Dear Members of the Dual Career ~ Spouse Network

Are you already prepared for the autumn? You’d better be, because you can feel on the weather and especially see on the nature that soon we need to explain everybody again about hygge [see our 2016 newsletter] and the importance of finding cozy things to do, without get soaking wet because of the rain.

Before you gear up for extreme hygge inside your apartment or house, we give you some exciting outdoors tips for October. We suggest that you look for different Halloween events, because during the last years there have been plenty of scary and exciting experiences in Denmark.

On the 12th of October Halloween at Tivoli starts. Each year, the beautiful old gardens are transformed into a Halloween universe with witches, scarecrows and lots of entertainment – a must for everyone in the city at that time of year!

Halloween in Legoland gives you the opportunity to crawl inside a huge Lego pumpkin, and to meet many of the scary Lego figures around the park. This is a great experiences for children.

If you feel like experiencing Halloween in a scary castle or kloster, Denmark has some good options. Valdemar’s Castle, a stunning palace on the island of Tåsinge near Svendborg, in southern Denmark, will have a series of spooky Horror Nights. With several ‘horror zones’ to explore – be prepared to be scared.

Esrum Kloster, north of Copenhagen, is a darkened monastery that will be filled with vivid lights and eerie soundscapes around Halloween. Enjoy snacks and nibbles while you explore the monastery and walk alongside the souls of the dead. Perhaps even encourage them to let go of this world and move to the ‘other side’.

When you decide to stay at home, remember to buy a lot of candy, because in a lot of places many scary dressed up kids will knock on your door, and scream “slik eller ballade” (candy or trouble) when you open your door.

Another scary experience can be starting at your new job in Denmark. After a period of job hunting, finally you got a job and are going to start. We organise a Spouse Lunch on how you can make the most out of the first 100 days in your new job!

We wish you a great and scary October and we are looking forward to meeting you in International House!

Mary K. Kobia and Mark de Vos

On Halloween, the parents sent their kids out looking like me.

Rodney Dangerfield
How long did it take for you to find a job in Denmark? It did not take a few months to find a job. I found myself needing employment – and rapidly – in Copenhagen when my wife accepted a chair in Sociology at UCPH in June 2018.

As part of my wife’s ‘arrival package’ at UCPH, I was offered input from the Dual Career Services team at ISM, and gladly accepted. Mary K. Kobia was very helpful in reviving my somewhat rusty pitching skills and certainly helped me to focus on distilling my experience and attributes down to their essence.

What was your previous work? With a physical sciences PhD from the University of Oxford, I had spent the most recent ten years of my career to date working largely part time and flexibly - to accommodate supporting our two primary aged children.

Nonetheless, I had a well paid and interesting job at the University of Oxford, supporting grant submissions in physical sciences - a job which was ‘almost academic’ in nature, but without any requirement to conduct research myself, or deliver any teaching.

Did you consider other career options outside academia? I also considered other opportunities outside of academia in Denmark - specifically in the cycling industry, which is a major passion of mine!

In recent months I have networked (face to face, email, Skype, etc.) with key companies and individuals in the industry in Copenhagen, which has a very strong road cycling culture. Numerous clothing brands both local and international have a strong and growing presence here. I am lucky, for example, that my new neighbour is a keen cyclist and key player in branded clothing in Denmark - and such fortuitous contacts have proved valuable.

What is your best career advice to someone job seeking? I have found that in my job search in Copenhagen that personal networking and interaction have been vital. Many roles are appointed to one via employers’ personal networks, and therefore developing your own networks in areas of interest is vital! A well polished and succinct CV, an up-to-date and accurate LinkedIn page, and active social media appropriate to the industry you are targeting (twitter, Instagram, Strava) will all be helpful too.

UPCOMING EVENTS

INTERNATIONAL SPOUSE CAREER LUNCHES

24 October
10:00 - 13:00

What to expect the first 100 days in your job? Dos and don’ts.

Starting a new job can be overwhelming! To help alleviate some of that stress, we’ve put together a workshop to help you avoid rookie mistakes and inspire you with input on how you can make the most of the first 100 days in a new job!

Registration

Facilitators
Mark de Vos
Mary K. Kobia

21 November
10:00 - 13:00

Meeting and getting advice from an HR professional!

How does a HR professional work and how to approach one in Denmark? What to pay particular attention to in your personal sales material (application / CV)? How to use LinkedIn? These questions and many more will all be answered, at this event where we have the pleasure of meeting an HR professional.

Registration

Company presentation
(Soon to be announced)

Find out more about other upcoming events using this link.