Do's and Don’ts

1. Take some courses outside of your major. DIS has many interesting course options, all taught from a European perspective by Danish professors. It’s the perfect opportunity to try out a new discipline or take a class that simply sounds intriguing.

2. Attend DIS-sponsored study tours and field trips. Making your own travel plans can be exciting and fun, but consider going on at least one DIS-sponsored optional study tour. They’re reasonably priced and will take you to places and connect you with people that you can’t access on your own.

3. Learn to ride the buses. The Metro and S-tog (S-train) are amazing, but don’t stop there! Learning to navigate the bus system will put so much more of the city within easy reach.

4. Explore beyond the city center. Copenhagen has lots unique neighborhoods; make a list of ones you’d like to check out.

5. Take ‘Danish Language and Culture’. It may seem useless to learn Danish if you’ll only be there a few months, but taking this class is the best thing you could do! It really helps you feel integrated into Danish society - plus there are fun field trips!

6. Go to class! A semester abroad at DIS is not a semester off. Go to class and you could boost your Vandy GPA. Skip class and you'll regret it.

7. Make DIS friends who have a variety of housing assignments. Visiting your friends' host families and kollegiums can be a great experience, and the shared housing kids can fill you in on all the hotspots in city center.

8. Plan your weekends ahead of time. The semester flies by fast; there is tons to do in Copenhagen and abroad, and you want to make sure you fit it all in!
DIS-Copenhagen
Do’s and Don’ts

Don’t:

1. Leave Copenhagen every weekend.
A couple weekend trips are fine, but too many trips to Amsterdam will leave you with no time to explore Copenhagen.

2. Forget to laugh!
Mishaps will happen. It’s not that serious.

3. Eat out too much.
Restaurants and fast food are expensive. Take a lesson from the Danes and eat at home.

4. Be offended by the Danes.
They are sarcastic and blunt; embrace it as refreshing and you’ll save yourself lots of shocks and headaches.

5. Call home too much.
Limit your Skype time to a set time every week. You have a very limited time abroad, so focus on what’s around you.

6. Party in tourist or American hotspots.
Ask your Danish friends where the locals like to go.

7. Spend too much time studying.
Take your classes seriously, but manage your time well so that you can enjoy being abroad.

8. Be ungrateful to your hosts.
‘Please’ and ‘thank you’ go a long way. Your host family/roommates could turn into lifelong pals, so invest some energy into those relationships.

9. Be afraid to build friendships.
Sure, it’s only a few months, but that doesn’t mean you can’t open up to people and make new friends.

10. Leave without trying Danish food.
Curry herring and frikadeller might sound funky, but they won’t kill you - and you might like it! :-)

Bird’s-eye view of Ribe, Denmark’s oldest town

Copenhagen, Denmark