

**Who are you and what are you studying?**

My name is Anna and I studied Sozial- und Organisationspädagogik at the University of Hildesheim. After my bachelor's degree in January, I decided to do an internship abroad in Denmark. On the one hand, I wanted to gain practical experience after my studies and, on the other hand, to gain further experience abroad after my Erasmus semester in 2020.

**Where did you do an internship, how did you find the internship?**

I am currently doing a five-month internship at Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke Aarhus in Denmark. I found the internship in advance via the internet and applied. I was then invited to an interview and two weeks later I received my offer for an internship. The NGO Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke Aarhus works with many volunteers and activists for a just and sustainable world, with a focus on working with young people worldwide. My main tasks are the coordination of volunteers and the planning and implementation of thematic workshops and events. In addition, I have the opportunity to gain insights into campaign and public relations work, as well as to get to know the financial structures and working methods of an NGO. Mellempfolkeligt Samvirke Aarhus consists of an international team and many volunteers come from all over the world. I think that's particularly great, because such a cultural and linguistic exchange is possible and we can learn a lot from each other.

**Was there anything that surprised you about working abroad?**

I found the working mentality in Denmark to be very positive. A lot of attention is paid to finding a good balance between work life and private life. Overtime is rather unusual and a good working atmosphere is very important. The hierarchical structures within our team are quite inconspicuous, since everyone has the opportunity to contribute ideas and feedback. In addition, everyone uses the first name and often spends time together after work. In the beginning, I was surprised by the relaxed interaction between all colleagues, but I quickly got used to it and hope to bring this attitude back to Germany a little more.

**What did you get to know besides your internship, what did you like best?**

Aarhus is a great city for an internship abroad, as there are many cultural events, Aarhus is right by the sea and there are many international students in the city. In my free time I spend a lot of time on the beach and enjoy being by the sea. In addition to the beautiful nature around Aarhus, the city offers many events and activities, which are also offered in English. This makes it very easy to connect in Aarhus.

**Do you have any tips for other students who also want to do an internship abroad?**

I can only recommend an internship abroad during or after your studies. At the beginning, the whole application process, the search for an internship and an apartment and the new

environment can seem very challenging. But don't let that discourage you ;) An internship abroad offers you the great opportunity to get to know a new country, a new culture and lots of great new people. You can improve your language skills (or learn a completely new language :D) and at the same time gain practical experience alongside your studies. My tip would be to get enough information about the target country and the internship institution in advance in order to have a relaxed and successful start to the internship. I also found it helpful to keep in touch with my contact person at the internship institution beforehand, because I could be sure that everything was clarified and that there would be no misunderstandings when planning across national borders.

Thank you 😊