



INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY

STORY



Ruche Ferreira
Audit Senior, South Africa

“
**3 months of auditing
in Copenhagen,
Denmark**
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To second or not? My answer will always be YES!

It is October 2015. An email comes through: 'International Secondment opportunities – Denmark'.

A 3 months transfer to Mazars Copenhagen. I have never been out of South Africa and only got my passport a week ago. I am single with nothing stopping me from going, why not try it? I quickly read through the email and make

sure I meet all the requirements. After getting approval from the partners I send of my CV hoping for the best... Little did I know that this would be the best decision I ever made!

On Friday 22 January 2016 I finally arrive in Copenhagen (after a 2 weeks delay in getting my visa). I meet my new colleagues at a specially arranged South African wine-tasting and already feel welcome.



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The first week starts slowly as I undergo the introduction and familiarize myself with the office and audit software. The next 11 weeks fly by so quickly I can hardly keep track. Who knew you could learn and experience so much in such a short period? Here are some of my observations:

- **Hygge** – The untranslatable Danish word which loosely describes the feeling of togetherness and comfort Danes create when visiting with each other, or even when alone. We eat lunch together every day, we have cake at least once a week and celebrate every achievement of an employee together. It's like a working family.
- **Work** - The working environment is great. There is mutual respect and everyone knows their role in the Mazars partnership. The Mazarians are hardworking and put in the hours required to meet the deadlines which is a necessary byproduct of our profession. However, there is no negative atmosphere which you normally get around an office where people have been working more than required. It is a job that needs doing and so it gets done.
- **Clients** – I got exposed to such a varied portfolio of clients. From advertising agencies to an international manufacturing group and clients in the IT sector. I got to work on clients as subsidiaries, clients working through shared service centers and a group consolidation. The experience gained from these has been fantastic. It has broadened my way of thinking by hearing how these companies measure and evaluate their performance.
- **Language** – The one obstacle that took a little bit of effort getting over. Danish is the primary language communication occurs in. Both verbal and written. All working papers are in Danish so Google Translate became my friend. It is not an obstacle that can't be overcome but it takes a bit of time.



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- **Colleagues** – aka friends. I will cherish the relationships build with my Danish colleagues forever. They really went out of their way to make me feel comfortable and at home. As far as possible they communicated in English to accommodate me during lunch time, at the clients and elsewhere. Out of the whole experience I will miss them the most.
- **Celebrating my APC pass** - I could not have asked to be at a better place when I found out that I was finally a CA (SA). There was champagne (and cake of course), but it was the speech made by Pia, the managing partner, and the sincere happiness of all that made it so special. I will wear the extremely thoughtful gift with pride and as a sentiment of a great organization.
- **Copenhagen** – What a wonderful city! It was so great experiencing a first world country. From the excellent infrastructure, public transport and rich history which makes Denmark the happiest country on earth. There is so much I can say about life in Denmark but all I'll say for now is "Come experience it for yourself!"



Thank you to Mazars who makes it possible for someone like me to have the experience of a lifetime. Without Mazars none of this would have been possible. I hope to continue creating the shared value we need to thrive.

For more information, please contact Mazars Group HR: yiqing.lin@mazars.fr