Dear Members of the Dual Career ~ Spouse Network,

Isn’t it amazing that it is possible that it continuously rains in Copenhagen for days and days. We are sorry to mention the weather again, but I am sure you also got affected by it—one way or another. We just assume (and hope) that weather in April is going to be amazing and we would like to give you some good outdoor and indoor (just in case 😊) tips.

No matter how much it rains, on 16 April, HM Queen Margrethe II’s birthday takes place. Every year, the birthday is marked by the Queen and her family at Amalienborg Palace, where they step out on the balconies to greet everybody at noon. The square in front of the palace is usually filled with people, who wish the Queen happy birthday.

We also suggest you check out the Copenhagen Architecture Festival - CAFx. It was founded in 2014 and now has satellite festivals taking place in Aarhus and Odense as well. It aims to rethink the representation of architecture, highlighting its qualities and diversity and creating discussion.

As a visitor, you can enjoy and participate in film screenings, talks, walks, debates, master classes, workshops, conferences and major international exhibitions. Every year, the festival centers around a specific theme, and this year it is Changing Ideals. The idea for this theme comes from the 100 year jubilee of the Bauhaus Movement and The Danish Social Housing Sector.

The Easter break—for school children— is a time for many families to be together. The large attractions and museums usually have a number of special, Easter teamed events for visitors and locals of all ages. The time of the Easter break changes every year and so does the events, but places like Tivoli, the Zoo and Bakken are always worth an Easter visit. Furthermore, many Danish families celebrate the Easter with a traditional Danish Easter lunch.

If you like cherry blossom trees, please do read more information in our last years’ newsletter about the Sakura Festival.

Also remember, that you are always welcome to visit us in International House—we have coffee and tea ready for you. You probably meet other interesting people. You can always join IDCN’s Kaffemik, then you are sure you meet fascinating people.

See you soon!

Mary K. Kobia and Mark de Vos

Some people can't be fooled on April Fool’s Day because they were fooled too many times during their entire lifetime.

Akash B Chandran
Dual Career Newsletter

Spotlight: Pursuing a career in academia!

Wenjie Qian
From China
PhD, Materials Science
Industrial Postdoc at the University of Copenhagen and SP Group A/S

How long did it take for you to find a job in DK? I have been living in Copenhagen since September 2018. It took me 3 months to find my current job.

What has been most challenging about your job search? The most challenging for me was the job search and finding relevant jobs!

What surprised you the most about the Danish job interview? I was surprised to experience the importance of also highlighting one’s motivation when it comes to the more soft questions e.g. when I was asked about my future career plans will be in Denmark.

What kept you going when things didn’t turn out the way you expected? I am not so afraid of failure and sometimes when things do not go as planned or I don’t get the result I want, I try to focus on I did my best! Even though the result is not as expected, I know I can always gain some new knowledge such as valuable experience, new networks etc. I’m very glad that my family always supports me!

What are you most excited about doing in your new job? My background is in academia. I’ve always worked in universities or institutions, and this new job is a collaborative between academia and industry. I am very excited about this new role, because I have the chance to explore a new area and work on realising technological transfers of our laboratory products.

What is your best advice to someone new who is job seeking? It’s important to be prepared! Have a good presentation that introduces who you are and also explains your experience. Be clear in your communication and guide the conversation with clear thoughts, and don’t be afraid to go straight into the conversation. Last but not least be polite and confidence!

Reflecting back on your job seeking process and experiences in DK, what advice do you have to give to other spouses? Take advantage of all the services that are there to help you in your job search, use your own network and be professional in your field, as well as eager to learn new things!

The Dual Career Services at ISM is really useful! Actually, I modified my CV and cover letter exactly as the training they gave. Their websites for looking for jobs do have a lot of useful information. I think they do a wonderful job!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Facilitator
Dorthe Kingo Vesterlund
Project Coordinator at Copenhagen Career Program

13 March
10:00 - 13:00
Alternative Job Search Methods
Why Wage Subsidy or 4 weeks Internship? What does it mean and how does it work?
As an accompanying spouse pursuing a career in Denmark you have the possibility to apply for measures promoting employment. These measures are known as internships (4-13 weeks) or employment with salary subsidy (3-6 months) - løntilskud in Danish. Come and get more information about these alternative job search methods and how they work!
Registration

Facilitator
Dr. Nadya Dich
Stress researcher

4 April
09:00 -12:30
Stress in your expat life: How to detect and manage it?
Why does one get stressed? What does stress and anxiety do to the body? How to reduce and overcome stress?
These questions and many more will all be answered, at this unique event where we have the pleasure of meeting Dr. Nadya Dich, who is a stress researcher and educator!
Registration

Find out more about other upcoming events using this link.