English Summary: Student mobility in Danish higher education 2011/12

This is an English summary of the Danish report “Mobility Statistics for Higher Education 2011/12”. The report (.pdf) can be found here:

http://fivu.dk/uddannelse-og-institutioner/statistik-og-analyser/international-mobilitet

This summary gives an overview of international student mobility to and from Denmark, with information about:

- **Exchange students**: Students studying abroad temporarily for a period of at least three months; and

- **Full-degree students**: Students enrolled in a full-degree programme in a country other than their country of origin.

Based on data from the academic year 2011/12 and the calendar year of 2011, the summary presents the number of Danish students studying abroad, where they went and what they studied. The international student population\(^1\) in Denmark is presented in a similar way. By drawing on data from previous years, the summary also seeks to highlight general trends.

Higher education institutions in Denmark offer three different types of degree programmes:

- Two-year Academy Profession programmes
- Three to four-year Professional Bachelor’s programmes
- Bachelor’s, Master’s and PhD programmes at university level.

The data used in the original report have been collected from various sources: The Ministry of Science, Innovation and Higher Education (The Danish Ministry of Higher Education), The Danish Ministry of Culture and Statistics Denmark.

\(^1\) An *international student* is defined as a student who has moved to Denmark for the purpose of studying. Students who hold foreign citizenship, but have resided in Denmark for more than a year prior to the beginning of his/her studies, are therefore not included in the term.
It should be noted that only exchange students, who study abroad for three months or more are included in the data. The numbers of exchange students presented in this summary therefore slightly underestimate the actual exchange student mobility, as shorter stays, such as summer school programmes, are unaccounted for.

For further details, the data is accessible (in Danish) at:

http://fivu.dk/uddannelse-og-institutioner/statistik-og-analyser/international-mobilitet

Furthermore, it should be noted that Statistics Denmark regularly updates its data on international students in Denmark. Therefore, the data in this year’s report cannot be compared directly to the data included in the 2009/10 report. Data concerning previous years’ student mobility should therefore be taken from this year’s report.

Key trends

The number of Danish students studying abroad is increasing. The number of Danish students studying abroad as a part of their degree in Denmark has increased by 17 % from 2010/11 to 2011/12. Likewise, the number of Danish students studying for a full degree abroad has increased by 8 % from 2010 to 2011.

For the first time in many years the number of international exchange students in Denmark has decreased from 2010/11 to 2011/12 by 7 %. The number of international full-degree students has increased every year since 2001, and today the number of full-degree students is four times higher than in 2001.
Table 1: Student mobility in Danish higher education 2011/12. Exchange, full-degree and total numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Danish students abroad</th>
<th>International students in Denmark</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Exchange 1)</td>
<td>7,844</td>
<td>8,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-degree 2)</td>
<td>4,019</td>
<td>20,125</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>11,863</strong></td>
<td><strong>28,886</strong></td>
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Source: Ministry of Higher Education
1) 2011/12
2) 2011

Fig. 1: Danish students abroad (exchange and full-degree), 1995/96-2011/12

Source: Ministry of Higher Education
The number of Danish students studying abroad through the EU Erasmus programme is rising. In total 2,768 Danish students went abroad through the Erasmus programme in 2010/11 - equalling an increase of 7% compared to 2009/10. The increase is predominantly due to a growing number of students taking an internship through the programme. In 2010/11 6,889 international Erasmus-students studied in Denmark - equalling an increase of 8% compared to 2009/10.

Approximately half of the international students graduating from higher education institutions in Denmark continue to live in Denmark at least one year after graduation. The trend seems to be that more and more graduates stay in Denmark after completing their studies. The majority (around 50%) of the graduates, who continues to live in Denmark, finds employment.

The proportion of international students in the higher education system in Denmark is close to the OECD average. Compared to the other Nordic countries, the proportion in Denmark is the same or higher. A smaller group of English-speaking countries (e.g. UK and Australia) attracts a very high number of international students, and a high percentage of all their students in higher education are international students.
The extent of outgoing student mobility varies a lot among the OECD countries. The outgoing mobility rate of Danish students at 3.2% corresponds to the rate of the EU countries in total and to a number of the European countries.