



GET EXCITED!!

Learn more about your possibilities for Practicum Placement as part of your experience with the Child Diversity and Development Program!



DIS

**DANISH INSTITUTE
FOR STUDY ABROAD**

Possibilities for a Practicum Placement:

PLEASE NOTE: Nearly all students are placed in one of the following: vuggestue, børnehave, forest børnehave, or SFO. It is not likely for students to be placed in a classroom in public schools due to Danish union and educational regulations.

Course-specific note: Students enrolled in EITHER Children in a Multicultural Context, or Children with Special Needs will be placed at sites based on their answers to a questionnaire filled out shortly before the semester start. It is important to note that due to the sensitive population of children concerned, **DIS students will not necessarily be placed in a site for children with special needs, or children with a non-Danish background.**

The importance of the practicum course is to understand the Danish system in general, in order to be able to apply theories and experiences of special populations of children to the society in general. Therefore, we ask DIS students to keep in mind that their work at a practicum site is to gain experience within Danish institutionalized care, and not necessarily to work directly with a specific population of children.



Possibilities for Placement:

- * Vuggestue
- * Børnehave
- * Forest Børnehave
- * SFO



Vuggestue

An institution for children aged 0-3 years. For most children, this is their first experience in an institution away from home. Vuggestue staff are focused primarily on the physical care of the children, along with an emphasis on social interactions with peers.





Børnehave

An institution for young children from ages 3-6 (when the child starts 'pre-school', 'børnehaveklasse' in Danish). Here, the main focus is on social development. There is not a strong academic focus, but rather an emphasis on how children learn through play. (You will not see children sitting at desks with worksheets – ever!)

Forest Børnheave

An institution for young children from ages 3-6 (when the child starts 'pre-school', 'børnehaveklasse' in Danish. However, instead of remaining in the city, children arrive at the institution, and then are bussed out to the forest areas around Copenhagen, where they spend the day. Most forest kindergartens have a small house, or covered area in the woods, but the children play outside for the entire day (rain or shine!).



SFO – “Skolefritidsordning”

Afterschool program where kids can be active, creative, and involved after school hours. For children ages 6-10. They have their own playground and indoor workshops (art, woodworking, etc.) The normal Danish public school day is from 8am to 1pm. SFO hours can be from 1pm until 5 or 6pm. This type of institution also has a focus on socialization – the academic focus happens during the school day. Children do have the possibility for support with homework.



****Folkeskole – Public School**

The possibilities for DIS students to be placed at a folkeskole is very unlikely. Due to union regulations, and Danish educational law, most public schools do not allow outside students in the classroom.

For children from Børnehaveklasse (5-6 years old) up until 9th grade/klasse (15 years old). Academic focus in separate subjects – math, science, history, nature, music, etc. Lesson plans are made by teachers, and tests given to assess learning.





As a result of the Danish philosophies on play, learning, and child development, the institutions in which you are placed are NOT considered 'schools' (ex. with separate focuses on academic subjects like math, science, language, etc.) Therefore, American conceptions of 'classroom learning' will be challenged – your focus as a student at DIS will be on these types of pedagogical differences.

