

Sahil

From Mississauga to Denmark



From a shaky start to the time of my life

One year ago I could not even imagine the adventures that awaited me. Three months ago, I was in a foreign country feeling homesick and confused. Today, I'm having the time in my life in a country that is now so familiar to me, and I don't even want to think about going home.

I must say that my first month here in Denmark was really shaky, especially the first two weeks. There was the challenge of feeling homesick, making friends, and understanding/learning the new language. However, once school started everything got better. It kept me busy, so I had little time to think about home. My classmates accepted me with open arms and I immediately got to know them. Not to mention that language camp started, so I hopped on a bus to Jutland (West Denmark), for a week and met all of the 150 or so exchange students. These are some of the most amazing individuals I've met and are definitely friends for life. I celebrated my birthday there and at first I didn't want to spend it with random people that I had just met, but was extremely satisfied when my new friends celebrated with me. It was probably one of the best birthdays I have ever had. Not only did I make friends but in addition, I learned a lot of Danish that week. It was very informative and gave me the basics to start forming sentences on my own. For the following two weeks, I continued language school but in Copenhagen with the students from my district. Now I have language school once a week. Let the fun continue!

Aside from school I have been participating in extracurricular activities. I am involved in the school band where I play tenor saxophone. It is really enjoyable and I'm glad I get to continue practicing the instrument I had played back home. I'm also attending gymnastics with my host siblings. This is my first time trying this sport so, as you can imagine, I'm really not really good at it. I go four times a week for two hours at a time. It's a big time commitment but loads of fun. I have met many great athletes and I, myself, am getting better at this new sport.

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I'm still at my first host family and they are awesome. They are so comforting and kind, and give me a lot of freedom. I met all three of my families at my birthday party that my current host parents organized it for me right before I left for Jutland. All my families are really nice, and I'm looking forward to living with them. I move to my second family next week and I don't know how to feel; sad that I'm leaving or excited that I'm going somewhere new. All my host siblings are also really accommodating and include me in family fun time.

I attend Rotary meetings every week. I really enjoy going to them and it's a good way to get to know those who are sponsoring me. I also feel like I'm giving back to the community, by learning more about it and participating in volunteering events. It's all in Danish but it's fun in a way. It lets me keep up with my Danish and strive to learn new words. With the Rotary meetings, gymnastics, and school, my weekday schedule is completely packed.

I've been to Sweden a few of times now; with my host family and with my class. Being in Denmark makes it easy to travel throughout Europe. A lot of people have vacation houses, and they are easy enough to get to. I really want to go to Norway and Germany, and maybe even visit some exchange students from my home district.

The last thing I want to cover are the parties. They are so much fun. I get to meet new people every party I go to. School parties happen once a month and private parties happen every so often. I really love how my friends take care of me. They do things like offering me a place to stay for the night, and making sure that I am having a good time. I feel absolutely no peer pressure and everybody here is very respectful. All in all, I love it here and realize there is still so much fun and learning to be had.

Tak for dag!

Sahil