



Centrale
Nantes



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Double Degree

Master of Science in Digital Media Engineering

Centrale Nantes, France

Danmarks Tekniske Universitet, Danmark

2014/2016

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Why did you choose to do a double degree abroad?

It's compulsory to go abroad at Centrale Nantes. I thought that a double degree was the best option, as it gives the opportunity to really experience another country and culture. You cannot really do it within a few months. Besides, you follow an entire program in a University, giving you full competencies and another Master's degree, which is a plus on a CV.

Why DTU in Denmark?

It took me a lot of time to choose a university: first I wanted to improve my English, so it had to be in a country where they speak good English. Then, I decided to stay within Europe to be able to go home easily. The choice was then reduced to Scandinavia as I found interesting programs in different universities. This part of Europe seemed also more exotic than the UK and DTU offered the Master that interested me most.

How different was the education system?

It was very different. Even if you're in a specific Master's program, you have few compulsory courses and you can choose to orientate your education the way you want. The timetable is structured and group work is essential with a lot of projects. Even during lectures, you discuss with your neighbors about exercises while the teacher comes along if you have questions. You call everyone by their first names which removes some pressure when talking to teachers. Finally you're free to come to class or not: it's your responsibility, you are a grown-up.

And life on campus?

The campus is quite big, and well-equipped: canteens, bars, a 24/7 open library, sport facilities, and even a supermarket. Students are very international, there is an introduction in the beginning of the year and parties are organised every week in the bars. The library is huge, has tables for group work, computers, printers, and also allows you to relax when you need it, as it has a play room with TVs and video games. Most of the buildings have sofas in the corridors, where you can work or just chill with friends.

The courses were in English: what was your level before you left? How hard was it to follow classes?

My level in English was pretty good, but I never had to speak it in the daily life before. During my first day in the introduction week, I had to speak English the whole time and that made me really tired! But you get used to it very quickly, and as you are surrounded by international people that are not English native speakers either, it makes things easier.

Did you study Danish? Do you recommend to do so?

I studied Danish from the beginning and I'm now able to speak it. This isn't mandatory, as everyone speaks English. I just like learning new languages, and thought that it was nice to get deeper into the Danish culture by learning the language. It's a bit hard when you start and it takes some of your time but it's nice to speak Danish to mix a bit more in the local population, I recommend it.

What do you do now? (explain job and missions)

Together with a French guy I met at DTU, I got accepted to participate in a Danish program that helps creating startups. We will try to launch a new kind of fitness tracker, with an app.

Do you think your experience at DTU helped you get this position? Why?

DTU is very renowned in Denmark, so maybe it helped with our application to the program. Before that, I was doing an internship in UX (User Experience - an aspect of app design), the subject I specialized in at DTU, so it definitely helped. To work in Denmark, a DTU degree shows you are a good engineer.

What would you say to students who are thinking about studying abroad? Any advice?

Go for it! It is a great experience, where you grow personally and professionally. It's very positive if you want to do a career abroad, and it helps also in France. I would advise you to make the effort to really discover the culture and the locals, I think you enjoy even more the country if you do so.

Finally, can you tell me one of your best memories in Denmark?

There are so many! One of them is the first time I realized that the sun got up really early in the summer. It was during the DTU gala, in the beginning of May. We were all inside, not paying attention to what was happening outside. When I went out of the building (around 4am), I had to stop walking and stare at the sky because I was so amazed to see already a bright sun outside at that time of the night. I did not expect that!

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Don't miss out on your experience abroad! It's easy to stay between French people but instead, use the most of the great opportunity you have to be abroad and that will help you a lot in your future life, both personally and professionally. Remember to check the Erasmus network once you are there, it's much more developed abroad than in France and they organize a lot of events to meet new people, discover the culture, or travel around.