

Experience Report – 6 months in Denmark

11.01.15 – 13.07.15

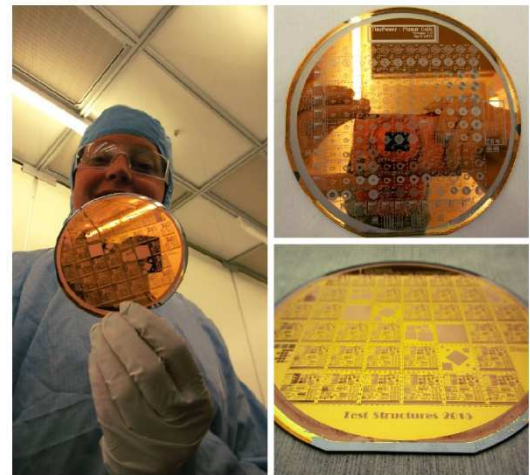
I have always been fascinated by Scandinavia and was delighted when IAESTE offered me an internship in Denmark. I worked in DTU Danchip, the National Centre for Micro- and Nanofabrication.

Upon arrival, I was picked up at the airport by an IAESTE volunteer, who brought me to my residence and help me to get settled in with all the administrative business. Following the Danish biking culture, I rode my bike every day to work and that always put me in a great mood to start my day. I loved my bike and cycling was a calm moment enabling me to clear my mind. As I was working on the campus of the university, it was possible to take Danish lessons and that's what I did. Now I can read a menu card in a restaurant, understand basic conversations, find my way around in a supermarket

and buy my train/bus ticket on my own. People at work were always very nice and friendly. When they heard that I was learning some Danish, they were all very enthusiastic about it and would all help me to progress. All in all, knowing a little Danish made my daily life so much easier and more enjoyable. Working in the cleanroom facilities of DTU Danchip was really interesting and challenging and there I learned a lot about the nano-world.

Concerning the country, Copenhagen is an amazing city. Its interesting architecture, mixing old monuments and newly designed buildings makes it particular and beautiful. There are many tasty restaurants, cosy coffees shops and bars with good music. As Denmark is a very flat country, it is very easy to go everywhere by bike. Thus, sightseeing by bike was a wonderful way to discover the city and the surroundings.

Socializing was quite easy as I was working on the university campus and living in a student dorm. The local IAESTE people were great fun and always had interesting plans for weekends.



Wafer production in the cleanroom facilities of DTU Danchip.

They made me discovered the local traditions such as Fastelavn (similar to our Carnaval or Fastnacht) and Skt-Hans.

My IAESTE-internship was a very enriching and unforgettable experience, which I would highly recommend to anyone searching for a break or something new during their studies. My stay in Denmark was filled with new friendships and discoveries. I learnt that biking is a real institution in Denmark and I will try to bring this good habit back with me as well as my bike (which survived the flight ☺). As always, there are some downsides and it would unfair not to mention them. The less pleasant sides of Denmark were the weather, typically cold and windy, the few hours of sunshine in winter and the flatness of the land. Nevertheless, I had an amazing time in Denmark and will miss the incredible city of Copenhagen and its people.



Bikes, bikes, bikes and more bikes all over Norreport station.



A typical postcard view of Copenhagen, Nyhavn and its colourful houses.



View of Copenhagen city at sunset.