

Interview with Astrid Okholm Larsen

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What is the most important lesson you learned during your time at uni?

You learn best through working with others (and should not fear peer-review) and I thank my study group for the hours of studying together and everything in between. On the same note, #theschwaisneverstressed.

How has your time at uni prepared you for your current job?

I have learned to organise, plan and co-work through my time in Anglia, tasted teaching as an instructor and found that I enjoyed guiding young people as tutor. Oh, and I studied my languages, especially their cultural connection to their speakers, which I went abroad several times to experience. All the above are skills I use every day as a teacher.

What are you doing now? And what have you been doing since finishing uni?

This year, I was offered a full-time position at Stenhus Gymnasium in Holbæk where I have been the past year as a part time årsvikar in both my subjects (Minor in Spanish). During my first year at the school I also taught adults at FOF on weeknights which was a very instructive teaching experience and a lot of fun! I am right now in the exciting maelstrom they call Pædagogikum. Here, I paddle my way through theory and try to swim in the ocean of practice, where I teach both my own and my mentors' classes. I have the full palette of STX, HF and Pre-IB, where in the latter, everything – even grammar – is in English, which is awesome. I have also continued my volunteer work as ambassador for Swap Language where I practice my languages in an informal environment and meet new people. In my first year after finishing Uni I applied for jobs and found an internship at Egaa Gymnasium which reassured me of my wish to teach. While there, I was offered a temporary position at Aarhus Katedralskole, which was extended, and I ended my stay in Aarhus by examining my first students that summer. By then I had moved to Zealand and commuted to and from Aarhus on weekends.

What are your hopes and dreams for the future?

I want to keep teaching, but my hope is that in the future there will be more time for immersion and developing great courses rather than running to classes and grading papers. This is something you might not remember everyday as a student, but the opportunity to immerse oneself in the material you love is golden.

What is your best memory from your time at the English Department?

It is hard to name one, so I won't, but it might be when we won the Limerick Contest at Yule Ball writing from the perspective of the duck or dressing up in costumes whenever we could!