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# The Danish Way of Teaching

As a student in Denmark you will be encouraged to play an active role in the learning process. Apart from studying on your own and attending lectures you will take part in group work, engage in projects with other students, and participate in open discussions. The on-going evaluation of your progress will take place through oral and written exams

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## Guide

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**The Danish Way of Teaching**

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## STUDY IN DENMARK

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## The Danish Way of Teaching

### Did You Know?

Danish higher education is about your ideas, your aspirations, your opportunities. It's about expressing yourself, working with others and applying new knowledge to solve problems smarter

### Did You Know?

Problem Based Learning (PBL) is a central element of Danish higher education, whereby students deepen their knowledge by applying it to specific problems. [Read more about the Danish way of teaching](#)

## THINK-PLAY-PARTICIPATE

As a student in Denmark you will be encouraged to play an active role in the learning process. Apart from studying on your own and attending lectures you will take part in group work, engage in projects with other students, and participating in open discussions. The on-going evaluation of your progress will take place through oral and written exams.

Danish higher education is characterized by its innovative teaching methods and its informal learning environment, which encourages students to express their views, work together and develop a critical approach to problem solving.

A typical week of classes will consist of 10 hours of tuition and around 30 hours of preparation, self-study and project work. This, however, varies depending on the [type higher education institution](#).

## Problem solving

As a student in Denmark you will attend lectures, study independently and undertake projects – on your own and in groups of students. These projects will challenge you to think creatively and freely and to use your initiative. Project work will give you experience in working with others and using your newly acquired knowledge to solve complex problems.

An international student described this learning process as follows: *“I like that we work in groups. This means that you get to meet a lot of different people. And by the end of each semester you have met a lot of people that you get to know very well. I also like the close relationship between teachers and students. We call them by their first names and we work side-by-side.”*

In addition to project work, Danish professors often have experience as working professionals, offering students an invaluable practical perspective. Moreover, many Danish educational institutions are partnered with local companies and public organisations for research purposes, which is why some programmes offer the opportunity to gain vital work experience.



## A Danish education provides you with:

- Strong analytical and communicative skills
- The ability to work independently and in groups
- An international profile
- An excellent foundation for your future career

## The Danish education system

The Danish education system offers high quality education and training at all levels

Here is an overview of the levels of education in Denmark:

- Pre-school
- Primary and lower secondary education
- Upper secondary education
- Vocational education and training
- Higher education
- Adult learning

Before starting pre-school most children in Denmark benefit from day-care services such as nurseries and kindergarten. Pre-school, which is optional, is followed by nine years of compulsory education in primary and lower secondary school. There is an optional tenth form. The upper secondary education system includes a range of opportunities. Academic programmes allow students to apply for entry to higher education. Vocational programmes are aimed at direct entry to the labour market.



### The higher education sector includes:

- Universities (research-based undergraduate and postgraduate programmes)
- University Colleges (professional Bachelor's programmes)
- Academies of Professional Higher Education (short-cycle higher education institutions offering Academy Profession and joint Bachelor's degree programmes)
- Adult education. The opportunities for lifelong learning in terms of adult education are many. They are offered at all levels. Individual courses are also offered under the Act on Open Education, either at college or university

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#### UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

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##### ACADEMY PROFESSION DEGREE

- 2 years (120 ECTS)
- Degree from an Academy of Professional Higher Education or a University College
- Theory and practice in one programme
- Internships in Denmark or abroad
- Developed in close collaboration with business and industry
- Small class sizes and close contact between students and teachers

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##### PROFESSIONAL BACHELOR'S DEGREE

- 3-4 years (180-240 ECTS)
- Degree from a University College or an Academy of Professional Higher Education
- Aimed at specific professions
- Theory and practice in one programme
- Internships in Denmark or abroad
- Small class sizes and close contact between students and teachers

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##### UNIVERSITY BACHELOR'S DEGREE

- 3 years (180 ECTS)
  - Research-based education
  - Degree from a University
  - Predominantly theoretical
  - Opportunities to undertake study periods or internships abroad
  - Independent studies as well as project work
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## **POSTGRADUATE DEGREES**

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### **MASTER'S DEGREE**

- 2 years (120 ECTS)
  - Degree from a University
  - Research-based education
  - Internships in Denmark or abroad
  - Exchange opportunities at universities around the world
  - Access to PhD studies or the labour market
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### **PHD DEGREE**

- 3 years (180 ECTS)
  - Degree from a University / Research institution
  - Research and teaching in Denmark
  - International Experience and cooperation
  - Opportunities for financial support
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### **Useful links**

The Ministry of Children and Education

<http://eng.uvm.dk/>

The Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education

<http://en.fivu.dk/>

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## The Danish grading system

The grading system in Denmark applies to all educational institutions. The seven-point scale allows you to easily convert your Danish grades to ECTS credits according to the EU's European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System

Below you find a view of the Danish seven-point scale:

*7-point grading scale*

Grade	Description	ECTS	Old scale (00-13)
12	For an excellent performance displaying a high level of command of all aspects of the relevant material, with no or only a few minor weaknesses.	A	13 11
10	For a very good performance displaying a high level of command of most aspects of the relevant material, with only minor weaknesses.	B	10
7	For a good performance displaying good command of the relevant material but also some weaknesses.	C	9 8
4	For a fair performance displaying some command of the relevant material but also some major weaknesses.	D	7
02	For a performance meeting only the minimum requirements for acceptance.	E	6
00	For a performance which does not meet the minimum requirements for acceptance.	Fx	5 03
-3	For a performance which is unacceptable in all respects.	F	00

In some cases, a simple pass or fail can be given instead of grades. Your performance will be assessed according to academic targets set for the specific subject or course. For further information about grading, please visit the [Ministry of Education Order on the Grading Scale and Other Forms of Assessment](http://en.iu.dk/education-in-denmark/detailed-information/grading-systems/-Ministry_of_Education_order_262_2007_Grading_Scale.pdf) (http://en.iu.dk/education-in-denmark/detailed-information/grading-systems/-Ministry\_of\_Education\_order\_262\_2007\_Grading\_Scale.pdf) (primary and secondary school, short to medium-cycle higher education) and [Ministry of Science Order on the Grading Scale and Other Forms of Assessment](http://en.iu.dk/education-in-denmark/detailed-information/grading-systems/-Karakterbekendtgørelse_VTU_EN.pdf) (http://en.iu.dk/education-in-denmark/detailed-information/grading-systems/-Karakterbekendtgørelse\_VTU\_EN.pdf) (university education).

### Useful links

Ministry of Education Order on the Grading Scale and Other Forms of Assessment (PDF)

[http://en.iu.dk/education-in-denmark/detailed-information/grading-systems/Ministry\\_of\\_Education\\_order\\_262\\_2007\\_Grading\\_Scale.pdf](http://en.iu.dk/education-in-denmark/detailed-information/grading-systems/Ministry_of_Education_order_262_2007_Grading_Scale.pdf)

Ministry of Science Order on the Grading Scale and Other Forms of Assessment (PDF) [http://en.iu.dk/education-in-denmark/detailed-information/grading-systems/Karakterbekendtgørelse\\_VTU\\_EN.pdf](http://en.iu.dk/education-in-denmark/detailed-information/grading-systems/Karakterbekendtgørelse_VTU_EN.pdf)

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