Dear Members of the Dual Career ~ Spouse Network,

Winter is still going strong and it’s cold, grey, wet and dark - but hang in there, we got lots of suggestions for stuff you can do in February. Also, it is actually getting lighter and lighter each day, even though we can’t see it!

Speaking of darkness, we have a bright suggestion for you. Copenhagen Light Festival exhibits the city in a new way in the quiet and dark winter months in the form of a light festival with both international and local appeal to people of all ages. The festival takes place in Copenhagen city centre, so grab a hot drink and enjoy the light shows. Check out their website where you can find maps and see the available guided tours.

Another event that brightens up the darkness is Fastelavn. Fastelavn is mainly a children oriented tradition that revolves around dressing up in costumes, knocking on doors singing and asking for candy. Also the important happening ‘slå kitten af tønden’, which is hitting a wooden barrel full of candy until it breaks, is part of the fun. We at ISM will host a Fastelavn event, where you can experience what it’s all about. The event is Sunday 16th 13-16. Sign up here.

Finally there is the ‘fastelavnsboller’ that can be found in any bakery during February. They are sweet rolls filled with cream – the best ones are from Lagkagehuset!

If you get bored of your every day routine, spice up your evening or weekend by visiting Absalon. Absalon is a church in Vesterbro. In 2015 the founder of the world-known Tiger stores reconstructed the church. He wanted to make the church an extension of your living room - and he definitely succeeded. Here locals and other come together through various activities like backgammon, movies, concerts, chess, coffee, table tennis and much more. They have events for every age and type. Most popular are the communal dinners they run every night at 6pm. The food is delicious and the vibe is informal. You are seated on long tables side to side with strangers. Tickets can be purchased on their website or in the door. Absalon is definitely a must try! Child friendly as well.

See you soon!

Mary K. Kobia, Mark de Vos and Daniell Gamliely

February is the border between winter and spring - Terri Guillemets
Dual Career Newsletter

How long did it take for you to find a job in DK?
I started looking for a job in Denmark while doing my post-doc in Max Planck Institute in Berlin. I came across quite a few interesting positions, but the one I finally landed took me about 5 months to find.

What is your best advice to someone who is not living in DK, but looking for a job there?
Having worked for ~4 years in Stockholm, Sweden, and now for ~1,5 years in Copenhagen, Denmark, I would say that Scandinavia is a very interesting place to come to work and live. The social welfare system is simply amazing; however, there are some challenges especially regarding integration that people should be aware of before taking the step and move here.

What has been most challenging about your job search?
Because my work has so far been in academic environments, I cannot say that I have come across many challenges. Definitely the language is still a barrier, but it is also on us (the internationals that come to Denmark to work) to put the effort into properly integrating into the country.

What surprised you the most about the Danish job interview?
The friendly atmosphere and that one is never worried about mentioning his/her plans about having a family alongside his/her job.

What is your best advice to someone going for a job interview? Be honest with what you can 't do, what you don't know. I truly believe that people - and employers - value honesty. After all, if you oversell yourself, the truth will surface at some point.

What kept you going when things didn’t turn out the way you expected? I think that motivation is something really personal. It is ultimately up to you to find your way forward through the difficulties in life. Having said that, my wife, Stephanie, has always been the person to turn to and discuss during rough times, both professional and personal ones.

Reflecting back on your job seeking process and experiences in Denmark, what advice do you have to give to other spouses? Be positive, don’t give up and be thankful for what you’ve got in life. Job is one of the most important aspects in our lives, but definitely not the only one. There are plenty of jobs out there, don’t be afraid to start low if needed and work your way up. It’s so much better than doing nothing!

Spotlight: Positivity & Persistence!

UPCOMING EVENTS

International Spouse Career Lunch: New to the Danish working culture? What are the dos and don’ts?
The workshop will focus on Danish working culture, where you will be able to discuss and explore both your own and Danish culture together with the other participants.
27th February. 10:00 -13:00 hrs. Gyldenløvesgade 11, 6th floor, 1600 Copenhagen V.
Register here.

International Spouse Career Lunch: Start-ups and entrepreneurship - How to start your own business?
Join this informal event and get all the necessary information on how to start your business in Copenhagen.
Facilitator: Zikoh Kouassi-Zessia - Business Advisor at Business House Copenhagen
17th March. 10:00-13:00 hrs. Gyldenløvesgade 11, 6th floor, 1600 Copenhagen V.
Register here.

International Spouse Career Lunch: Theme: Hands-on approach to LinkedIn
2nd April. 10:00-13:00 hrs. Gyldenløvesgade 11, 6th floor, 1600 Copenhagen V.
Get valuable input on how you can use LinkedIn to promote yourself professionally whether you’re looking for a job, or trying to expand your professional network in Denmark. Facilitator: Morten Esmann - LinkedIn Expert and Career Consultant – The Danish Society of Engineers (IDA)
Register here.

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