

Welcome dear friend!

The fact that you are reading this, determines that you have found yourself in a peculiar situation of being in a foreign country, maybe feeling a little bit lost, but definitely in the need of the information that no bureau can provide. This guide is styled to take you through the first week of your stay in Kolding. And since it is written by students for students, rest assured that we know your struggles and fears, and we want you to use our experience to find your way out of any troubles you may encounter. In the table of contents you will find the areas we would like to address and hopefully you will find what you need to know. So good luck, enjoy your student life in Kolding and remember, you are not alone in this, we all have been where you are now!

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Upon your arrival...

If you are traveling by car, congratulations! You are the lucky one per cent. You just lay back and read this section for the fun of it, because the GPS in the car will take care of the most of the stuff. For those less fortunate, this is the section where we will uncover the secrets of the public transportation in Denmark.

Airplane

The easiest and most comfortable way to get to Denmark is by plane of course. Now, you have two main options. Either you fly to Copenhagen which has the biggest airport in Denmark and gets flights from practically everywhere, or you fly to Billund which is only an hour away from Kolding, but you probably will not find a direct flight to.

CPH – KOLDING[1]

For the first option, if you come from a smaller country, it can be a bit overwhelming, because CPH airport is quite big. Don't worry, everything is well marked and you shouldn't have problem to

navigate your way to the baggage claim. Plus, everyone in Denmark is super nice and dying to help you. From the baggage claim it is just few metres to the general area, with people rushing on and off the flights, busses and trains. From here you need to go to the Public transport centre, where you can buy your train or bus ticket. Just look around, you should easily spot it; there is probably a long long queue of people, buying their tickets. In case you cannot find it, just go to the Information booth, which you will find for sure and ask the nice lady (or gentleman) where to go, and they will lovingly point you to the right direction.

After you wait for an eternity in the ticket queue, step to the window and just look stupid, the ticket seller will get it, they meet people like you all the time. Kolding in Danish is pronounced as Kolding so don't freak out. If you are going by train, they will sell you a ticket for the subway that will take you from the airport to the main train station in Copenhagen, there you have find your platform. The word of the day, if you get lost is ASK! But seriously, don't be afraid to ask, it saves a lot of time. Once you get on the train, it's very easy. You just need to chill for two hours and get out on the Kolding Station; every stop is clearly announced beforehand. This adventure will cost you approximately 300 DKK, including both tickets and a seat. If you want to save few bucks, just take a bus, which is the slower and maybe less comfortable option but hey, we are still young.

Good idea would be to print out the map of Kolding as not all the people, though a majority, speak English.

BILLUND – KOLDING[2]

Now, to the second airport option. Billund is much smaller than Copenhagen and thus less chaotic. From there you have pretty much only one way to get to Kolding and that is bus. The bus you are looking for is number 166 and you have to buy ticket straight from the driver. It will cost around 70 DKK.

Busses and trains

Regarding international busses and trains it is really hard to say which one to take as the routes and prices constantly change and you all come from different countries. The only advice I can give is to look up some student agencies in your country, which are most likely offering bus transfers for very agreeable prices.

Public transport in Kolding[3]

Buses in Kolding are most of the time very reliable, don't run late too often and clean and spacious. The tickets can be purchased right from the driver or if you plan to use a bus more often there are options of bus cards and passes. The most expensive option is the bus pass and is recommended only if you commute every day. The normal ticket for an adult costs 22dkk and is valid for one hour. To save money, you should get a bus card [4] which will be registered and delivered for free. You just simply put a credit onto your card and pay from that by checking in and out in the bus at so cold Blue point (a little blue device you press your card against at the entrance and exit of the bus). The cheapest price for a ride is around 12 dkk so you save 10 dkk compared to the normal price without card.

Accommodation

Apartments

Apartments shouldn't be too tricky once you know where to look for them. But let me warn you. It could be a bit pricy to live alone so a good idea is to get few roommates before you come to Denmark. Great place to meet people is at Facebook group called IBA market [5]. There are tons of people with the same problem you have.

One way to find a place is to register on the official Kolding page [6] for students who seek apartments. However, there is quite a long waiting list and you may not get your place in time when you need it. In that case either you ask someone to take you in for few days or find yourself another apartment through an independent agency [7]. These agencies provide a broad spectrum of apartments, so you can chose whichever is suitable for you.

The agency will most likely ask you for your yellow card [8], which as a new student you probably don't have. It's okay, just tell them, they will understand.

The landlords are mostly nice people, but they can be sometimes difficult. Be very careful and ask everything you don't understand. Have a clear understanding of all the rules and when you move in check for all the damages that were not done by you and immediately take a picture and show it to your land lord. They can charge you later on your deposit when you move out. Also, the deposit for the pace is usually three moths rent and you are not getting everything back for sure. They will use some for the repainting, so count with it.

Furniture

Now, most of the apartments in Kolding are unfurnished. Students are expected to bring their own furniture. This can be a very expensive, unless you are willing to buy your things from a second hand store [9]. That's what most of the people do. Other option is to buy it from someone in the already mentioned group IBA market. Students who leave the country usually need to get rid of their things quickly and are willing to take any price.

If you have means of transport and money, you can also visit Ikea in Odense, one hour away from Kolding.

Phone

If you are planning to spend in Kolding more than half a year, you should consider taking a Danish phone number as it makes everything easier and cheaper. You should probably do this before you start searching for the apartment, because you will need to make a lot of calls. The first choices of operator for students are LycaMobile [10] or Lebara [11]. These operators sell their SIM- cards in almost every kiosk and work on credit principle; how much credit you buy, that much you can call etc. This way you can regulate your expenses. If you are looking for more advanced option, my choice would be company called Telmore [12], which has pretty good deals and offers vast amounts of internet data for very good prices. You sign for a certain price a month, which they will take from your account, which leads me to the next topic.

Bank account

Before you come to Denmark, check with your bank how much they charge for various actions in other countries, such as withdrawals and international payments and transfers. It usually is not a little amount, if you use their service too often. For that reason, it is much easier to get a Danish account [13]. This could be very useful for paying rent, electricity and other important things. Also, some establishments do not accept foreign cards. Creating a student bank account is free; you just have to tell them that you are student, bring yellow card and your ID otherwise, in some banks it can cost up to 600 dkk.

Internet

We know that having an internet in your apartment is a total must. Whether it is for school assignments or movies, it is a necessity. There are few companies [14] that offer these services and setting everything up is fairly easy. All you have to do is to call them, tell them what you want and they will set you up. This process can take from three days up to one week. The router for your internet will be delivered by post to your home.

All the students must eat...

... even though sometimes we survive strictly on a liquid diet. There are multiple grocery stores [15] in Kolding that offers basically everything you have at home, with the exception of your countries traditional produce. Though, if you are from India, you are in luck, there are few places that sell Indian food products [16]. You have to remember, unless you come from Scandinavian countries, the prices in the store are probably the double of what you have to pay at home. If you really want to save money, always look for the promotions.

“Learn, learn, learn.”

Probably not the best idea to cite Lenin, but that's what we came here for, right? It is the education that brought us here. There are few schools [17] in the town, but whichever you were admitted to, best of luck, it will be a lot of work. All the schools have nice and modern buildings with a lot of space for students to develop their potential. In some of them you can practically live as they offer nice lounge areas, free internet and food machines and canteen.

Some schools, such as IBA for instance, have a system for the new coming students called Buddy [18]. You should definitely check it out on their web page.

Places you will go to

Library [19]

Kolding has a huge and very modern library. You can enter it and leave whenever you want, but if you would like to take some books with you, for that you need to be a member. To become a member you have to have already mentioned yellow card, but from there it's simple. You sign up at

the main desk in the library lobby. Once you are a member, you can borrow all the books and you can print papers. Even if you don't have membership, the usage of the internet is still free.

Store centre [20]

Kolding store centre offers many shops with everything you need. There is also a cinema and restaurants. It is a little bit further from the town centre, but you can take busses [21] straight there.

Gym [22]

If you are a sportsman who is not willing to give up his athletic ambitions even abroad, Kolding has quite a selection of gyms that can fulfil all your needs. Memberships can be quite costly so you just need to ask around and find the one that suits you.

Party Life

Clubs [23]

In Kolding we might not have a big choice of clubs but it is not about the place but about the people, right? And here we always have the funniest people in whole Denmark. Three clubs that will host you in case of lack of fun in your life are Pitstop, which is a great place for a party and many of students go there, you can also go for some not only club music concerts right there, Tordenskiold which offers some nice parties for students as well environment where you can get to know young Danes, Last option is a Surf Bar, which is mostly full with young Danes but also offers you some nice possibilities for partying.

Pubs [24]

In Kolding we have many pubs but most of them are occupied by mostly Danes. From the pubs that international students fancy the most you can choose:

- The Old Irish Pub, where besides drinking you can also dance to the live and DJ music during the weekends and watch the sports (they are playing most of the important events from almost every sport)
- English Pub, where you can also watch some important football games (Premier League and Champions League mostly)
- Republikken Munkegade, where open stages for students are organized.

Concerts [25]

Besides parties and just pub drinking there are some places that gives you the opportunities to feel some concert atmosphere. We got some concerts mostly in two places: Pitstop which was mentioned before and Godset which is the kind of place built especially for concerts.

Weekends

Most of the parties start around 12-01 o'clock. Before that students mostly go for some house parties, pre parties to meet with friends and drink something before going out. But there are also some places that you can enter for free until some hour and for example Tordenskiold you can enter for free only until 00:30.

Job hunting

Most of the international students which are not here for the exchange program will look for a job. In order to make a legal contract with employer in Denmark you will need your yellow card and account in the bank. It is also important to do the tax card in SKAT in order to pay lower taxes.

Job opportunities

For the beginning of job hunting the good idea is to take a walk around the city with your CV there is a possibility to find a job in some restaurant, pizzeria or pub.

The other thing that students are doing is delivering newspapers [26] there are few companies that you have a chance to get employed in.

In Denmark there is also the job agency system [27]. Agencies are popularly called as Vikars and they are providing part time jobs but hours you will get there will not be fixed.

SU

Students which are working 10 hours per week (on contract) or 43 hours per month can apply for the Danish government scholarship which is approximately 6000 DKK before tax.

Appendix

- [1] <https://www.cph.dk/en/>
- [2] http://www.bll.dk/?sc_lang=en
- [3] <https://www.sydtrafik.dk/forside>
- [4] <https://www.rejsekort.dk/>
- [5] <https://www.facebook.com/groups/425709304176797/?fref=ts>
- [6] <http://www.studentkolding.dk/>
- [7] http://www.boligportal.dk/Lejeboliger_Kolding.html?gclid=CjwKEAjwg6W6BRDn6v__7vzN9QkSJA C9l9C3W-az7KvFUFTNxRySmdxITHPkisL81SkciiAr5lwr-BoC-IHw_wcB ;
<http://www.lejebolig.dk/%2flejebolig%2fvejele%2f6000-kolding> ; <http://hl-ejendomme.dk/hl/>
- [8] <http://internationalcommunity.dk/en-US/Your-guide-to-DK/Coming-to-Denmark/Insurance/Health-Insurance-Card.aspx>
- [9] <https://www.google.dk/maps/search/kolding+genbrug/@55.4850009,9.4602433,13z/data=!3m1!4b1> (most of the stores do not offer delivery, so take your friends with you)
- [10] <http://www.lycamobile.dk/dk/>
- [11] <http://www.lebara.dk/>
- [12] <https://www.telmore.dk/>
- [13] https://www.google.dk/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=kolding%20banks&rflfq=1&rlha=0&rllag=55488073,9479822,357&tbm=lcl&tbs=lf:1,lf_ui:3&rifi=hd::si ; (recommending Nordea, SydBank or Danske Bank)
- [14] Telenor: <https://www.telenor.dk/shop/bredbaand/> ; TDC: <http://privat.tdc.dk/internet/> ; Stofa: <https://stofa.dk/bredbaand>
- [15] Listed from the cheapest: Netto, Aldi, Lidl, Rema 1000, Fakta, Superbrugsen, Fotex, Bilka
- [16] Michellas frugt og gront, Adelgade 1
- [17] https://www.google.dk/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=kolding%20schools&rflfq=1&rlha=0&rllag=55497116,9474897,1232&tbm=lcl&tbs=lf:1,lf_ui:2&rifi=hd::si
- [18] <http://www.iba.dk/international/student-life-and-housing>
- [19] <https://koldingbib.dk/>
- [20] <http://www.koldingstorcenter.dk/>
- [21] Buses number 3, 5 go to Store centre

[22] https://www.google.dk/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=Kolding%20fitness&rflfq=1&rlha=0&rlag=55485907,9476915,423&tbm=lcl&tbs=lf:1,lf_ui:2&rflf=hd;si ; (recommending Fitness 1, Fitness World and Slotssobadet, which has a pool)

[23] <https://www.facebook.com/pitstopkolding/?ref=ts&fref=ts> ;
<https://www.facebook.com/tskolding/?ref=ts&fref=ts> ;
<https://www.facebook.com/tskolding/?ref=ts&fref=ts> .

[24] <https://www.facebook.com/TheOldIrishPubKolding/?fref=ts> ;
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-English-Pub/120056284734762?fref=ts> ;
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/The-English-Pub/120056284734762?fref=ts>

[25] <https://www.facebook.com/Godsetkolding/?fref=ts>

[26] <http://fk.dk/> ;

[27] <http://www.hartmanns.dk/en> ; <http://www.teamvikaren.dk/> ; <https://www.manpower.dk/> ;
<http://www.adecco.dk/default.aspx>