We have an exciting month coming up, as November is now approaching! November this year is especially exciting, as the general election will take place on Tuesday, November 1st. As a general election is only happening every fourth year, this day is quite special! Maybe you have noticed the many posters hanging around your neighbourhood or the many politicians standing on every corner, during the busy morning traffic, eager to get your vote? Well, this year it is looking to be a close election, so have an eye on the results next week!

However, the general election is not all that is happening this November. Among other things, we have planned a guided tour for you at the Danish War Museum. Here you can learn more about the Danish war history or experience a Danish military camp from Afghanistan. You can already sign up now to secure your free spot!

Even though November can be long, cold, and dark for some, there are still many things to do throughout the month. Many of the annual Christmas markets and decorations will start by the end of the month. The city will transform from rainy and grey to sparkling and joyful. Some of the light decorations will be up again this year, to keep the spirit of Christmas alive. And who knows—maybe we will get the first snow of the year as well?

The end of the year also means that it is time to fill out your Danish tax return. If you too feel a little uncertain about the Danish tax system and what to do, when filling out the forms, the Danish Universities have organized a tax webinar in collaboration with the Danish tax authorities, where participants will have the opportunity to ask questions directly to the Danish Tax Agency staff. You can join free of charge but registration is necessary. You can sign up at our website!

We wish you a very great month ahead, and we hope that you, despite the rain and cold weather, will have some cosy days with great company!

Mary K. Kobia, Mark de Vos & Katrine Sandahl Mortensen
ISM Dual Career Team – University of Copenhagen

“Welcome sweet November, the season of senses and my favorite month of all.”
– Gregory F. Lenz
Naireen Fatima
From India
Research scientist at SNIPR Biome

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

What has been most challenging about your job search?
The most challenging part was to understand Danish work culture and environment. Denmark has a trust-based society and employers here give equal importance to skills and personality that fit the team. I decided to start working through løntilskud (salary subsidy) in a lab at the University of Copenhagen. This job gave me a chance to get acquainted to the Danish work culture and gain working experience in Denmark.

What is your best advice to someone who is not living in DK, but looking for a job there?
Get information about Dos and Don’ts of the work culture and job market, through someone who is living in Denmark (preferably someone from your own country having similar profession).

How has IDCN helped you?
IDCN helped me in many different ways: 1) getting in touch with mentors where I prepared on CV building, cover letter writing and interviews 2) getting access to really amazing workshops on personality building and skill development while working as a volunteer at IDCN 3) creating entirely new professional and personal network in Copenhagen, 4) cultural awareness and in making new friends.

It is a very useful platform to explore Danish job market, helps one to come out of your comfort zone and keeps you active and motivated on the job search process. I am especially thankful to my IDCN mentors Mark de Vos and Mary K. Kobia for their unconditional support and constant encouragement, during this tough period.

What surprised you the most about the Danish job interview?
Personality fit in the team is given slightly more weightage over professional capabilities.

What is your best advice to someone going for a job interview?
Be culturally intelligent, in good spirits, open, honest, respectful and be yourself.

What kept you going – your motivation, when things didn’t always turn out the way you expected? Where did you find support?
Multiple factors helped, like listening to and following the motivational speakers; planning my week on different activities like going on different types of workshops; getting out of home with a focus on your aim and a purpose to gain something new in the direction of your aim; talking to someone in the same situation.

What are you most excited about doing in your new job?
I am excited to meet new colleagues and working on an entirely new project which is very different one from my earlier research experiences. I see this new job as one of the dots that would be a turning point in my career path, so I am really looking forward to what it has for me.

Reflecting back on your job seeking process and experiences in DK, what advice do you have to give to other spouses?
I would suggest spouses to start reaching out to people from your field or those you think can guide you and provide information on how things work/don’t work in Danish job market.

Start learning Danish language as soon as possible. People get a job without learning Danish however knowing language gives you an extra edge.
How long did it take for you to find a job in DK?
I took me one year to find a job in Denmark.

What has been most challenging about your job search?
Defining clearly the direction where I would like to continue my career path was the biggest challenge I faced during my job search.

What surprised you the most about the Danish job interview?
I was surprised how nice people were during my job interviews, they were just trying to get to know me well.

What is your best advice to someone going for a job interview?
Before going to an interview, it is important to be prepared!
Identify what are the needs of the company and take time to write down your success stories so you can easily share examples of how you can help them.

What kept you going – your motivation, when things didn’t always turn out the way you expected? Where did you find support?
It was hard for my self-esteem to receive rejections specially when I thought I had a good profile but I kept in mind that rejection is redirection and it was probably not the right opportunity for me.

What are you most excited about doing in your new job?
I am very excited about working in a startup, I believe it will be a great opportunity to build things (almost) from scratch.

Reflecting back on your job seeking process and experiences in DK, what advice do you have to give to other spouses?
I would advice to anyone coming in a new country to learn the local language, I think it is important to feel integrated in your new home country!

Charlotte Boissard
From France
Senior Formulation Scientist at Nøie

IDCN provided me a lot of good energy and precious tips to support me during this period.