

Dual Career Newsletter

APRIL 2024

INTERNATIONAL STAFF MOBILITY



UPCOMING EVENTS

Karrieredagene

17 April

[Free—sign up here!](#)

ISM event at Frederiksberg Castle

21 April, 11-13

[Free-sign up here!](#)

Q&A on Danish Language

25 April, 10—11

[Free-sign up here!](#)

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- Belén González
Italy & Argentina
- Daeun Song
Korea
- Erumalla Venkatanagaraju
India
- Margarida Beatriz
Portugal
- Natalia Campos Rivera
Mexico
- Toh Jia Ying Pearlyn
Singapore

Dear Members of the Dual Career ~ Spouse Network

Welcome to April in Copenhagen! On a beautiful day like today it is obvious that Spring is upon us. It is the time of the year, where Copenhageners return to the outdoors to soak up the first sun rays of the year in the local parks and the many cafés. The sun spreads a feeling of joy all around the city.

This month we would like to highlight some of the incredible outdoor activities you can do this Spring and Summer, when the weather has finally turned around for the better. This includes visiting some of the extraordinary castles around the city and explore their nearby gardens.

Among others, the Frederiksberg Castle is an impressive castle located in Frederiksberg Gardens. Today it hosts the Royal Danish Defense as an education facility where attendees will be educated and trained by the Danish Defence forces to solve the unique tasks of the Danish Defence. The castle is rarely open to the public as it is still used by royalty to host dances, but on Sunday the 21st of April, [we get a guided tour of the building](#). We

will see the Knights' Hall, the Chinese Room, the beautiful church, and much more!

Other than Frederiksberg Castle, we can also recommend [Rosenborg Castle](#), located in Kongens Have. The castle was originally built in 1606-1607 as a summerhouse by order of Christian IV. The building itself is stunning, but it is also possible to pay the inside of the castle a visit, if you desire this. Here, you can visit the Treasury to see the Danish Crown jewels for yourself. Further than these, there are of course many more beautiful old buildings around Copenhagen that are worth visiting!

Lastly, we would like to remind you to keep an eye on our website for upcoming events and workshops—a lot is happening this spring!

Kind regards,

Mary K. Kobia, Diana Lund Nordstrøm & Katrine Sandahl Mortensen

[ISM Dual Career Team – University of Copenhagen](#)

” No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn. April is a promise that May is bound to keep, and we know it

— Hal Borland

Spotlight: Prepare yourself, but do not over prepare!



[Jordi Vegas Macias](#)

From: Spain

PhD Fellow in Tourism at [Roskilde University](#)

How long did it take for you to find a job in DK?

I knew that moving to Denmark and finding a new job would be challenging. I had the ambition to do a PhD in the area of Copenhagen and it took me seven months to finally find a position that would fit my professional and personal interests. During the process, I had a few contacts with research institutes, universities and consultancy companies which made me apply for positions that were very interesting but not linked to what I studied for. That made me realize that I had to intensify my job research and be patient to

find the right opportunity, which came as an open vacancy for a PhD position in my field. The last part of the story is a happy ending after a three-month period of preparations through a selection process and a final interview with the university.

What has been most challenging about your job search?

This was my first time looking for a job in a formal or standard procedure. Before, I made use of my contacts and networks to find positions that motivated me and pushed forward my professional career. In that sense, being a newbie in the job research process, I had an outdated way to look at it which made me realize that I had to invest time and energy to learn about job portals, social media platforms, how to prepare a resume and a cover letter.

What is your best advice to someone who is not living in DK, but looking for a job there?

I would say that finding a job in Denmark requires to adapt your resume and your cover letter according to the Danish market and how skills, personality and experience are perceived. I would invest time to prepare these documents well and be patient in the search. One thing that is very important is to be enthusiastic about why you want to live and work in Denmark.

How has IDCN helped you?

Where to start... I think IDCN helped me at two important levels, all thanks to [Mary and the team behind](#). Firstly, the methodology they have to guide you through several steps, provide you tools and advice that are tailor-made and the dedication to spend time to listen to you is priceless. They provided me with the best advice from a technical perspective which made a huge positive impact in quality and content to my

resume and my understanding of myself as a professional. Secondly, the empathy and human quality of Mary makes you feel relaxed, confident and positive about the job searching process. This is very helpful when you have someone who really listens to you and helps you to unlock your potential.

What surprised you the most about the Danish job interview?

I found the Danish job interview to be more relaxed and open than expected. I liked the fact that they didn't ask you much about your experience and skills, but more about your motivations. I felt at ease, and I could immediately connect with the interviewers. One thing I also enjoyed was the fact to ask questions about themselves and their own motivations, turning around the interview table a bit to also understand better the other side of the table.

What is your best advice to someone going for a job interview?

Prepare yourself, but do not over prepare. Being natural is the best you can do and give

some personal examples when you try to explain a situation, even if you think that it is not the usual. Make sure to show your real side, to be polite and to thank them for making the time to interview you and to pose some interesting questions.

What kept you going – your motivation, when things didn't always turn out the way you expected?

When you look for a specific job position, you know that it can take time. Being mentally prepared before the start helped me to not lose hope and to not fall into desperation. I trusted the process and I believed in my own capacities and competencies to find the right job. I also advise those searching for a job that contacting professionals such as the ICDN team helps, and they should not think twice about it.

What are you most excited about doing in your new job?

Everything. I can't remember how many times I dreamt about doing a PhD. It was even my birthday wish in December, and six days later it came true. My new job position will allow

me to work on my very own project, in the city of Copenhagen, take an important step in my professional career and be surrounded by a great team. I can't ask for more.

Reflecting on your job seeking process and experiences in DK, what advice do you have to give to other spouses?

Contact IDCN, no matter your experience, field, position... They will help you navigate through the whole process with professionalism and kindness. I wish I had contacted them earlier. At the same time, it is important to stay motivated, open to new possibilities and be flexible if other job positions might be available too.



**Roskilde University
Denmark**

