

District 1470, Inbound Team S22

– Q&A before arrival – Updated June 21. 2022

Dear Team S22 students

There have already been some questions asked, which I have responded to, and at the same time I would like to share them with all of you as they might all be relevant. It is only meant to give you as much preparations as possible before getting here, so please do not feel that you have to learn everything ahead of time.

Please be also sure to read material on the Rotary.dk website <https://www.rotary.dk/sections/yep> - under

- COMING TO DENMARK
- RESOURCES FOR INBOUND

Just a small reminder – please do check your email daily. I know that most days there will not be any news, but when there is, it is important that you react to it as soon as possible and not several days later. Thank you.

Which airport is my final destination?

CPH – Copenhagen International Airport – is your final destination.

You will be picked up by Host family and/or Counsellor.

Please be sure to arrive the weekend of August 6th and 7th, as you will be starting school shortly after.

Return flights cannot be booked for June 2023

We ask for you to book a return flight close to June 15th. But we also realise that it is not always possible to get a return flight booked this long in advance.

Therefore, you can either:

- book any possible return flight date sometime in February/March/April 2023 and then rebook this latest in January 2023
- have an “open ended” ticket with no return date booked yet, and then book this in January 2023

Please be aware that you need to return home latest June 15th 2023, so do not get a return ticket booked after this date as we will ask you to get it changed.

Also be aware that any cost regarding rebooking is to be covered by your/your family

I cannot find the Facebook (FB) group

It seems it is not easy to find the FB group based on the name

Please find a link here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/572112714216986/>

Even if you are not a FB user, it is important that you become one as it is one of the few ways we can easily share information besides email.

I cannot get access to the “Student Registration System” (also known as “the database” 😞)

If you have not activated your login yet, please do reach out to Bodil (Assistant District Counsellor for Inbounds) - adc-in1470@rotary-yep.net. I can reset your login.

Once you get the email from the system, then you must react within a few days as the link will not remain valid for very long.

Please find attached along this Q&A a guideline to how you login the first time – after a password reset.

When you have access, please be sure to add a good picture of yourself, so we can recognise you based on this 😊

Can we join Interact or similar?

In our district we do not have any Interact Club. We do have a Rotex club, but it is unfortunately not very active.

In Denmark we cannot do a lot of the charity services, which can be done in other countries, as this is something that the Social Welfare System must take care of (and we are not allowed “to compete” with them).

We recommend that you during your year in Denmark get engaged with local activities, which you can ask your Host Counsellor or Host Family about. Some activities may cost a bit of money, and not all Host Clubs are able to sponsor this, but in most areas there are also activities which has little or no cost (team sports, youth club classes etc.).

Your school, the Danish language as well as participating in the life of your Host Family should also be top priority. From the Host District we try to organise some activities through the year and the Host Club may also invite to some events/meetings.

Where are the students from in the S22 team?

Currently we have students registered from: USA, Canada, Argentina, Brazil, Taiwan, Spain, Italy, Colombia, Mexico, France

We hope to get 24 students to the district for the Rotary year 2022-2023, but have still not received all. By start of June there are 16 students in in the S22 team.

In the District Intro on August 10th, you will all meet each other 😊

The following have not been asked about yet, but I know that there has previously been some uncertainty, so I have added a bit more:

Visa to study in Denmark

As soon as you have the Visa Reference number in the database (see earlier shared information for access etc.), you have to start the visa application process.

If it is started too early there is a risk you will not have a visa for the full year you are here, as it is valid 12 months from the time it is issued.

Also, it is a study visa, so it is important that you go to school and be as active as language etc. permits.

Communicate with Counsellor and first Host family

Please reach out to your Host Counsellor – and to your Host family to get to know each other before your arrival. They may also reach out to you, but if not – please be proactive.

Everyone in Denmark is volunteering for the Youth Exchange Program (YEP) in Denmark (aka: no one gets paid and all does this work besides our jobs), so please do allow for response time as well as try to accommodate to suggestions for times for i.e., online session from people in Denmark. Thanks.

Where can I find material about the Exchange year in Denmark?

Please look at the following 2 websites:

- <http://1470.dk/dokumenter-inbound/>
- <https://www.rotary.dk/sections/yep> - and choose “Et år i udlandet (Long_Term)”

There you can find material in English under:

- COMING TO DENMARK
- RESOURCES FOR INBOUND

Why do I need to learn Danish?

Firstly, you have to attend a Danish school in Denmark and will need to understand and speak the language in order not to be completely unable to follow the classes.

Secondly, you are on exchange to learn about the country that is hosting you. In order to do that it is important to be able to interact as much as possible with Danes and get Danish friends.

You will find that almost all Danes speak English quite well, and a lot of them even like to practice it, so it can be challenging to get better at understanding and speaking Danish (some may even like for you to help them get better with your own language). This may also be the situation with your host family, so please ask them to speak Danish with you (as much as possible).

We will organise weekly Danish lessons as well.

All-in-all the more language preparations you have done from home, and the more effort you put into learning Danish the better an exchange year you will have. Most Danes react pretty amazed once you speak Danish with them.

Which kind of school will I attend?

Most of you will be in second year of “Gymnasiet” (kind of equivalent to US High-School). In Denmark this is year 12 of schooling. Due to the Danish school system, it is in most cases not possible to attend first year of “Gymnasiet”.

In some cases, the Host Club may try to get you in to 10th year of Elementary school (we do not have anything like i.e. Junior High-School), if you are quite young, but it may not be possible.

This may mean that some of you will be in classes with students up 2 years older than you (and some with students 2 years younger than you). This will of course be a bit challenging and will require that you are proactive and try to engage with your classmates. But it may also be possible for you to have some classes with a lower/higher grade.

This will be settled in detail once you get to Denmark, and you have a first meeting with the school (together with Host Counsellor and possibly Host family).

Please give some thoughts to what would you like to attend and learn? - what can you help with? (i.e. help others with your home language or culture?)

If you are quite a bit younger than your classmates it may be challenging to attend class or school parties, but please discuss this with your Host Counsellor and/or Host family, when this may occur.

How can I best prepare?

Well, mentally being ready for a year abroad (incl. starting to learn the language, but perhaps we mentioned that already 😊) - and having saved financial funds that will allow you to join in as Denmark is a quite expensive country – that is a good start.

However, as you are representing your country, it is a good time to ensure that you also know about your country and culture. Perhaps learn to cook some traditional dishes you can share with Host Family and future friends? Learn some of the history of your country as this is something Host Families often would like to know about (and perhaps future friends and host school if you offer to share). Any songs, dances, music that is typical from country would be great if you are familiar with.

You will (as mentioned in earlier information) be asked to perform along with other Inbound students at a yearly gathering in the district. Having made some thoughts about what you can share would be great – even fairytales or great shorter stories might be an idea? (if music, song, dances are not for you). Btw – don't worry, we do not pressure anyone to do anything, but of course we will really appreciate whatever you can do.

Homesickness

Many experience this at different levels, and it is fully understandable as you are far away from home and for some of you for the first time. Do talk with your Host Family and Host Counsellor about how you feel.

Please keep in mind that you have chosen to go on exchange, and only if you engage with others can you get the full experience – and often this also helps how you feel. Being part of an exchange program, you have chosen to challenge yourself and learn about life in another country – and grow with the experience.

If you already now expect that you will be quite homesick, please discuss with your family at home how you can cope with it (sometimes having quite strict rules about contact to family and friends at home may be a help to get to faster “present” here in Denmark). And be open with your Host Counsellor and Host Family so they also can know how to best support you.

Insurance

Most of you will get a Danish insurance. Please be sure that you have needed funds with you, so you can pay for it when you get to Denmark. You will get separate information about this from our Danish Insurance Coordinator. Your Host Club Counsellor will help you here.

No matter what insurance you have, please be sure that your Host Club Counsellors has the insurance ID number, and that you always have it with you. Highly recommend carrying a copy of the ID (not all the papers), so you do not lose any important details.

Why all the rules?

You will experience Denmark to be a very safe country to be in, and we know that some students question the need for some of the more restrictive rules.

It is a matter of your safety while we are hosting your exchange year in Denmark, and of course some of the rules apply for all Rotary students no matter the country.

Even if this is a safe place, some locations are not safe for you to visit alone or with friends and some situations are not safe for you to be in. If we cannot ensure that you will be safe, we will prohibit participation. Examples can be student parties in locations which are uncontrolled or street-festival parties with a lot of people. We will post updates on restrictions via email as well as in the FB group for S22.

If you feel uncertain about an event or a location, please always ask! – ask your host family, your host counsellor, or the host district.

Questions?

Please always feel free to reach out to your Host Counsellor, to your Host family or to your Host district if you have any questions. It is important that you get any questions or concerns clarified, so the start of your year hopefully will be good.

Thank you.

De varmeste Rotary hilsner / Best Rotary regards,

Bodil Fogh Hansen

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Rotary District 1470

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