

Denmark Host School FAQ

In what type of school will I be enrolled?

Most AFS students attend one of two types of public schools. They are either placed in the 9th or 10th grade of Folkeskole or in the first or second grade of the Gymnasium. Most students are placed in Gymnasiums. The Folkeskole is the school for pupils from approximately 6 to 16 years old and includes one year of pre-school, plus grades 1 through 10. The Gymnasium is a three-year school that prepares pupils for further education. Students are accepted after completing the Folkeskole and are usually between 15 and 19 years old.

In what grade level will I be enrolled?

Students are usually placed in the 9th or 10th grade of Folkeskole (primary school/lower secondary school) or in the first or second grade of Gymnasium (high school). The grade in which students are placed depends on the student's age, grades and school availability.

When does the school year begin and end?

The school year runs from August to late June. There is a one-week break in mid-October, a two-week Christmas holiday, a one-week winter break in February, and a one-week break at Easter.

What is a typical school day? How many classes per day?

Students attend classes Monday-Friday, 8am to 3pm. They take five to seven classes per day and have 15 minute breaks between classes. The class schedule is slightly different every day, so students will take different classes and different numbers of classes each day of the week.

Will I be able to choose my classes? What classes are available?

Students usually have 5-6 mandatory subjects and 1 or 2 electives. Mandatory classes include English, Danish, Mathematics, and History. Electives vary from school to school. Commonly offered electives include French, Italian, Spanish, social science, physics, sports, and art. Once students receive their school placement, they should check their host school's website for more information on the types of classes their school offers. Danish schools usually base school activities very heavily upon independent and project-oriented work, which requires a high degree of independence from students. Danish students are expected to show a lot of maturity - the key word is "freedom with responsibility" and we expect our exchange students to be able to administer this freedom as well.

In what language will classes be taught?

All instruction, with the exception of foreign languages, is done in Danish.

Will I need to buy a uniform, books, or other school supplies?

Uniforms are not required in Danish schools. Students should be able to borrow any needed textbooks from their host school. They will be responsible for purchasing other school supplies (paper, pencils, notebooks, etc.) It may also be useful (but not necessary) to have a laptop, which can, in some cases, be borrowed from the school. Danish lessons are available to exchange students on the year program, and all students are expected to attend the first module. These lessons may cost up to US\$200 but possibilities vary from chapter to chapter.

Are extra-curricular activities available such as sports, music, and art?

Extracurricular activities are not as widespread in Denmark as in the US. Some schools allow students to use the school facilities after the school day is over for sports or clubs. However, most students in Denmark take part in extra-curricular activities outside of school in sports clubs or youth associations.

Are high school graduates accepted?

Yes. Keep in mind: graduates must be recent grads (less than three months since high school graduation), they must still be within the program age ranges, they must demonstrate that they understand they will be expected to participate fully in school, and that they may be placed in school with students younger than them.

Can I get an official transcript or a certificate of attendance?

Whether or not an AFS'er can receive a school transcript is entirely up to the host school. Officially, all schools should evaluate exchange students the same way they evaluate their own students, but in reality some schools do not give exchange students grades and do not expect them to take exams. All students should be able to get a certificate of attendance. If you need specific documents from your host school, please feel free to ask AFS for help.

Can I get academic credit for my study abroad?

Maybe, but we can't guarantee it. The amount and type of credit you receive is determined by your high school in the home country so it's important that you talk with your teachers and guidance counselor before you depart to see what is needed in order to be granted credit. In most cases, AFS students have received language, history, or social studies credits. Be sure to keep a copy of any formal grades or transcripts you receive from your host school. It is your responsibility to obtain any written information about your attendance and grades in your host school before you return home. AFS cannot assist you with course or grade information after you complete the program.