Dear Internationals,

It’s Christmas and time to overcome sickness and computer challenges in order to get the very best Christmas wishes on the way. – Of course some other pieces of information is available in the following:
The annual UIC Christmas Party had to be called off. But should be made up for. It means a new event is in the planning. For a party is great and life-assuring, please mark the date 31 January from 3pm. Details will follow.

The coming of Christmas is very near. Three candles are lit in the Advent’s wreath – and when the 4th is due, this Sunday, it is the very day it is Christmas in Denmark!

As can be seen from the following it still is a lively, colorful, creative and very cozy time. One has to “rethink”, if there is not something interesting happening!

Section 5: details about Danish Christmas Eve celebration. – If you want to celebrate the Christmas with others, see a few options!

Section 8: Family looking for a nanny this January!

In the City of smiles we learned the shortest distance between two is giving a smile! Give it a try!

UIC Newsletter always aims at providing information, which can assist everyone in getting to know more of the good events, which are on today and in the coming days. – First some information of General Interest and at the bottom the Calendar with specific activities mentioned at the bottom.

1. UIC and selected IAS, AIAS & AU events & information

UIC Informal Get-together 10 January from 10.15 am
A time to meet, exchange information on how it is to live in Aarhus, to inspire and encourage one another.
Meet up at AroS Art Café, downtown, 8000 Aarhus C.

UIC Party takes place Wednesday 31 January from 3pm – Mark it in your Calendar 2018 - Details to follow.

UIC & Dokk1 joint International Playgroup Each Friday, – next is 5 January 2018 from 10am-12noon.
Location: Dokk1, Pusterummet, Hack Kampmanns Plads 2, 8000 Aarhus C. (the room is named 'Pusterummet') Pusterummet is in the same area as the 0-3 year area. It faces the water and is slightly differently demarcated. Take the elevator to Level 2, then go through the mini ramp and pass the 'Børnelab' - alternatively you can take the ramp up, then pass the stage stairs and you will be right there. Click here to view the location on Google Maps. We are also active on Facebook as “UIC International Playgroup”, where you
can stay up-to-date about upcoming events and activities and use the group to organize playdates and meetups. **Contacts:** Sarah Nightingale: [nity78@hotmail.com](mailto:nity78@hotmail.com) & Amy-Jo Nicholson: [amyjocampbelldk@gmail.com](mailto:amyjocampbelldk@gmail.com) (or Gitte Haahr-Andersen: [gha@au.dk](mailto:gha@au.dk)).

More can join the UIC Book Club(s) – choose from the morning club or the after work one. If neither fits you, let’s form another one!

**UIC Book Club 2017 – English – open for more.**

Book: not yet decided, choose from a list of books, voting. Next meet up: December 14th at 10am and meet up at the Café named “Stuen th”, Tordenskjoldsgade 19B, Trøjborg, 8200 Aarhus N. Interested contact: Joy Dias [joyelana@gmail.com](mailto:joyelana@gmail.com)

Or

**UIC Book Club After Work Hours – open for more.** Read Book: Mirror, Shoulder, Signal of Dorthe Nors. Meet next time: to be announced. Contact: Line Bager [lbager@econ.au.dk](mailto:lbager@econ.au.dk)

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**Sideline activities - you may need a permit**

If you consider to take up sideline activities in Denmark, please be aware that your current work and residence permit might not allow you to do so.

If you hold a work and residence permit to Aarhus University, this permit only allows you to work for the specific and specified employer/host (AU) in the specified position and period as mentioned in your work and residence permit. If you are considering to engage in any other activities, an additional permit for that sideline activity is required. A permit for sideline activities is required for each activity.

Sideline activities can be related to your work or free time.

Read the guide about sideline activities

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**Getting Started in Denmark in the spring – with a new programme**

We have set the dates for the Getting Started in Denmark events in the spring semester. Please note that events will start half an hour earlier than usual to ensure that the participants get full benefit of both the registration and orientation.

**The new programme**

07:45 Welcome and submission of requested documents to public authorities

08:00 Orientation by Work in Denmark, AU International Academic Staff Services and Lærdansk

09:00 - ? Registration at the public authorities. Individual questions. Registration usually takes 1-4 hours depending on the waiting time at the ICS. 58% of the participants are done with their registration at 11am.

Location: The event takes place at the International Citizen Service (ICS), Åboulevarden 31, 1., 8000 Aarhus C

**What are the changes:** Earlier the event started at 8:15 and the registration took place at the same time as the 3 orientation sessions. This was disturbing to the participants and caused them to miss parts of the orientation. Therefore, we have now split up the programme so that the participants first have the orientation (before the ICS opens at 9am) and then the registration takes place afterwards from 9am. This may make the event last longer, but we have aimed to alleviate this by starting half an hour earlier at 7:45 so that we can get first in line to be registered when the ICS opens. / We hope that new staff will enjoy the new programme. Feel free to refer your new colleagues who need to be registered to the Getting Started in Denmark event.
Getting Started in Denmark is an event organised by AU International Centre. It offers orientation and registration for newly arrived PhD students, researchers and their spouses/partners. The event is held twice a month on a Friday. Read more about Getting Started in Denmark. / Read the invitation.

Cultural Awareness seminar - Living and working with Danes Thu 25 Jan 2018, 10am to 12noon.

Do you want to get a head start to understand the Danes? Learn more about Danish culture and values? Or find out why Danes behave the way they do? Then join this seminar for international researchers, accompanying partners, and international staff at AU.

**Why join this seminar?** The seminar ensures that you get a head start to understand the Danes, learn more about Danish culture and values and find out why Danes behave the way they do!

Whether you are here for a short or long period, this seminar will help you settle well and get knowledge and tools on living and working with Danes.

You will learn how to interact with your Danish colleagues, how to get new friends and how to navigate the Danish workplace culture. You will get an introduction to how to achieve a good social life inside and outside the office with Danish friends and networks. Danish cultural training will give you knowledge about communication and collaboration in a Danish context.

- Increase your cultural self-awareness
- Crack the Danish workplace and social codes
- Strengthen communication and collaboration with Danish colleagues and network

**What topics will we cover?**
- Introduction to Danish culture, values and society
- How to navigate in the Danish workplace culture with Danish and international colleagues
- Making friends and networking in Denmark
- Management structure, decision processes and teamwork
- Differences that make a difference
- Communication, collaboration and managing expectations
- The written and unwritten rules

**Who?** Open course for international researchers, accompanying partners, staff at AU

**Time and location:** 25th of January, 2018 from 10-12 / Deadline for registration: 22nd of January, 2018, International Centre (Dales Café), Høegh-Guldbergs Gade 4, bldg. 1653, 014 (basement), 8000 Aarhus C. In English, Free for AU Staff and international accompanying partners. **Sign-up:** Please sign up by sending an email to Intercultural trainer, Inge Aagaard, iaa@au.dk. Location: AU International Centre (Dales café), Høegh-Guldbergs Gade 4, Bldg. 1653 (Basement), 8000 Aarhus C.

**Invitation:**

Research Integrity and Reproducibility

**All are welcome**

**Date and Place:** Tuesday 9 January 13-14. Mogens Zielerstuen at the Student House, Fredrik Nielsens Vej 2-4, 8000 Aarhus C

Lex Bouter is professor of Methodology and Integrity at the Medical Faculty at Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam. Lex Bouter recently became chair of the World Conferences on Research Integrity Foundation (WCRI) a global network of researchers, research managers, funding agencies, publishers, academy of sciences etc. that aim to facilitate a world dialogue on Research Integrity and to develop a common framework and understanding of principles and standards of Responsible Conduct of Research.

Lex Bouter was a member of the committee of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences that recently issued a report on Replication Studies and he chairs the program committee on Replication Studies of the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research. On behalf of Vice Dean Lise Wogensen Bach, RCR advisors and lecturers at Health.
Next Spring Folkeuniversitetet offers two events in English, limited seats, requires sign up:

A Guide to Politics in Denmark Wednesday 18 April 2018 from 7.45pm to 9.30pm

In the fictional Danish television series ‘Borgen’ viewers are introduced to a small country in Northern Europe. Here, the dynamic female prime minister rides her bike to work, minority governments and compromises prevail, and climate policy is a top priority. But how does it actually work, the political system in Denmark? How is a government formed in real life? And how do minority governments generate support for bills - and stay in government at all? The Danish constitution on the one hand contains few checks and balances on the government, but on the other hand the governments are predominantly minority governments with no guarantee that a majority in parliament will actually support the bills, it puts forward. We look at how the Danish political system is, nevertheless, both very stable and has been capable of steering Danish society quite successfully through the financial and economic crisis of recent years. Further, the lecture will also discuss how the emergence of new political parties has helped sustain public belief in the political system - and how developments like European integration may Free of charge. https://fuau.dk/aarhus/program/samfund-og-verden/a-guide-to-politics-in-denmark-1811-317 Sign up: Lecturer: professor Christoffer Green-Pedersen, Political Science, Aarhus Universitet

Guided Tour in Aarhus: Between Vikings and WWII Occupation Saturday 28 April 2018

Explore the history of the old city and how the Vikings fortified Aarhus (named Aros at the time), how the city was founded and what daily life used to be like. Your guide will take you to places relevant to the Nazi’s occupation of Denmark, informers and bombings, and explain how not all citizens were opposed to the new law enforcement until Gestapo. The tour will end at the entrance of Den Gamle By (The Old Town), Aarhus’ national open-air museum, depicting Aarhus-life before the 1900s and until the 1970’s. NB: Max 20 participants Meeting point at 12.30: In front of Restaurant Italia, Aaboulevarden 9, 8000 Aarhus C. Time: 12.30 - 14.00. Holdnr 1811-350 Free of charge. https://fuau.dk/aarhus/program/arkaeologi-og-historie/guided-tour-in-aarhus-between-vikings-and-wwii-occupation-1811-350. Sign up: tilmeld Guided Historical City Tour with Doron Haahr, master degree of art.

Special efforts for good communication at Aarhus University

There will be particular emphasis on "good communication" at Aarhus University over the next six months. More details in Read News from the Senior Management Team. Need more information on constructive communication, turn to AU HR, Organisational Learning and Development at kompetenceudvikling@au.dk or tel. 8715 3386.

Fellows’ Seminars at AIAS, Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies

The AIAS Fellows’ Seminars are all held in English and open to the public. See the complete spring 2018 programme of the Fellows’ Seminar Series to be announced on: http://aias.au.dk/aias-fellows-
Beginner Intensive Course in Danish

As an international staff member at Aarhus University, you and your spouse or partner can benefit from free Danish lessons offered by Lærdansk at International Centre (Høegh-Guldborgs Gade 4, 8000 Aarhus C). The next Crash Course in Danish for the spring semester will take place in weeks 5 and 6, between 29th January - 9th February, every day (Monday to Friday), between 8:30 - 11:30. This course is the best solution if you want to learn some basic Danish skills very quickly, corresponding to the first 50 lessons (from Module 1) of the “Danish for the Labor Market course”. You will have the chance to focus on Danish working culture and work vocabulary, which you will be able to start using immediately after the first lessons. You can apply online using this application form before the DEADLINE: 14 January 2017. If you have questions, feel free to contact your Lærdansk Coordinator on campus, Andrei Păduroiu, at Andrei.Paduroiu@adm.laerdansk.dk or at the following telephone number: 2679 0733.

Full Semester Course in Danish

Aarhus University international staff members, as well as their spouses or partners, have the possibility to take free Danish classes on campus, in Nobelparken, Jens Chr. Skous Vej, 8000 Aarhus C. The next beginner Full semester Course starts in week 8 (with and after 19th February) and takes place two times per week, either on Monday and Wednesday (between 18.00 - 19.30), or Tuesday and Thursday (between 16.15 - 17.45). Also, for the ambitious spouses or partners who are at a beginner level and would like to study the language in a more intensive way can choose the Monday, Wednesday and Friday course between 8:30 – 11:15 (at Lærdansk). The course aims to develop an active work and free time related Danish vocabulary, as well as give rich insights into the Danish workplace culture and traditions in general.

You can read more details about it here and sign up online by completing this application form no later than the DEADLINE: 4th February 2018. For more information, you are welcome to contact your campus coordinator, Andrei Păduroiu, via e-mail: Andrei.Paduroiu@adm.laerdansk.dk, or at the following telephone number: 2679 0733.

2. Selected Aarhus events

Christmas Crèche downtown

Some of the Protestant churches and missions in Aarhus have this joined project of presenting the Christmas crèche in front of the Catholic Church in Ryegade, downtown. The barn room will all December offer a lot of activities, like music, choir singing, and quizzes with prizes. The initiative is taken to put focus as the announcement says “joy and peace symbolized by Jesus”. Open till 23 December. A crèche is very common in many, many other countries, but not much in Denmark. Now this in Ryegade is opened for the 3rd year. Make a stop and join the activities or ask a question.
Christmas Community Singing tonight 21 Dec at 7.30pm at the Concert Hall Aarhus
Traditional Danish Christmas songs are enjoyed under conductor Carsten Seyer-Hansen, and the Clemens Cantori Boys at the Concert Hall Aarhus, downtown, 8000 Aarhus C, doors open at 7.10pm, free.

Christmas Concert with the Men’s Choir Arion join tonight 21 December
And enjoy the big choir sing carols at 7.30pm at Sankt Johannes kirken, Peter Sabroes Gade 20, 8000 Aarhus C, free.

Christmas Concert Friday 22 December 7.30pm at Aarhus Cathedral
With St Clemens Boys’ Choir, Guest soloist Indra Rios Moore, Aarhus Jazz Orchestra, David Peter Schmidt, organ and Carsten Seyer-Hansen, conductor the traditional concert takes place. Location: Aarhus Domkirke, Downtown, 8000 Aarhus C. Tickets dkk150, under 18 years dkk100. buy at Køb dine billetter her.

Concert Hall Aarhus – worth a visit for a performance, concert
Or one of the many free small concerts. Please do not underestimate upcoming stars first performances, can be students from the Royal College of Music or Aarhus Music School, which are all free of charge. – But great, renowned events like the Nutcracker with the Royal Ballet Cph from 29 Dec to 31 Dec are opportunities to consider. Regardless, your priorities turn for further details to https://musikhusetaarhus.dk/arrangementer, also to book tickets, when needed. Location: Concert Hall Aarhus, downtown, 8000 Aarhus C.
31 December at 7pm Service from Aarhus Cathedral is broadcast to all Denmark
Aarhus Cathedral, downtown, 8000 Aarhus C.

Jul I Øst for Paradis – Christmas in the Kino
The unusual Kino, see details at www.paradisbio.dk/. Open between Christmas and New Year – look into the events. Location Øst for Paradis, Paradisgade 7-9, 8000 Aarhus C.

The Pixi Calendar runs from 1 to 23 December
And takes place at the Museum of Natural History each day from 10.30 am, primarily for children age 4. The daily story takes some 20 minutes at Museum of Natural History, Wilhelm Meyers Allé 210, AU Campus Aarhus, 8000 Aarhus C, ddk75 for a full year, children under 18 yrs. Are free.

The City’s Christmas Crafts’ Market from 25 Nov to 21 December – ends today!
In Ridehuset, the building across the street seen from the City Hall, the City’s Crafts’ Market is open every day and runs to 21 December. The market is Jutland’s largest craft market and is part of an association which has existed since 1997. The traditional indoor Christmas Market, where you can meet the artists/producers – some new artists every week - and discuss details or order something you have in mind! With 80 stalls/stands of unique crafts like knitwear, jewellery, yarn, paintings, Christmas decorations, but also homemade sausages, glassware, Christmas trees, garments - almost anything for everybody. The Crafts’ Market is well worth a visit or two, also because the stalls are replaced by new artworks/ artists 1 Dec, 8 Dec and 15 December. Open hours: Mon to Friday 12 noon to 6 pm, Sat & Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm. Besides, indoor means rain or shine no worries and not to forget the market includes a café! A perfect place to find Christmas gifts. If you can’t find the right one, or the right color order it on spot at the artists stalls. Location: Ridehuset, Vester Allé 1, 8000 Aarhus C. More info and a map http://markednu.dk/ in Danish only, but a lot of photos). No admission.
Aarhus Skating Rink is open!

This year the climate is perfect, so it’s ready for you to benefit from! – It’s great fun to skate. Make sure to check the open hours due to the changing weather. Check here [www.skøjtebanen.dk](http://www.skøjtebanen.dk). Bring your own skates, or rent (service open hours: Mon-Wednesday 12noon to 6pm; Thu-Friday 12noon to 8pm, Sat-Sunday 10am to 5pm, dkk45). Free skates with: [Gratiskøjteleje med AarhusCARD](http://www.skøjtebanen.dk). The skating rink can be used most of the day/night for free – and is great for all family members! Location: In front of the Concert Hall Aarhus, downtown, 8000 Aarhus.

Tivoli Friheden invites to a magic Christmas – all December with exception of 24 & 31!

A Christmas atmosphere is in the air – stimulating all senses

An enchanting experience with enormous number of lights: see Denmark’s tallest Christmas Tree which is 65 meter tall and with 2,1 km of light chains, 103,000 LED lights; also a 30 meter high tree with 4.8 km light chains, and 96,000 LED lights; a 70 meter light tunnel with 50,000 LED lights; 16 km of Christmas decoration; 460 sq meter light curtain; 3,000 outdoor Christmas balls; 500 light drops; and finally, 300 Christmas trees. In addition, 35 stalls with more than you can imagine. Christmas in Tivoli Friheden is magic, and fortunately open all weekends, and for a number of days, see the calendar [here](http://www.tivoli.dk) (in Danish). Kilometers of light chains, roasted almonds, candied apples, Christmas choirs, Ferris wheels, and bumper cars. Tivoli Friheden is for the first time in its 112 year long story dressed up for Christmas lovers and “hygge” = cozy - an experience for all senses. Location: Tivoli Friheden A/S, Skovbrynet 5, 8000 Aarhus C, admission (consider tickets for the season).

The Old Town, Den Gamle By.

Consider buying membership e.g. become part of the townspeople in the old town, den gamle by and learn about 400 years of Danish Christmas traditions and celebrations from 18 November to 30 December, in addition a Christmas Market of dimensions – all in the Old Town, Den Gamle By, Viborgvej 2, 8000 Aarhus C.

Friday and Saturdays special night busses

- to make safe home rides available after a night in the city! Cost double punch or special tickets – operates till New Year!

Shops are closed during Christmas Holidays!

Lots of possibilities for shopping before Christmas, between Christmas and New Year 2017/2018, and again after New Year. Expect most shops closed.
During 24 December: Christmas Eve day, 25 December: 1st Christmas Day, and 26 December 2nd Christmas Day. Plan your shopping – and it can be a relief! 
- Note: 27 December is considered the day to return the gifts you want different – the busiest day! - Besides, the day huge sales start all over the city, especially downtown. It will continue into January, and can at times be quite crazy! See the list here: [http://aarhus-city.dk/besoeg-aarhus-city/aabningstider-julen-nytaar-20172018/](http://aarhus-city.dk/besoeg-aarhus-city/aabningstider-julen-nytaar-20172018/).

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3. Announcements and inquiries from others (very different options!)

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4. Aarhus and Denmark news / information

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**THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.**

Danmark’s Underdog City: A Travel Guide to Scandinavia’s Newest Capital of Culture

Copenhagen hogs the spotlight, but for radical Danish architecture, cutting-edge food and plenty of hygge, head to Aarhus

"Your rainbow panorama", a permanent work of art by Olafur Eliasson at the AROs Aarhus Art Museum. PHOTO: MIKKEL HERIBA FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL By Kate Maxwell Dec. 7, 2017 11:47 a.m. ET

Ever since the waiter set down my reindeer-neck rillettes starter, I had known something was amiss with my meal at Haervaerk, an offal emporium in the Danish city of Aarhus. But I hadn’t been able to work out what exactly. It wasn’t the no-menu policy, which meant each course was a (good) surprise. Every dish, from the goose breast with celeriac to the smoked venison and beetroot tartare, had proved as tasty as it was inventive. No, it was the music. As “Escape (The Pina Colada Song)” transitioned to “9 to 5,” I realized that the restaurant’s ’80s-pop soundtrack was utterly out of kilter with its natural wines, earthenware...
The Government has presented The Budget for 2018 e.g. more & better security, welfare and infra structure, see in Danish:


Politicians in East Jutland dream of a bridge
Connecting Zealand and Jutland – to cut travel time and not to forget opening for more travel routes – to facilitate the ever increasing number of vehicles. The overall dream arose in 2007 and the goal was to tie Aarhus and Copenhagen. Ten years later the project is not mentioned much, but the dream can easily be in focus. – In short the connection should be a 20 km high bridge from Gyllingnæs (20 km south of Aarhus) to the Island of Samsø. From here a 19 km high bridge should connect to Røsnæs close to Kalundborg on Zealand. – This would reduce the distance between Denmark's two biggest cities in Denmark and cut the travel time by 1 hour. What could matter to a great many people. Now ten years after the presentation of this dream it's not given much attention. But who knows, as the renowned Danish humorist said “the future is not easy to foresee!”

Hallo Hostel downtown Aarhus – a new place to stay
Ready to book in the city center – opposite Magasin du Nord and right on the riverside!
Hallo Hostel Aarhus, Fiskergade 2, 8000 Aarhus C
info@hallohostelaarhus.com Phone +45 86101020,
Dkk239 each night including linen & towel.

When downtown remember: Free parking in Navitas basement.
Parking in Navitas (literally under water!) is always free from 7pm to 9am on weekdays, and from Saturday at 4pm to Monday morning at 9am. Only 250 Meter from Aarhus Cathedral downtown.

When an Emergency comes up – be prepared:
If it happens over Christmas it can be very useful to make a print out of the Central Denmark Region's numbers to call in the event of illness and injury, turn to http://www.rm.dk/sundhed/akut-sygdom/emergency-contact-information---english/. Note regardless the case, call first and explain the situation. Thereby you
5. Danish traditions – Vacation and Religious Holidays

Danish Christmas is 24 December in the Evening – this year Sunday.
Lots of preparations are still to be done, especially in the kitchen area. But also the tree has to be trimmed, most Danes do not do this before the 23 December. Presents have to be arranged and so on. – Mainly in the afternoon of the 24 December a big number of Danes will go to church services. They will be fairly short, some 45 min, and these days announced as such “børnevenlig gudstjeneste” e.g. child friendly service or family service. Expect many churches to be packed with people, even if two to three services are scheduled. At times hard to find a proper seat, At Aarhus Cathedral with its 1000 seats it will – especially for the late service 4.30 pm will be full. Due to the fact that the Queen and Royal Family members will attend. See more information about Christmas at Marselisborg Castle below. - For all who participate in church services Christmas carols are the most enjoyable along with the Christmas Gospel. Sunday 25 December is Christmas Day and 26 December is 2nd Christmas Day are both holidays and churches offer again services. Although our society is changing it is best to be prepared for most shops are closed down during 24-26 December, including eating places. So check before going – and make sure to have sufficient milk in the fridge! This year our baker will be open some hours every day, which means we can have fresh bread and other kinds of stuff as we please.

Christmas Eve Day 24 December is a day with many things for the adults to give the final touch, but easily a long day for the children. After church they still find it hard to wait for the evening programme to begin. - Therefore entertainment can be good. While the meal is being cooked and later time is put into serving it with care, let the children enjoy the Disney's Juleshow – the Christmas Show: ‘From all of us to all of you’. This Disney Show was made in 1958. And has since 1975 every Christmas been great fun for children in Denmark!
Christmas is the finest time for family gatherings – and with great food. With more days together it means going for a walk will be both healthy and great. Even if the weather forecast does not show much sign of snow, it will bring showers, sleet, windy weather, and with the right clothing a walk will do everybody good - coffee, tea or hot chocolate, and some Christmas goodies will otherwise be too much too soon!
Christmas falls on a Saturday, which means not much extra time off from work. 26 December is also a holiday, but as part of the weekend, we get that as extra day off. Nevertheless, it creates a long period off work which is fantastic. – From Sunday 27 December expect shopping to be extremely lively, see business open hours under section 3. If you enjoy this, fine join in. If it is a pain, try to avoid shops those days, because most people need to buy fresh food and in addition have presents returned/exchanged. – Furthermore, the sales will begin 27 December and continue till New Year’ celebration, including 1 January New Year’s Day. – In January the huge sales continue, therefore perhaps an idea to save money for those!
The Royal Couple will celebrate Christmas at Marselisborg Castle – expect to meet them

Only the Queen and Prince Henrik will be coming to Aarhus, as also the two princes and their families are all going abroad to celebrate with family members there.

You better be prepared to meet The Royal Couple out for a walk or going shopping. Besides, it is a tradition that the Royal Family attend church service, the late one, at Aarhus Cathedral 24 December. The Queen will also attend the church service at Aarhus Cathedral 2nd Christmas Day 26 December. Note: Every day while in residence at Marselisborg Castle the change of guards at the Main Gate at Marselisborg Castle is attracted a lot of people. Try this popular event!

New Year Celebration. To foreigners the Danish celebration can be quite an interesting phenomenon, because we Danes enjoy starting our New Year Eve celebrations by watching the Queen give her speech. The most popular of the year, most of us will say. This year will be her 44rd New Year speech, and it takes place at 6 pm sharp and always includes some comments of the national as well as international events, which took place during the year. Some of Her Majesty's speeches have created new Danish words, like 'dum-smarte bemærkninger' (roughly translated into 'foolish-smart' comments). This is from her speech of 1984/85, where she gave her opinion on the Danes’ behaviour towards immigrants and newcomers to our society. In her own diplomatic, non-political way the Queen expressed her impression of the Danes as being intolerant. – Besides being a wise Lady in general, she has experienced a great deal simply by the fact that she herself has one of the most international families in Denmark!

Since 1941 the ruling king or queen has given a New Year speech. When His Majesty King Christian X (the present Queen's grandfather) held the first speech ever to take place, it was broadcast by radio. Today we have TV with widescreen etc. so we almost feel she becomes part of our party in each our home! - It will be interesting to hear the Queen comments on events which took place during 2017, whereof many of us have lived in Denmark. The Queen usually takes the opportunity to thank her country for all hospitality she and her family received during the year. Consider taking part in this year's New Year's speech, and note that Queen Il Margrethe of Denmark will end her speech by saying her motto: God keep Denmark. – The full speech will be printed in next day's newspapers, later on the internet, and journalists will evaluate, discuss and give their comments to the speech right away. But certainly also in the months ahead of us.

New Year's evening is a real party night. Gourmet dinner parties are planned. Friends and family members are invited. Danes go a bit crazy with respect to fireworks during all evening and night – even starting a few days ahead! Expect countless fireworks to go off on New Year's Eve. At midnight it goes completely wild. Be careful with the different kinds of fireworks – this is a general warning. Use safety glasses. But it has to be added: it is quite beautiful to go outside and see all the bright sparkling lights and to hear big bangs during the night before New Year's Day starts! - Some churches will offer midnight services.

New Year’s Day, 1 January the Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen gives his speech, in which he will mainly put focus on domestic and international political matters, hard not to include mentioning the refugee and immigrant issues, terrorism is also of high priority – and in addition be
commenting on optimism, developments or strategies with respect to the society in general. His political opinion about various other matters of significance to the Danish nation.

Both speeches by the Queen and the Prime Minister will be conducted in Danish only and will be transmitted live on television and radio. – Let’s hope they will appear in English on the internet and in the newspapers.

‘HELLIG TRE KONGER’ – THE LAST DAY OF CHRISTMAS
The Danish Christmas ends 6 January and is called ‘Hellig Tre Kongers Dag’. This refers to the Three Wise Men, Kings, who saw the star, travelled to find the Christ Child in his manger in Bethlehem, according to Matt, Chapter 2, 1-12 in the Bible. Until 1770 this was a national holiday in Denmark, but development of the society caused major cuts in the number of holidays.

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In Denmark we also have a long standing of rich Traditions of “Going Home for Christmas”
It has been like that always. Each family is trying to gather most possible – and try to avoid anyone interested in company being left alone at Christmas time. Therefore, different societies, organizations, but also private homes invite others to join in their Christmas parties. Which can be a great way to celebrate the holidays, with others and learn about the way they do it, and also to exchange traditions is indeed very inspiring.

At the moment these options are open::

Christmas for AU students and other staff members – from 2pm
Is your family celebrating Christmas in another country, do you want to enjoy Christmas with other students or would you just like to try something different this year?
Then spend a “hyggelig” Christmas Eve on the 24th of December arranged by Studenterhus Aarhus and the Student Priests.
We invite both Danish and international students from different studies and we are going to have a nice time together!
If you play an instrument or have a special local Christmas tradition you are more than welcome to share.
Place: Cafe Nikolaj, FO-byen, Vester Allé 8, 8000 Aarhus C
Time: We meet at 2 PM, but you can also join us at 5 PM, if drinking gløgg and/or going to church isn’t something for you.
Price: 100 DKR. + ticket fee 10 DKR. Sign up and buy ticket at: https://studenterhusaarhus.dk/kalender/event/christmas-eve-1?Action=1&M=NewsV2&PID=105
Christmas for all – Christmas Party in Aarhus (for free)

Sunday 24 December from 12noon Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke and Café Mellemfolk again takes up the success from last year and make Christmas Party for all! It takes place in A-Huset at Institute X and includes cooking the meal together and “hygge” with gifts and decorations first. From 6pm to 11.30pm a shared dinner party, music, dance and more “hygge”. All efforts to create a happy, meaningful evening for all.

Jun for alle - Julefest i Aarhus (FOR FREE) søndag, december 24th, 2017 at 12:00pm Skovgaardsgade 5A, 8000 Aarhus C, Danmark

For Arabic - English - Farsi - see below! [http://institutforx.dk/events/]

Peak time for Christmas Markets:

November market, Christmas bazar, Julestue or Julemarked

When you see this kind of market announced it is a good idea to look into. Lots of churches, charity organizations, some private schools and others organize a market at this time of the year to collect money to people in need for support or for other kinds of good purposes. A lot of people e.g. members of the churches etc. make the things on sale during the year and donate them, make jam, bake great cakes, and much, much more. It can be a quite unique way to meet some Danes, to support meaningful projects, enjoy a good meal and maybe find some Christmas gifts. Stop up, see and perhaps buy. Part of the preparations and ways of celebrating the coming of Christmas.

Time to plan your Christmas Holidays

In Denmark we try to have as many days off from work, in order to enjoy celebrating Christmas at home or abroad. Some choose to go south to celebrate a completely different holiday – on the beach! Others go to Norway, Sweden, France to go skiing and after-skiing! Well, whatever we choose or get around to as individuals we each should in due time look into how to arrange the holidays at our workplace. - In Denmark it is common to see to have the day off before 24 December, and by law Christmas Day and 2nd Day are off as well. This year we're off the day before, as it is a weekend! Special rules apply for people working in health services, shops, and gas stations for example. But when it comes to AU, we are closed 24, 25, 26 December. Negotiate with the department what is possible. Here policy vary from place to place. Some deciding to close down – either paid by the workplace or each employee has to take extra days from the number of holidays you have left/accumulated.

What is Advent

Sunday 10 December is the second Sunday of Advent and we light the 2nd candle in the Advent’s wreath. The word ‘Advent’ is from the Latin adventus Domini meaning “coming of the Lord”, besides being the first four
weeks of the church year, it is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas. Advent has always four Sundays, beginning on the Sunday closest to the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, and continuing until 24 December, this year both 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve Day. The date 24th December Danes celebrate Christmas e.g. in the evening. Not Christmas Day. It blends together a penitential spirit, very similar to Lent, a liturgical theme of preparation for the Second and Final Coming of the Lord, called the Parousia, and a joyful theme of getting ready for the Bethlehem Event – Jesus was born there. Since the 900s Advent has been considered the beginning of the Church year. This does not mean that Advent is the most important time of the year. Easter has always been weighed most important. The traditional color of Advent is purple or violet which symbolizes the penitential spirit. Religious traditions associated with Advent express all these themes.

The Advent Wreath. Customarily, the Advent wreath is constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which are inserted four candles. According to tradition, three of the candles are violet and the fourth is rose. Today the candles used to be white or red, these days they come in all colors. One is then lit on the first Sunday and two on the second Sunday of advent and so forth. The wreath represented the long time when people lived in spiritual darkness, waiting for the coming of the Messiah, the Light of the world. This Advent meaning is still believed and practiced, mainly in the church during the services, but in different ways of course also in Danish homes. Most people have their own special way of celebrating. These days shopping means a lot, dining out also. And meeting with friends and relatives also still plays a major role for most people. Christmas concerts are of importance, and singing in choirs is considered great for many of us. As you can see the traditions depend on the individual taste and talents.

1 December is Friday- tomorrow and the day to start opening calendars. There will be 24 gifts or 24 pieces of chocolate. Therefore a lot of parents and grandparents are quite busy up to the date with making small gifts ready for the 24 days before Christmas for each of their children and/or grandchildren, respectively. Chocolate paper calendars are also much wanted, but not sufficient – has not been for years. Small gifts are expected. Some companies like Lego has invented special boxes which are ready to be divided into 24 parcels, easy to do and when put together makes one piece of useful and long lasting toy. A clever idea! Where the calendars are kept in Danish homes while in use varies from house to house. But it is fairly sure to believe almost 100% of the children receive such a calendar, which is lovely to open each morning during the dark period of time. Adults can also be presented 24 gifts from their creative children. Although the Danish society changes and ready-made of almost anything can be bought, many families continue to make paper ornaments, put pride in having handmade, decorations, and love making a wreath which the Danes are known for hanging up or placing on the table with 4 candles in – real candles it is! The candles come with needles at the bottom so that they can be placed safely on the wreath.

Calendar candle. Also a very Danish tradition is to have this candle with numbers from 1 to 24. It means we light the candle every day, during the meals or whenever we feel for it. Candles we have always been of – and in need of, one can add. We live in the cold and dark north and need the light and a little warmth! Besides, it is beautiful – come in all kinds of designs. Enjoy them in the shops, on the markets or in your friends’ homes. And now perhaps also in your home!
Again an Advent weekend could also mean that the family is baking cookies together. The special ones for Christmas are 'brune kager', 'vanillekranse', 'pebernødder', 'klejner' or 'finskbrød'. Or a get-together means everyone produce great marzipan figures or pieces filled with fruit, nuts and the like – and at the end dipped in chocolate. Yet another passion is to enjoy hot Æbleskiver, a kind of small pfannkuchen / doughnuts, but no sugar on the outside though. Interesting enough Danish æbleskiver are to be dipped in sugar, jam or both (!) and served with the hot drink Glögg (hot red wine with spices) - Glögg can also be prepared as non-alcoholic, replacing the red wine with apple cider. This kind of gatherings have always been fun doing on one of or all of the 4 Advent-weekends just before Christmas. For many it will again this year be a much favoured habit.

Try Baking Æbleskiver!
Lots of information can be found on https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%86bleskiver – and I will next week offer my recipe for the dough. Æbleskiver (Danish pronunciation [ˈeːb̥ləˌʃiːvə]; Danish meaning apple slices [singular: æbleskive]), also called "appleskives" are traditional Danish pancakes in a distinctive shape of a sphere. Somewhat similar in texture to European pancakes crossed with a popover, æbleskiver are solid like a pancake but light and fluffy like a popover. The English language spelling is usually æbleskiver or ebleskiver. In the United States, a version of æbleskiver is sold with a commercially repackaged pan, branded as "Pancake Puffs".

Vanillekranse: great Danish Christmas Cookies
- tasty, but also make for nice interesting decorations – around the house, or on the Christmas tree – ready to enjoy!

Families also favor to make an excursion to one of the many places, where you can pick your own tree. At some you can also cut down your own tree – and have a real try of the fantastic smell of freshly cut tree! – Ask your colleagues where they find their Christmas tree, suggest an outing together!
This was to mention some of the fun activities to be part of during the coming Advent weeks. Choose to make this time of the year special to you, and enjoy it!

"Julefrokost, Julemenu and Juleweekend”
In the papers since August! Especially when reading ads for finding a restaurant or the like, these Danish words have been taking up a lot of space in the newspapers. To most people of foreign origin it comes as surprise. It is all too early to think of Christmas. – But no. These words refer all to the coming Christmas lunches and meals. Normally advertised early, and with good
reasons. Better book now, otherwise you will soon learn the best restaurants are fully booked. For Danes these events are very much celebrated. Events with a lot of food, beverages and entertainment. ... Wait and see. Often puzzling foreigners a bit. But you may get used to this tradition very popular at AU departments, in companies, but also at family gatherings!

Right now it’s peak season for Julefrokoster, and night buses run. Hotels report of almost sold out, for a new trend is to stay overnight and then do shopping in Aarhus before going home!

Christmas Trees – ready for Christmas!
Denmark produces a lot of Christmas trees. Around 10 million are cut down, wrapped and the ready to export. The trees are 10 to 12 years Nordmanns spruce, packed in nets and.

If you buy it now, cut a slice off the base and place the tree in a pail of water.
Advisable: do not take the tree into the house ahead of time. Leave it outside, and then in the last minute take it in and trim it e.g. the day before! In Denmark it is 23 December. The advice is from the producer. Follow it to avoid a vast number of needles on your floor!

A tradition since 1998 are the Christmas trees on top of the bridge connecting Funen and Zealand!
Since the bridge opened in 1998 it has been a tradition to have Christmas trees place on top of the pylons on the bridge connecting the islands of Funen and Zealand across the big belt, Storebælt, have for four years had the same two aluminium's trees lifted up high above to mark the Holidays. Each weighing 75 kilos and a chain of lights firmly tied to the bridge. Creating the illusion of a real Christmas tree. Shaping the Christmas trees took years to develop to withstand the extreme weather conditions. Furthermore, research continues to reduce the energy needed for the light chains – to reduce consumption most possible in our climate is a challenge. – In Denmark this is above all the highest placed tree with 254 meter above the surface of the sea. See a video at http://www.tv2fyn.dk/article/489972:Juletraet-til-vejr – Be aware: if storms are too strong the bridge will be closed. Listen to the news in order to plan your trip best!

6. May we suggest an excursion in Aarhus / Denmark

Again: Stay in and around Aarhus – take a walk around the city to enjoy the decorations illuminating Aarhus – enjoy a concert
- Or go skating on a starry night - there's simply so much happening – a cozy Christmas atmosphere!

6. HOUSING:

7. CARETAKER / NANNY

Childcare/nanny (flexible hours) January-February 2018

Visiting professor at Aarhus University with family from New Zealand are looking for help with childcare between Tuesday 2 January - Thursday 8 February 2018. Times are negotiable and can be arranged flexibly to fit around your commitments, and can be arranged weekly. We are looking at 2-6 hours per day Mondays through Fridays. The two girls are 2 and 5 years old.

The person sought will have previous experience with young children and can look after children with love, patience and respect. Swedish speaker preferred. (photo taken from google).

Contact campbell.jones@auckland.ac.nz. – or mail gh@au.dk

8. Calendar

Thursday 21 December

10.30am, The Pixi Calendar takes place each day till 23 December, and is primarily for young children. Each day a pixi object is found and explained, daily story takes some 20 minutes at Museum of Natural History, Wilhelm Meyers Allé 210, AU Campus Aarhus, 8000 Aarhus C, ddk75 for a full year, children under 18 years are free.
12noon to 2.30pm, **Dads’ Playgroup**, age 0 to 3, each Thursday, in Pusterummet, Dokk1, Hack Kampmanns Gade 2, 8000 Aarhus C, free.

3.30pm to 6pm, **Study Café – get help with your homework and more – at Dokk1**, Hack Kampmanns Plads 2, 8000 Aarhus C, free.

6.30pm, **Ten Sing** for all between 13 and 19 years old, each Thursday, dance, drama, music and singing, no sign up, just meet up in the Church community house, Viborgvej 158, 8210 Aarhus V, free.

**Friday 22 December**

10 am, **European Christmas Market and Zirkus Nemo at Lille Torv, Store Torv og Bispetorv, next to Aarhus Cathedral, downtown, 8000 Aarhus C.**

10am to 12noon, **Chess on the ramp at Dokk1**, Hack Kampmanns Plads 2, 8000 Aarhus C, free.

4pm to 7pm, **Friday Bar with Jazz at Bent J in the Old Town**, Viborgvej 2, 8000 Aarhus C, admission.

4pm to 9pm, **Port wine tasting, 12 different to taste, at Déliqat**, Nørregade 28, 8000 Aarhus C.

7.30pm, **Christmas Concert with Sct Clemens Boys’ Choir, Guest soloist Indra Rios Moore, Aarhus Jazz Orchestra, David Peter Schmidt, organ and Carsten Seyer-Hansen, conductor** the traditional concert takes place. Location: Aarhus Domkirke, Downtown, 8000 Aarhus C. Tickets dkk150, under 18 years dkk100. buy at Køb dine billetter her.

**Saturday 23 December**

8am to approx. 2pm, **Open Air Farmers’ Market** with all sorts of fresh produce, homemade products, and: **Christmas decorations & ornaments** – also on Wednesdays on Ingerslevs Boulevard, 8000 Aarhus.

11am to 12.30pm, **100 Children’s Days**, more details above, at Dokk1, Hack Kampmanns Plads 2, 8000 Aarhus C, free.

2pm to 11.59pm, **Drinks for the homeless in Aarhus e.g. all profit is donated to homeless at Escobar**, Skolegade 32, 8000 Aarhus C.

**Sunday 24 December**

**Christmas Eve – celebrated in Denmark in the evening (not Christmas Day) – Tradition is to attend a church service in the late afternoon. – The Royal Family is**
sure to be at Aarhus Cathedral. – All Churches are open, be early birds to get a seat!

8am to 9pm, Free Food – extras and to avoid waste of food – offered, sign up, at Føtex, Frederiks Allé 22-24, 8000 Aarhus C.

9am to 10.30am, Easy 6km run meet up at Godsbanen, Skovgaardsgade 3D, 8000 Aarhus C, free.

2pm, Hillsong Service – in English – at Hotel Scandic, Østergade 10, 8000 Aarhus C, free.

Open events to join for Christmas celebration – see details above!

Monday 25 December

Christmas Day – A day full of family gatherings, nice walks, - and Christmas Lunches!

Open day and night – all days: take advantage of the open air Skating Rink next to the Concert Hall Aarhus, downtown, 8000 Aarhus C, free.

At the Kino East of Paradise Mondays means French Movies, many other films – all other days of the week at Øst for Paradis, Paradisgade 7-9, 8000 Aarhus C, tickets.

6.55pm- to 10.30pm, Christmas Race at Jydsk Væddeløbsbane, Observatorievejen 2, 8000 Aarhus C.

Tuesday 26 December

2nd Christmas Day – also a day off from work – a day to gather family and friends!

9 am to 11 am, The Walking Club Aarhus Fodslaw invites everyone to join for Christmas walk – after all the good food! Meet up and enjoy one of the routes, all are welcome. A small pay for the tour. Meet up at Aarhus Academy, Dalgas Avenue 12, 8000 Aarhus C.

Wednesday 27 December

The biggest sale day in the city – and also exchange day of Christmas gifts!

7pm to 10pm, Champagne Tasting, sign up at Chas. E. Vinhandel, Ellebjergvej 2, 8240 Risskov.

Friday, 5 January 2018
10am to 12noon, **UIC Int’l. Playgroup** – age group 0-3 years, in English, for all – **Internationals & Danes / each Friday** – details above, at Dokk1 at Pusterummet, Hack Kampmanns Plads 2, 8000 Aarhus C, free.

Merry, merry Christmas and a Happy New Year – best again together at UIC or somewhere in Aarhus – thanks very much for the wonderful times we met during 2017.

Take pleasure in Aarhus also during the holidays – and for all who travel to each your home country: wish you well – and return safely to Aarhus later!

Have some very wonderful days – and then let’s meet 10 January at AroS Art Café at 10.15am!

Gitte

Like the UIC on Facebook [here](https://www.facebook.com/iasUIC/) or via this link: [https://www.facebook.com/iasUIC/](https://www.facebook.com/iasUIC/)

**Note:** All UIC activities are free of charge to AU Staff, all their family members and all associated with International Community.

**Note:** If you know of anyone who could benefit from receiving the UIC Newsletter, please tell them to sign up on [gha@au.dk](mailto:gha@au.dk).

**Emergency.** For your convenience: How to respond correctly when an emergency occurs: **Call 112 first of all – anywhere in Denmark.** And if on AU Campus dial the special tel. **8715 1617!**