The Stay Abroad
From a student’s perspective
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This presentation

- How does it work?
- Where to go?
- What practical things should you be aware of?
- How to get the most of it on work and personally?
Why?

- We are all required to do it
- Experience another research environment
- Inspiration, meet new people and new ideas
When to start planing?

- Usually after 1,5 - 2 years of study
- High degree of flexibility
- Usually the planing starts 6 - 12 months before your visit starts
- Either you go to your advisor or your advisor comes to you
Where to go?

- You should visit another research institution
- Your visit should be relevant to your research area - somehow
- Visit a research group at another university
- Or a commercial research lab
Where to go? (cont’)

- Maybe you have ideas about where to go?
- Learn about people through their research papers
- People you meet at a conference?
- Your advisor definitely has suggestions - listen and make your decision
How to get the contact?

- Your advisor typically either knows the people you want to visit or knows somebody who does.
- Either he writes them or you do.
- Make the personal contact as fast as possible.
How long time?

- At least 3 months and up to 6 months
- Less than 4 months is useless
- More than 6 months?
Now I’m ready, right?

NO!
Before you go...

- You should inform the PhD manager, where, when, how long, address, etc.
- Do you need a visa, then you should apply as **SOON** as at all possible
- Insurance. You should check your insurances, you have the insurance from the university, but it does not cover everything
US visa and American Embassy

- J1, Exchange visitor programs
- DS-2019, DS-156, ...
- Look at http://denmark.usembassy.gov/non-immigrant_visas.html for latest requirements
- Original bank receipt for payment
- No electronics, except mobile phone
Housing

- Two options
  - Your host finds you a place to live
  - You do it your self
- Option 1 is preferable
- I did option 2
Housing (cont’)

- My host suggested a resort apartment close to work for $900
- I used apartmentratings.com and others to locate apartments close to work
- I booked 3 nights in a hotel, and then found a place when I got there
Housing (con’t)

- Result an apartment 3 miles from work for approx. $630
The travel

- Make an application for travel support
- Order the tickets using Via-travel, as you normally would
- All found on: [daimi.au.dk/local/travel](daimi.au.dk/local/travel)
- Go
Work

- Before you leave you should know what you are going to work on
- Make sure you have contact to the actual people you will be working with (email is good)
Work (con’t)

- Clarify expectations
- Make sure your host knows your plans and agrees on what the result of your stay should be (publish a paper, find a solution to a particular problem, or other metrics)
- Communicate with your host and advisor regularly so everybody knows your status
Work (con’t)

- Make sure you get introduced to people
- Don’t expect people to get involved in your work by them selves - you should make them interested and involved
Beyond work

- 6 months without friends and family leave a lot of time
- You can use the time to do more work
- But that is probably not what you should do with all of it
Beyond work

- Bring a book
- Bring your hobby, scouting, skiing, running, etc. Use local offers
Meet local people, e.g. students, faculty, team mates, etc.
Enjoy the local nature and cultural life
Engage in the local community
Banking

- Take cash with you, you need it - especially in the beginning
- Bring Visa, Mastercard, and American Express
- International bank transfer is more expensive than withdrawing cash on Visa card.
Staying abroad and salaried work

- More than three consecutive months during which classes are being taught (February, March, April, May, September, October, November, December) then you may be exempt from 70 hours of salaried work

- You can only do this twice