



**WORK IN
DENMARK**

**International
students**

WORKINDENMARK.DK

International students

Many students in Denmark have a part-time job. As an international student in Denmark you too are entitled to work while you live here. You can also seek full-time employment when you have completed your studies.

Working hours & legalities

Working while studying:

If you are a **Nordic, EU/EEA or Swiss citizen**, there are no restrictions on the number of hours you can work in Denmark.

If you are a **non-EU/EEA student** following a higher education programme, you are allowed to work 20 hours a week as well as full-time during the months of June, July and August. (If your residence permit was granted before 1 January 2015, you are only allowed to work 15 hours a week.) It will say on your residence card whether or not you are allowed to work. Find more information at: www.newtodenmark.dk

After graduation:

Nordic, EU/EEA or Swiss citizens can stay and work in Denmark without restrictions. However, EU/EEA or Swiss citizens must apply for a registration certificate in accordance with the EU rules, if they plan to stay longer than three months.

Non-EU/EEA/Swiss citizens will need a residence and work permit to work in Denmark. If you have been granted a residence permit in order to complete a higher educational programme in Denmark, your residence permit will be valid for an additional six months after you complete the programme. This is to allow you to look for work in Denmark after you have completed your educational programme.

If you complete a higher educational programme in Denmark and you have not previously been granted the additional six months' residence permit, you can have your residence permit extended by six months in order to look for work. This is done by submitting an application for extension.

The permit for six months of job searching grants you the same right to work as the limited work permit, you were granted along with your residence permit as a student. This limited work permit gave you the right to work 20 hours per week (15 hours per week, if you were granted your residence permit before 1 January 2015) and full time during June, July and August. Find more information on: www.newtodenmark.dk

The permit for job searching is meant to give you an opportunity to find a job in Denmark after you have completed your educational programme. If you are offered a job, you must submit an application for a new residence and work permit.



Types of student jobs

Student worker / student assistant (Danish: studenter-medhjælper)

A student worker or a student assistant is considered a part-time employee at a company.

During the first periods of their study programme, many students take on jobs that are not directly relevant to their academic studies. However, as they progress with their studies, they typically apply for jobs

that can give them relevant work experience. Danish is not a precondition for all student jobs, but some require a certain level of Danish language skills. As a student worker, you will work an average of 10 to 20 hours per week at a Danish company, depending on the type of work and sector. Salaries are in many cases regulated by collective agreements (overenskomster). See *Salary, hours and terms of employment*



Internships

(Danish: praktikant)

Many Danish degree programmes include long-term or short-term internships at Danish companies.

An internship can be an obligatory part of your university degree, or it can be voluntary. During an internship, you will be assigned tasks or projects that you, the company and your department find professionally and academically relevant. If you want the internship to count as a part of your degree, you will have to make sure that the university acknowledges the internship as relevant for your study programme. Depending on the credit you are given, the internship can be part-time or full-time.

Most internships are 37 hours per week, but some companies offer part-time internships. Internships usually last 4-5 months - equal to a semester at your university. Not all internships are paid, but some are. Please note that some universities do not allow intern-

ships to be paid, as you are given credits for the activity. When discussing the terms for your internship, it is important to clarify the output for the company and the academic output if it is part of your study credits.

Some companies use the term *traineeship* instead of *internship*.

For Non-EU/EEA/Swiss citizens an internship will require a full-time work permit. This also applies if the internship is not paid. If an internship is an obligatory part of your university degree and your student residence permit was granted after 1 January 2015, you will automatically have a non-specific internship permit for a certain number of weeks. If an internship is not an obligatory part of your university degree, or your student residence permit was granted before 1 January 2015, you will have to apply for a full-time work permit.

Project collaboration

While undertaking your degree, you will be working on several large assignments – the Bachelor thesis and your final Master’s thesis being the largest. Most degree programmes allow you to write one or more of these assignments in co-operation with a Danish company. Your project will typically consist of gathering and analysing information in relation to a given problem – for example, interviewing or examining documents or other types of information from the company. You will usually not be paid for the time you spend on your project.

PhD

A PhD programme requires a Master’s degree or a similar degree. A PhD programme is a 3-5-year independent research project, under supervision of an academic supervisor from your university. The length of the programme depends on the specific type of PhD programme. Often, PhD responsibilities also include teaching at the faculty while you are working on your PhD thesis.

Danish PhD scholarships are fully funded – i.e. you receive a salary and there is no tuition fee. Some PhD programmes have been developed as partnerships between universities and private companies, and you work at a company while you are writing your thesis (Industrial PhD programmes).

You can apply for a PhD scholarship with a project of your own, or you can apply to undertake a predefined PhD project. Predefined projects can be found in the relevant databases described below in *Find a job*.



Find a job

Student jobs, internships and PhD scholarships can be found in the job database at:

www.workindenmark.dk

Or at your university's online "jobbank":

Copenhagen University: karriere.ku.dk/en/

Aarhus University: jobbank.au.dk

Aalborg University: www.aau.jobbank.dk

Roskilde University: www.ruc.jobbank.dk

University of Southern Denmark:

www.sdu.jobbank.dk

Technical University of Denmark:

www.job.dtu.dk

IT University of Copenhagen:

www.itu.jobbank.dk

Copenhagen Business School:

www.careergate.cbs.dk



After graduation

Graduate Programmes

Several large companies offer special programmes for graduate students called graduate programmes. For Non-EU/EEA/Swiss citizens, a full-time work permit is required. As a graduate employee, you will be part of an educational programme in which you will receive an introduction to a workplace and job training in different departments of the company. Many programmes include time abroad. Graduate programmes vary in length, but normally take about two years. You will work full-time and be paid according to the collective agreement at the workplace.

Sometimes the term *trainee* is used for a position in a graduate programme. Most trainee-jobs are aimed at people holding a professional Bachelor's degree or who have a general upper secondary education (hhx, hf, stx, htx). Companies have different names for their programmes, but they often use the term "graduate" to indicate that the job requires a Master's degree.

Find graduate- and trainee-programmes at www.workindenmark.dk or at www.graduateland.com (Student/graduate jobs and internships).



Salary, hours and terms of employment

Denmark has no minimum wage legislation. Terms of employment are usually regulated by collective agreements (overenskomst) between the primary players on the Danish labour market: the trade unions and employer associations. As a student, you can join a trade union and receive advice on job-related issues, such as the minimum wage for your type of job, as stated in collective agreements. If you are a member of a trade union, it is always a good idea to let union specialists check your contract before you sign it.

Most student jobs are based on an hourly wage rate.

Read more

Find more information on Job search, Living in Denmark, Moving to Denmark and Working in Denmark at:

www.workindenmark.dk

You can get more information on job search in Denmark by taking our e-learning course "Make It Work In Denmark" at:

www.workindenmark.dk/elearning

Contact Workindenmark:

workindenmark@workindenmark.dk

Workindenmark East: +45 72223300

Workindenmark West: +45 72223360

Workindenmark South: +45 72223330

Other useful websites:

www.studyindenmark.dk (Useful information about student life in Denmark)

www.icitizen.dk (Useful information on relocation and help with paperwork)

www.newtodenmark.dk (The Danish Immigration Service)

