanging out with my Danish floormates are probably one of the most awesome and rewarding experiences ever. They have introduced me to the language, culture, and society.”

“It was very useful and nice to have the Danish students, they made me a part of their life. I went out with them, met new people and everything. And we stay very good friends.”

... and the less positive experiences

“Most of them [the Danes] were ignorant to us, did not speak in English when there were many Danes in the same area. On the other hand very polite and friendly. You just can’t make them friends.”

“Living or sharing with the Danes didn’t really help me understand better the Danish society, except the drinking culture. Not all of them, but mostly the Danish students, the ones I live with, are pretty close and introverted.”

“Honestly I think Danish students are not very interested in connecting to other nationalities or at least with some of them, so my experience was strictly professional and somehow disappointing.”

The sense of community between Danish and international students

“There is a satisfactory sense of community between Danish and international students where I live.”



Which facilities contribute to creating a sense of community?

Friday bar, parties and other social events	84 %
Recreational events (cafes, sport, concerts, etc.)	83 %
<i>Parties/social events in dormitories/halls of residence</i>	82 %
Study groups and group work	81 %
Introductory days for new international students	78 %
Mentor and buddy schemes	77 %
<i>Kitchens/shared facilities in dormitories/halls of res.</i>	69 %
Voluntary academic events (discussion clubs, debates)	64 %
Encouragement from lecturers/teachers to participate	61 %
NGO activities with other students	58 %
Lectures	56 %

Where did they actually find new friends?

Friday bar, parties and other social events	64 %
Study groups and group work	61 %
<i>Parties/social events in dormitories/halls of residence</i>	58 %
Introductory days for new international students	57 %
Lectures	47 %
<i>Kitchens/shared facilities in dormitories/halls of res.</i>	39 %
Recreational events (cafes, sport, concerts, etc.)	38 %
Mentor and buddy schemes	21 %
Voluntary academic events (discussion clubs, debates	14 %
Encouragement from lecturers/teachers to participate	10 %
NGO activities with other students	8 %

Friendship satisfaction

Almost 1 of every 3 has not made any new friends among the Danish students from their own study.



More than half have not made any new friends among the Danish students from other studies.



3 questions to reflect upon

1. What can we do to encourage positive interaction and a sense of community between local and international students in the dormitories and halls of residence?
2. What will help local students becoming good hosts to the international students in their dormitories and halls of residence?
3. What makes a good mix/balance between local and international students in dormitories and halls of residence?