

Q&A for  
**EMA employees** about  
Greater Copenhagen



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# Life in Copenhagen

## **What characterizes Copenhagen?**

Copenhagen is usually recognized by its social balance, equality, low levels of corruption and transparency. In Denmark universal welfare services such as free healthcare, free education, high minimum wages and high levels of unemployment benefits form the basis of a flexicurity system where the workforce can move from sector to sector with relative ease. Copenhagen is an increasingly popular expat destination due to its diverse environment, and the Danish government, global industries and higher education institutions are all keen on internationalization.

## **Is Copenhagen a safe city to live in?**

Copenhagen is a very safe choice. The locals walk and cycle in the city around the clock, and Copenhagen has a welcoming and open atmosphere. The Global Peace Index rates Denmark as the world's second most peaceful country and, once again in 2016, Transparency International named Denmark the world's least corrupt country.



### Is Copenhagen good at attracting and developing highly-skilled talent?

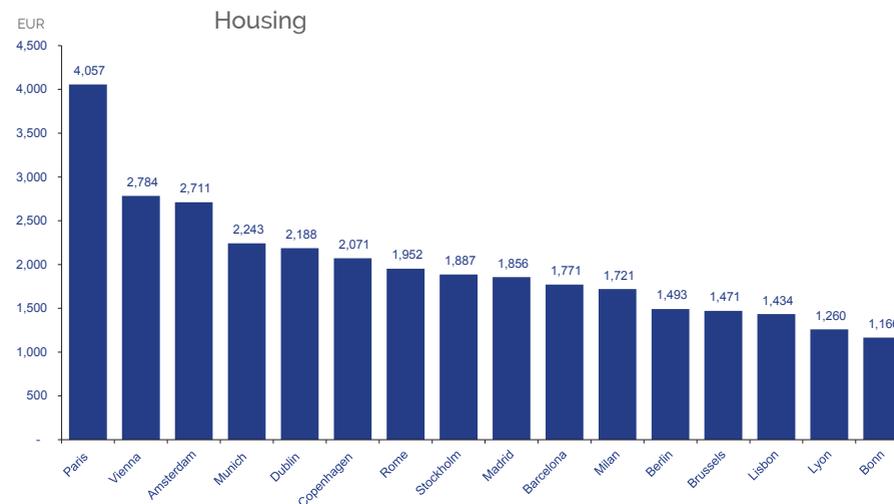
When it comes to attracting, developing and retaining talent, nobody does it better than Copenhagen according to INSEAD and the Adecco Group. The newly-released 2017 Global Talent Competitiveness Index for cities (GTCI) ranked Copenhagen first in the world ahead of cities such as Zurich, Helsinki, San Francisco, Paris and Dublin. It's the first year that the GTCI has included cities.

### What is the cost of living in Copenhagen?

The cost of living in the Danish capital of Copenhagen is similar to that of other large European cities, and prices are considerably lower than in, for example, New York when housing costs are included. Salaries in Copenhagen are the third highest in the world – only surpassed by Zurich and Geneva. And many welfare services that strain household budgets in other countries are either free or state-subsidized in Denmark. Medical help, hospital treatment, schooling and elderly care are all free – and daycare for children is far cheaper than in many comparable countries.

### Is housing in Copenhagen expensive?

A family-sized apartment in the city center of Copenhagen is less expensive than a similar apartment in Paris, Vienna, Amsterdam, Munich or Dublin.



Monthly rents are calculated for family-size apartment in the city center area (120 sqm). Rent outside of the city centers might vary significantly.  
Source: KPMG, 2017

### **How is life in Copenhagen?**

In several surveys, the Danes rank among the people who have the highest life satisfaction in the world. Researchers looking into the criteria for life satisfaction venture one explanation: the Danes place great trust in their fellow citizens because, generally, it is very safe to live in Denmark. Corruption hardly ever occurs, and violence and crime rates are low. Furthermore, there is great openness and diversity in Copenhagen as well as equality in society.

### **How do I get around in Copenhagen?**

An extensive network of biking routes and efficient public transportation makes it easy to get around in Copenhagen. People in Copenhagen ride their bicycles all year long. And especially in the city center, where finding a parking space for your car can be difficult, it is very popular to ride a bike to work – even in a suit and a tie.

This being said, Copenhagen also has a large and well-functioning public transport system. The public transportation in Copenhagen is very reliable, punctual, and it takes you everywhere. In Copenhagen, the trains, Metro and busses (including waterbuses) can be accessed with the same ticket. All you need to know is how many zones you will pass on your journey. Note the Metro will take you from the airport to central Copenhagen in only 12 minutes. In case EMA will relocate to Copenhagen it is expected to be located with direct access to the Metro and other infrastructure hubs.

### **How is the culture and leisure in Copenhagen?**

When it comes to cultural experiences and leisure, Denmark has a lot to offer. No matter what your interest, from sports, music and movies to fine arts, opera or museums – you will find it here. Denmark is known for its skilful architects, film-makers and trademark minimalistic fashion designers. There is a strong focus on life quality, and the water is so clean that you can even swim in the harbor. If you add the fact that Danes are some of the most bicycle-friendly people in the world, you may get a sense of how versatile Danish culture is.





This also goes for the Danish lifestyle. In many ways, it corresponds to the diverse weather in Denmark. While it is hot in the summer and daylight leaves plenty of hours for sunbathing, swimming and picnics – the winters are darker (though rarely below minus 3-4 degrees) and well suited for traditional Danish 'hygge'. 'Hygge' is a very important term in Denmark, which covers the warm and friendly atmosphere of spending quality time with friends, family or other loved ones.

#### **How is the Danish cuisine?**

Greater Copenhagen is known for New Nordic Cuisine, which is highly praised internationally. New Nordic Cuisine is characterized by its unique Nordic identity and by its commitment to organic, sustainable and local products with the three times "Worlds best restaurant" Noma restaurant as a global frontrunner. Copenhagen currently host 1 restaurant with 3 Michelin stars; 1 restaurant with 2 Michelin stars; and 14 restaurants with 1 Michelin star.

#### **How is the Expat Community in Copenhagen?**

Denmark has lots of great initiatives aimed to make expats and newcomers in general settle in and feel welcome. International House strives to help you get a good social life while staying in Denmark.

Denmark is famous for its active association life. Therefore joining an association or club can be a great way for expats and their families to meet Danes and new people in general, while also engaging in an activity of your interest. No matter what hobby you have, or what you like to do in your spare time, you can find a Danish association on the subject. Becoming and being a member of an association is usually not expensive, as they are mostly run by volunteers. This is important because it means you are able to socialize and practice something you like – with others who feel the same way – without having to pay a great sum of money.

#### **Where can I learn Danish?**

As a foreign worker in Denmark, you and your partner have free access to Danish courses for up to three years. Courses are offered by municipal or private language schools and other education centres.

The language schools offer both day and evening courses. Lessons are divided into three levels targeted at the individual participant, and are concluded with a final test. Moreover, many online Danish language courses for adults and children are available, and it is also possible to take out language courses from the library.

#### **Is Copenhagen well connected internationally?**

Copenhagen Airport is the largest international airport in Scandinavia and it has been voted Northern Europe's best airport four times in the last six years. The airport has 159 direct international destinations and 4000 weekly departures. Copenhagen Airport will expand from 26 million to 40 million passengers by 2030 – and it only takes 12 minutes by metro to get there from the heart of Copenhagen.



# Arriving in Copenhagen

## **How do I get settled in Copenhagen?**

Danes are some of the best non-native English speakers in the world, making it easy for foreigners to work and live in Denmark. Joining an association or club where you can enjoy and perhaps share an interest with Danes is a good way to meet people and create a personal network.

## **How do I find housing in the Copenhagen area?**

International House Copenhagen has information available on everything from renting to buying property in Denmark.

## **How are the healthcare services in Denmark?**

If you as an EMA employee take residence and work in Denmark you have free access to public healthcare. This means you can consult a doctor, have treatment at an emergency room or public hospital and a number of other services such as home care, health visitor services and pediatrics. If you are registered in Denmark and have a social security card you are covered by the public health insurance. You will automatically

receive your social security card, when you have registered at International House Copenhagen.

## **How do I communicate digitally with the Danish authorities?**

Danish e-government is among the most advanced in the world, and once you are registered, all vital tasks can be performed. The first step is to get NemID and Digital Post. NemID is a personal and secure online log-in system. NemID is used for various online self-services such as online banking, access to your digital post, changing your address, insurance matters, etc. Letters and messages from public authorities will be sent to you by Digital Post. Once you are registered in Denmark you can get NemID.

## **Are digital technologies widely used in Denmark?**

Denmark tops the list as the EU's most digitalized country according to the European Commissions' recently released index of digitalization in the EU member countries. Denmark has a wide usage of digital technologies amongst both citizenry, government and businesses.



# Relocating your family

## **What are the opportunities for my family?**

The Danish authorities offer a series of services aimed to help you settle in and make living in Greater Copenhagen a positive experience for everyone. For example, you and your family can gain access to spouse focused services such as job courses, relevant education for your spouse or even matchmaking with local companies. We have a strong focus on childcare or schooling for your children, as well as public healthcare services and parental leave.

The childcare system for children aged 0 to 6 years (pre-school) is highly prioritized in Denmark, as both parents usually work. This means that your child can be well looked after in a safe and educational environment, while you concentrate on your work.

## **What childcare options do I have?**

All young children in Denmark have the option of enrolment in a childcare centre. There is a variety of childcare options for children from 0-6 years of age. Each municipality determines

its own overall goals and framework of childcare options. Childcare/ nursery in the Copenhagen area is about £ 400 a month with lunch and 330 £ without lunch. Pre-schools in the Copenhagen area are about 300 £ a month with lunch and 240£ without lunch..

Of course, you may also choose a childcare provider in a private home. Some childcare options are offered to parents who want their children to develop English language skills because they are working in Denmark for a shorter or longer period.

## **How are the primary and lower secondary education (age 6 to 16) in Copenhagen?**

The primary and lower secondary education in Denmark is, for the most part, free of charge. Five in six children attend a public school (Folkeskole) and one in six attends a private school. There are a growing number of international schools in Denmark, including a European School with free access for permanent staff at the EMA. The school offers a multicultural and multilingual education for nursery, primary and secondary students. The European School Copenhagen is an accredited school under the internationally acknowledged system of European Schools and it follows the curriculum International Baccalaureate. The school is new and welcomed its first students and parents in August 2014. It is expected that all applicants

from children of EMA staff to the European School Copenhagen will be accepted as the school will be fully opened in time for the possible arrival of EMA.

In addition to the European School, Copenhagen also offers a number of other international schools. Many of these schools have English as their primary language, while others teach primarily in German or French.

All schools in Denmark that are approved by the government receive the same level of funding as municipal schools. One consequence of this is that fees for attending an international school in Denmark are heavily subsidized and, can appear inexpensive compared with independent schools in other countries. However there are exceptions.

Access and waiting lists vary from school to school. Some can offer immediate access for some classes while others run waiting lists three years ahead for early years education. The two main curricula followed by English language schools in Denmark are the International Baccalaureate and the Cambridge International Curriculum. Both provide routes to the International Baccalaureate Diploma or to A Levels, which in turn provide access to higher education, both in Denmark and throughout the world.

### **How do the upper secondary education (age 16 to 19) and higher education work in Copenhagen?**

In Denmark, the upper secondary education is also free of charge and consists of two types of programmes:

- General education qualifying for access to higher education
- Vocational or technical education qualifying primarily for access to the labour market

A number of study programmes are offered in English or other foreign languages, and Denmark has 15 international upper secondary schools, which primarily offer the International Baccalaureate (IB).

Danish universities and institutions of higher education offer a wide range of international programmes of study. In Denmark, about 40 percent of all students complete a higher education at

master level and more than 50 different educational institutions offer programmes of varying duration and levels. Most higher education is free of charge for Danish residents and students can, if certain conditions are met, also receive study grants and loans to finance their living costs during their studies. Following universities are based either in the heart of Copenhagen or up to an hour from the capital: University of Copenhagen, Technical University of Denmark, Copenhagen Business School, IT University, Roskilde University, Lund's University and Malmö Högskola.

### **How does my spouse/partner find a job?**

If your spouse/partner is an EU/EEA or Swiss citizen, your spouse/partner does not need a permit to work in Denmark. If not, he/she is allowed to work full-time for the period his/her residence permit is valid.

International House Copenhagen offers a wide range of resources that help your spouse/partner find a job in Denmark. By using these resources, your spouse/partner can improve his/her job opportunities in Copenhagen.

The section "Find a job" of [workindenmark.dk](http://workindenmark.dk) has a large amount of useful information for your job search including how to write a CV and application that grabs Danish employers' attention.

### **Can my spouse/partner do volunteer work?**

It is also possible for your spouse to develop a network by becoming involved in volunteer work. Typically, these kinds of activities take place after working hours.

### **What to do if I have a pet I want to bring to Denmark?**

If travelling to Denmark from EU member states the animal must first have an ID, either a microchip or a tattoo. Then it must have an EU Pet passport. The passport can be issued by a veterinarian and is valid only if it is certified that the animal has been vaccinated against rabies.

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