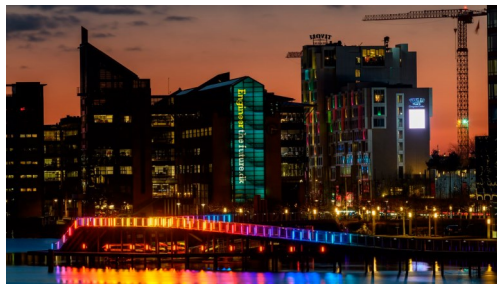


Dual Career Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2025

INTERNATIONAL STAFF MOBILITY



UPCOMING EVENTS

Copenhagen Light Festival

31 January—23 February

[Read more here!](#)

CopenHill

23 February 10:45—12:30

[Free—sign up here!](#)

Dual Career Job Café

25 February 9:00—11:00

[Free—sign up here!](#)

Welcome

- Catalina Yañez Martinez
Chile
- Emily Barr
Ireland/Great Britain
- Min Kou
China
- Natacha N. Ahumada
Chile
- Pedro Milho
Portugal
- Reuben Rajadhyaksha
India

Dear Members of the Dual Career ~ Spouse Network

As February approaches, so do the longer and brighter days. While we still have one winter month left, Copenhagen is here to light up your daily life with the annual [Copenhagen Light Festival!](#)

At the Light Festival, you can experience a wide range of light-based works, whether you're a kid, teenager, or adult. You can take a stroll through the city and enjoy the light installations for free!

Another exciting event in February is the ["Vinterjazz" festival](#). It is a club festival that kick-starts the season for the many Danish jazz clubs. You can experience the festival at different venues, with the opportunity to meet international stars on tour and discover new Danish award-winning projects and curated concert themes. Some concerts are free and some require a ticket—take a look at the program [here](#).

In the upcoming spring, [International Staff Mobility](#) offers a series of popular, unique, and interactive onsite workshops and events. Including our Dual Career Job Cafés where you can network in an informal setting with one of our career experts and other spouses. The Job Cafés are designed to help spouses with their job hunting and adjustment to the Danish society, so that all our spouses can thrive in their career journeys.

On the following pages, you can enjoy not one, but two success stories from our amazing spouses who have benefitted from the support of the Dual Career Network.

Kind regards,

Mary K. Kobia & Celia Ehm Krüger-Larsen

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

”

No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn.

— Hal Borland

Spotlight: IDCN has been a game-changer!



Ranjitha Ramakrishnan

From: India

Post Doctoral Researcher at

Danmarks Tekniske Universitet (DTU)

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

My serious job search began in 2022, after returning from India, where I spent time with family following the birth of my second son. In total, it took about two years of focused effort to find the right position, as I was committed to finding the best opportunity.

What has been most challenging about your job search?

The hardest part was rebuilding my confidence and convincing

both myself and potential employers that I was the right candidate, especially considering my extended career break due to two close pregnancies and prioritizing family during the pandemic.

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

Start early and plan carefully. The job market in Denmark is competitive, with many qualified candidates already established here and others entering each year through local programs. It is helpful to build a network, tailor your applications, and stay persistent.

How has IDCN helped you?

[The International Dual Career Network \(IDCN\)](#), was my first key connection to the Danish labour market after moving here in 2017. Their practical networking events helped me integrate, adapt to the local culture, and improve my job applications. In the year leading up to my job confirmation, I attended at least seven events organized by ISM or IDCN, connecting

with five new professionals at each. This experience significantly boosted both my networking opportunities and professional growth.

What surprised you the most about the Danish job interview?

The interviews were refreshingly conversational and relaxed, which helped put me at ease despite my usual nervousness as an introvert. Beyond qualifications, interviewers seemed genuinely interested in getting to know me as a person and assessing my fit with the team. Also, they do not expect you to know everything.

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

Prepare thoroughly – practice out loud, not just in your head. The more you know and rehearse, the more confident and natural you'll be in presenting yourself. Also, keep your expectations realistic; understand your strengths and be aware of the challenges internationals often face in the Danish job market. And don't forget to wear a smile; it can go a long way toward making a positive impression.

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

I stayed motivated by focusing on both my strengths and areas for growth, reminding myself that improving certain skills would benefit me personally and professionally. I was committed to growth and found support from family, friends, and mentors along the way. I also reminded myself that each step, no matter how small, brought me closer to my goal. Taking breaks and doing things I enjoy helped keep my energy and determination high.

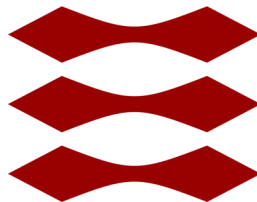
What are you most excited about doing in your new job?

What excites me most about my new job is being part of a team dedicated to building a more sustainable future through innovation. The goal is to develop solutions that capture, process, and recycle CO² from the atmosphere and factories, using it as a raw material for new products. It's about creating a better future by harnessing resources that already exist in nature, like enzymes, through biocatalysts. In my role, I get to research, design, and use enzymes to turn CO² into industrial chemicals, all aimed at making society more sustainable.

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

Don't underestimate the power of networking. Focus especially on building "weak ties"- connections with people you don't know well but who work in roles you aspire to at companies you're interested in. These connections can open doors to new information, contacts, and job opportunities. People you know well often work in similar circles, so they're less likely to introduce you to new opportunities.

DTU



Spotlight: IDCN has been a game-changer!



Sumandeep Samal

From: India

Technical Scrum Master at

De Sammensluttede Vognmænd (DSV)

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

It took me 18 months to find a job in Denmark.

What has been most challenging about your job search?

Honestly, the journey from applying for a role to getting shortlisted involves many steps, such as having a professional network to help with your application, creating new networking opportunities, and cold calling hiring managers. The challenge is trusting the

process, even though it may not always work out.

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

Learn about the Danish work culture and the companies you're interested in. Understand the application process and work on your CV and pitch beforehand. Get to know your industry and the ecosystem, and try to connect with existing professional networks before coming to Denmark. Connect on LinkedIn with people working in similar roles.

How has IDCN helped you?

Apart from all the knowledge that Mary has about the job market, [The International Dual Career Network \(IDCN\)](#), offers access to a skilled expat community unlike any other. Working daily with my team and being able to practice my team management and leadership skills during my career break has been irreplaceable. Also, working with such a diverse and talented group of people has been invaluable.

What surprised you the most about the Danish job interview?

Having read a lot about Danish interviews and what to expect, I felt quite prepared for the structure of the discussion. Most interviewers wanted to understand my working style and mindset more than my specific skills.

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

Think of an interview like a discussion with a work colleague. Listen carefully, ask clarifying questions before answering, stay calm, and do your research about the team, company, and colleagues. Read through the job description in detail and use relevant examples from your experience. Above all, remember that your interviewer is looking for a good teammate.



Global Transport and Logistics

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

Speaking with my wonderful IDCN colleagues and sharing our struggle puts things into perspective and reminds me of my motto: Be consistent, Be deliberate, and Believe.

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

Getting back into an organization and learning from the talented colleagues around me!

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

Make sure your resume, cover letters, emails etc. effectively showcase your experience and quality. Keep refining your resume and your networking approach. Reach out to relevant people and network strategically. As a spouse, you also need to set realistic expectations, as the job search requires a lot of effort and can be time-consuming.

ABOUT IDCN

[IDCN Copenhagen](#) was founded by the University of Copenhagen in March 2016. Four other organisations joined the initial IDCN Copenhagen Steering Committee: DTU - Technical University of Denmark, Mærsk, Novo Nordisk, and Vestas. These companies recognised that international staff are more likely to stay long-term when their partners and families become a valued part of the community. For most spouses, this means finding gainful employment.

We estimate that there are 10,000 unemployed spouses in the Copenhagen region. IDCN Copenhagen has grown rapidly, and we now have 22 Corporate Members. Our members are very diverse in what they do, which is great news for our partner members.

The IDCN network is active all around the world and you can keep up with the IDCN Copenhagen team on [LinkedIn](#).

