

Updated March 2024

For Spring 2024, Summer 2024, Fall 2024



Architecture and Design, Furniture Design, and Graphic Design

DIS Study Abroad in Scandinavia



Overview

[DIS -Study Abroad in Scandinavia](#) offers Architecture, Interior Architecture, Furniture, Graphic and Urban Design studios. The programs approach the academic content through a Scandinavian lens and are integrated with experiential learning concepts and study tours.

- In Scandinavia, the built environment considers people, community, wellbeing, and multiple modes of and approaches to sustainability. Students engage in explorations of Danish and Scandinavian design philosophies, combining strong traditions with contemporary energy of future-focused architects and designers.
- Scandinavian furniture has a deep history of considering people, culture, society, and materiality in the design process. Students explore these relationships and develop their individual design capabilities through studio assignments, lectures, Field Studies, and production in studio.
- Graphic Design is a powerful tool for the expression of ideas, concepts, and information. Students develop a comprehensive understanding of the Scandinavian and European approaches and explore methodologies that strengthen their individual design capabilities. Whether students are majoring in Graphic Design and seeking to build a portfolio with a European design edge or want to try something new while studying abroad there is a studio level for them.

During the spring or fall, students enroll in **one core course** (with course-integrated study tours) and **three or four electives**.

Students in the [summer](#) enroll in one session at a time and can stay for one or up to three sessions in either Copenhagen or Stockholm or a mix of both.

Semester Core Courses

ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

Architecture Design Studio (Copenhagen), 6 Credits

In this studio students engage in an exploration of Danish and Scandinavian design practice through challenging assignments addressing real sites and issues in and around Copenhagen. Studio groups combine students of different levels and backgrounds. This course is taught vertically, and expectations relate to each individual student.

- Week-Long Study Tour: Germany and/or Netherlands or Sweden and/or Finland
- Core Course Week Study Tour: A three-day study tour in [Berlin \(Spring semester Full-Year Students Only\)](#) or [Western Denmark](#) alongside a two-day seminar in Copenhagen.
- *Prerequisites: Enrollment in a professional school or department of architecture or design. Two spatial design studios at university level.*
- *Additional Portfolio Needs: Examples of studio work in a portfolio to be submitted to studio instructor at the beginning of the semester. This will allow the professor to become acquainted with the design skills of each student.*

Architecture Foundations Studio (Copenhagen), 6 Credits

Students develop design skills through analysis of existing buildings and by solving realistic architectural problems in a Danish context. In studio projects, students construct spatial models in physical and digital media and advance your communication skills in expressing abstract concepts. Studios are taught vertically, combining students of different levels. Expectations relate to each individual student.

- Week-Long Study Tour: Germany and/or Netherlands or Sweden and/or Finland
- Core Course Week: A three-day study tour in [Western Denmark](#) alongside a two-day seminar in Copenhagen.
- *Prerequisites: One drawing course at university level.*
- *Additional Portfolio Needs: Examples of studio work in a portfolio to be submitted to studio instructor at the beginning of the semester. This will allow the professor to become acquainted with the design skills of each student.*

Interior Architecture Studio (Copenhagen), 6 Credits

Studio focuses on interior architecture in a Danish context and on developing a concept and project design within an existing structure. Students create a design concept shaping interior space and user experience. Adaptive reuse and transformation features are among the prioritized challenges in the studio assignment. Studio groups combine students of diverse levels and backgrounds. This course is taught vertically, and expectations relate to each individual student.

- Week-Long Study Tour: Germany and/or Netherlands or Sweden and/or Finland
- Core Course Week: A three-day study tour in [Berlin \(Full-Year Students Only\)](#) or [Western Denmark](#) alongside a two-day seminar in Copenhagen.

- *Prerequisite: Enrollment in a professional school or department of architecture or design. Two spatial design studios at university level.*
- *Additional Portfolio Needs: Examples of studio work in a portfolio to be submitted to studio instructor at the beginning of the semester. This will allow the professor to become acquainted with the design skills of each student.*

Interior Architecture Foundations Studio (Copenhagen), 6 Credits

Students develop design skills through analysis of existing interiors and by solving realistic design problems in a Danish context. In studio projects, students construct spatial models in physical and digital media, and advance your communication skills to express abstract concepts. Studios are taught vertically, combining students of different levels. Expectations relate to each individual student.

- *Week-Long Study Tour: Germany and/or Netherlands or Sweden and/or Finland*
- *Core Course Week: A three-day study tour in [Berlin \(Full-Year Students Only\)](#) or [Western Denmark](#) alongside a two-day seminar in Copenhagen.*
- *Prerequisites: One drawing course at university level.*
- *Additional Portfolio Needs: Examples of studio work in a portfolio to be submitted to studio instructor at the beginning of the semester. This will allow the professor to become acquainted with the design skills of each student.*

Urban Design Studio (Copenhagen), 6 Credits

Using Copenhagen as a laboratory, students solve realistic problems using analytical and design methods specifically devised for urban design and landscape issues. Some studio sections focus on issues of human scale, temporary use, and sustainable design. Studio groups combine students of diverse levels and backgrounds. This course is taught vertically, and expectations relate to each individual student.

- *Week-Long Study Tour: Germany and/or Netherlands or Sweden and/or Finland*
- *Core Course Week: A three-day study tour in [Berlin \(Full-Year Students Only\)](#) or [Western Denmark](#) alongside a two-day seminar in Copenhagen.*
- *Prerequisite: Enrollment in a professional school or department of architecture or design. Two spatial design studios at university level.*
- *Additional Portfolio Needs: Examples of studio work in a portfolio to be submitted to studio instructor at the beginning of the semester. This will allow the professor to become acquainted with the design skills of each student.*

Urban Design Foundations Studio (Copenhagen), 6 Credits

This studio offers students an opportunity to acquire in-depth knowledge of the field of urban design, and develop your creative design skills in a studio setting. Design projects are the basis for discussions, presentations, and the development of individual design skills. You work in physical and digital media to construct spatial models and further your graphic and verbal communication skills in conveying abstract spatial concepts. Studios are taught vertically, combining students of different levels. Expectations relate to you as an individual student.

- Week-Long Study Tour: Germany and/or Netherlands or Sweden and/or Finland
- Core Course Week: A three-day study tour in [Berlin \(Full-Year Students Only\)](#) or [Western Denmark](#) alongside a two-day seminar in Copenhagen.
- *Prerequisite: One drawing course at university level.*
- *Additional Portfolio Needs: Examples of studio work in a portfolio to be submitted to studio instructor at the beginning of the semester. This will allow the professor to become acquainted with the design skills of each student.*

FURNITURE DESIGN

Furniture Design Studio (Copenhagen), 6 Credits

Scandinavian furniture design has a deep history of considering people, culture, material and society in design development. The course gives you the opportunity to explore this particular relationship and to grow your individual design capabilities through studio assignments, lectures, Field Studies, and workshop activity producing your own furniture prototype. This course is taught vertically, and expectations relate to you as an individual student.

- Week-Long Study Tour: [Finland-Sweden](#)
- Core Course Week: A three-day study tour in [Western Denmark](#) alongside a two-day seminar in Copenhagen.
- *Prerequisite: Enrollment in a professional school or department of architecture or design. Experience with stationary power tools and hand tools.*
- *Additional Portfolio Needs: Examples of studio work in a portfolio to be submitted to studio instructor at the beginning of the semester. This will allow the professor to become acquainted with the design skills of each student.*

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Graphic Design Studio (Copenhagen), 6 Credits

In this course, students develop a comprehensive understanding of the Scandinavian and European approach to graphic design and explore methodologies that strengthen your individual design capabilities. You work on project-based assignments in visual identity, branding, and communication across all platforms. Exploration and analysis of Scandinavian and European graphic case studies give your individual design capabilities a competitive edge. This course is taught vertically, and expectations relate to you as an individual student.

- Week-Long Study Tour: [Netherlands](#)
- Core Course Week: A three-day study tour in [Berlin \(Full-Year Students Only\)](#) or [Western Denmark](#) alongside a two-day seminar in Copenhagen.
- *Prerequisites: Enrollment in a professional school or department of architecture or design. Knowledge of one or more programs in Adobe Creative Suite. Two graphic design or related studios at university level.*
- *Additional Portfolio Needs: Examples of studio work in a portfolio to be submitted to studio instructor at the beginning of the semester. This will allow the professor to become acquainted with the design skills of each student.*

Graphic Design Foundations Studio (Copenhagen), 6 Credits

This course presents students with in-depth knowledge of, and professional skills within the field of graphic design. Develop your graphic sensibilities through analysis of existing examples of real-life visual identity, branding, and communication along with project-based studio assignments. You work in physical and digital media, and are challenged to use these media in each of your projects throughout the semester. Studios are taught vertically, combining students of different levels. Expectations relate to you as an individual student.

- Week-Long Study Tour: [Netherlands](#)
- Core Course Week: A three-day study tour in [Berlin \(Full-Year Students Only\)](#) or [Western Denmark](#) alongside a two-day seminar in Copenhagen.
- *Prerequisite: One drawing course at university level. Knowledge of one or more programs in Adobe Creative Suite.*
- *Additional Portfolio Needs: Examples of studio work in a portfolio to be submitted to studio instructor at the beginning of the semester. This will allow the professor to become acquainted with the design skills of each student.*

Semester Design-Related Elective Courses

Students choose three to four electives to complete their schedules. Students are free to also combine electives from across a large number of disciplines, outside of design.

- [20th and 21st Century Danish Architecture](#)
- [Adaptive Re-use in Europe: Cities and Buildings](#)
- [Art in the Making](#)
- [Danish Design](#)
- [Danish Language and Culture for Design Students](#)
- [Detailing and Sustainability in Scandinavian Architecture](#)
- [Digital Fashion and the Body](#)
- [European Urban Design Theories](#)
- [European Urban Experience: Why Cities Matter](#)
- [Furniture Design Workshop](#)
- [Garden Art in European Culture](#)
- [Getting There: Transportation in Urban Europe](#)
- [History of Copenhagen: Structure, Plan, Design](#)
- [Inclusive Design in Architecture and Urban Spaces](#)
- [Innovation Through Design Thinking](#)
- [Integrated Climate Change Planning](#)
- [New Nordic Design](#)
- [Place-based Sustainable Building](#)
- [Strategies for Urban Livability](#)
- [Sustainable by Design](#)
- [Textile Design in Scandinavia Workshop](#)
- [Urban Design Journal](#)
- [Urban Ecology](#)
- [Urban Exploration Photography Workshop](#)
- [Visual Journal](#)
- [Waste Management Systems in Europe](#)
- [Watercolor Painting](#)

Summer 2024 Design-related Courses

Session 1 (May 21 - June 12, 2024)

- [Strategies for Urban Livability](#) (3 weeks, 3 credits)

Session 2 (May 21 - June 12, 2024)

- [Visual Culture of Cities](#) (3 weeks, 3 credits)

Session 3 (July 8 - July 24, 2024)

- [Bicycle Urbanism](#) (3 weeks, 3 credits)
- [Storytelling Through Photography](#) (3 weeks, 3 credits)

Architecture and Design Session (June 16 – July 27, 2024)

- [Architecture Design Studio](#) (6 weeks, 6 credits)
- [Architecture Foundations Studio](#) (6 weeks, 6 credits)
- [Graphic Design Foundations Studio](#) (6 weeks, 6 credits)
- [Graphic Design Studio](#) (6 weeks, 6 credits)
- [Interior Architecture Studio](#) (6 weeks, 6 credits)
- [Urban Design Studio](#) (6 weeks, 6 credits)

Furniture Design Sessions (May 21 – July 5, 2024 and June 16 – July 27, 2024)

- [Furniture Design Studio](#) (6 weeks, 6 credits)

Program Director



Natalie Jeffers-Hansen

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B.A. cum laude (Art History, English, Wellesley College, 2004).

External Lecturer, Furniture Design Workshop, DIS, 2013-2022.
Previously at Henning Larsen Architects, 2013-2016, and BIG Bjarke Ingels Group, 2016. With DIS since 2012.