Dear Members of the Dual Career ~ Spouse Network

Summer is all over us! The sun has been shining from a clear blue sky and the Danish summer has shown us its very best side. Remember to enjoy it while it lasts!

During summer in Denmark, there are many exciting things to do. Especially, there are many different festivals all over the country, which you can participate in.

Last week, the biggest music festival in Northern Europe, Roskilde Festival, took place. This year, Kendrick Lamar, Lil Nas X, and Lizzo, among many others, performed. But this was only the beginning to a long summer filled with music and good energy.

Until the 9th of July, you can listen to a lot of lovely jazz at Copenhagen Jazz Festival. And if you are not in Copenhagen, Aarhus Jazz Festival runs from 15th—22nd of July. This is a perfect opportunity for a little trip outside of Copenhagen, while also enjoying some new and interesting music.

If you would like to visit some of the many islands in Denmark, Samsø Festival is a great festival to visit. This is a smaller, but also family friendly festival, where you get to enjoy some beautiful Danish nature, while listening to a lot of great music. Especially Danish music!

In August, the second biggest festival in Denmark, Smuk Fest, takes place in Skanderborg, Jutland. This is a very cozy festival in the middle of a forest, where big names in music often performs. This year, Jason Durulo and David Guetta performs, among many other big Danish music names. Smuk Fest is known to be both a festival for the young, old and the families, and there will definitely be something for everyone to listen to.

If you are more into culinary festivals, both Aarhus Food Festival and Copenhagen Cooking and Food Festival takes place this summer too. These are a great way to explore Nordic Cuisine in a different way, while enjoying the Danish summer with friends. Overall, there are many different festivals to visit!

Kind regards,

Mary K. Kobia, Diana Lund Nordstrøm & Katrine Sandahl Mortensen
ISM Dual Career Team – University of Copenhagen

“July is a blind date with summer.”

- Hal Borland
How long did it take for you to find a job in DK?
I was actively job searching for 18 months, before landing a job in DK.

What has been most challenging about your job search?
The most challenging aspect of job searching was deciding whether or not to take a new career path and the types of roles that piqued my interest. I have a social work background, working with families and youth, because of language barriers and a lack of local experience, I found it quite challenging to find a similar role here in Denmark. This motivated me to learn Danish and to also explore other career paths where my skills and experience could be a good match.

What is your best advice to someone who is not living in DK, but looking for a job there?
Research companies that you are interested in working with, and check out the company culture - how do they fit with your own values and ambitions? Reach out and connect with professionals and companies on LinkedIn to help build your network. You can also read and talk to people about the Danish job culture and social culture to better understand what to expect as an international living and working in Denmark.

How has IDCN helped you?
Since joining IDCN Copenhagen in 2021, I've expanded my professional network and connected with many amazing internationals and Danes. IDCN has helped me grow my skills and experience and learn new skills through workshops and events that focus on practical career skills and networking.

I also had the immense pleasure to volunteer with IDCN Copenhagen with both the Events team and Management team. Volunteering has been an invaluable experience, and taking on a new role and tasks allowed me to connect with so many others who have gone through similar experiences, challenge me to go beyond my comfort zone and build confidence while being supported and mentored the whole way through.

What surprised you the most about the Danish job interview?
One thing that surprised me about Danish job interviews was the focus on personality and social aspects. It’s important to

Karen Furner
From: Australia
Office Manager at Grazper Technologies ApS

Spotlight: Volunteering at IDCN charged me with energy!
Danes to have a healthy work-life balance and they really work towards creating this culture in the workplace.

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

My best tip for anyone going for a job interview in Denmark would be to not be afraid to ask questions about the work culture and the team; and to be prepared with some examples of how you can contribute to the team's overall goals. And of course, to be calm 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?**

Chocolate croissants and other delicious pastries - Copenhagen has the most incredible bakeries and they did make some of the tougher days sweeter.

I believe it's really important to look after your mental health and well-being when things don't turn out the way we hope they would. Going for walks, yoga, chatting with family and friends back home, and volunteering all kept me going.

The other key ingredient to staying motivated was making new connections through IDCN - with members, volunteers and mentors. Through our shared experiences and connections, it gives another level of support and motivation on our career and personal journeys.

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

In my new job, I am most excited about expanding my skills in a totally different industry and being able to grow and shape the role as the company grows.

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

Make time to explore your own career dreams and goals along with your skills and experiences. What do you really enjoy doing, what are you good at, and where would you like to improve and develop new skills?

Use LinkedIn to connect with professionals already working in your desired fields, as well as your own network. Reach out and talk to people, get to know and understand the work culture and see how it aligns with your own values and culture. Don’t be afraid to explore paths outside of your comfort zone, you never know where it can lead you. This helped me a lot to see job opportunities I would not have considered previously. And finally, make a plan - write it down and give yourself a timeline to stay motivated, and on days where you need a time-out do something that brings you joy - we all need a time-out from job searching!