Dual Career Newsletter

DECEMBER 2023

Dear Members of the Dual Career ~ Spouse Network

Welcome to another Christmas here in wonderful Copenhagen! Or maybe this is your first Christmas here? Then you are in for a treat.

Danes love their Christmas traditions, so you can be sure to see Christmas decorations and markets all over the city this month. If you had the chance to join our tour to the Christmas Market at Dyrehavsbakken this weekend, you had the chance to learn a bit about Danish Christmas traditions and maybe try a few Danish Christmas treats. If you didn’t have the chance to join, we will make sure to inform you about many other Christmas markets around the city on our Facebook page.

Throughout December, we also have different workshops happening at ISM. On the 4th of December we host the workshop “Study in Denmark: Exploring international education options and pathways” from 9 to 12:30, where we will explore the Danish Academic Education system from an international perspective, covering full-time education, part-time education, and shorter courses. On the 14th of December from 10 to 12, we have a little less work-related event, as we host the “End of season celebration and tour of the University Square”, where you can join a Christmas themed event where with a tour of the historical University building in the University square. You will learn about the history of the buildings as well as being able to appreciate the beauty of them. After the tour we will create a bit of Danish julehygge for you - with hot cacao and æbleskiver (A Danish Christmas treat).

Lastly, we will once again visit the Copenhagen City Hall this December, as we usually do. Here, you can enjoy a tour with a fantastic guide who is going to tell us all the tales and secrets of the building! After the guided tour you will be served a glass of sparkling wine and a serving of “rådhuspandekager” (City Hall pancakes).

We hope to see you at some of the events and wish you a very Merry Christmas!

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

"Christmas is doing a little something extra for someone."

— Charles Schulz
Amalie Rüther
From: Germany
HR Advisor at Capgemini Deutschland

How long have you been looking for a job in DK?
1,5 years

What has been most challenging about your job search?
The biggest challenge for me was to adjust to the Danish job market and get invitations to interviews.

What is your best advice to someone who is not living in DK, but looking for a job there?
Don’t hesitate to reach out to people and ask for help as early as possible. Try to identify people who work in your area through LinkedIn and ask them for a coffee or a chat on the phone. Start learning Danish.

How has IDCN helped you?
IDCN has helped me in many ways. I participated in a lot of different workshops where I learned more and more about the Danish job market. But the best part about IDCN was my volunteer role in the Management Team. It was a lot of fun to work in a truly international team. The role gave me tasks and responsibilities to fulfill, which gave me a feeling of doing more "purposeful work with immediate results" instead of only writing applications. Last but not least the position gave me the chance to build a professional network in Denmark.

What surprised you the most about the Danish job interview?
I was most surprised about the rather personal questions which were asked during job interviews, e.g. regarding family background, hobbies, my partner’s occupation etc.

What kept you going – your motivation, when things didn’t always turn out the way you expected?
My role within IDCN and my team gave me a lot of energy as well as meeting people within my networking activities who were truly willing to help.

Reflecting back on your job seeking process and experiences in DK, what advice do you have to give to other spouses?
1) It helps if you know what you are looking for, if you can define that for yourself and communicate that clearly to others.
2) Do your research on your field.
3) Be strategic about your networking as well (e.g. do I want to gather information for the research phase? Do I want a specific contact? Do I just want the chance to present myself?)
4) Find a good balance between networking and sending applications.