

Interview with Ida Solkær Lassen

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

Other than providing me with academic knowledge and skills, I think my time at uni has taught me discipline, and the importance of a good work-life balance. I know it's kind of a cliché, but my friends at the department and in my study group were really a big part of motivating me to challenge myself, and a big help when things felt like they were falling apart.

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

It's really hard to pick just one, but I think one of them is the feeling of belonging to a special and fun community, which I got from the moment my rusuge started. I just felt so welcome, and I have enjoyed every social and academic aspect of my years at the department. I already miss it dearly, and will definitely be back for a beer or ten when Esperanto finally opens again.

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

I have gotten a job as a teacher at the HF department of SCU – Skanderborg Odder Center for Uddannelse. After finishing uni, I took a much needed break, and started the infamous 'dagpenge' life, which was enjoyable, but also kind of stressful because you have no idea what the future brings, and I have always liked having at least some idea of what the near future holds. I could not believe my luck when I was offered a full time job teaching English and Danish.

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

That hard work pays off. That applies to academic work, of course, but also volunteer work at, for example, the Friday bar, the orientation week committee, Anglia, or exciting organizations outside of uni. Grades matter, but experience and social skills matter just as much.

What are your hopes and dreams for the future?

I don't really plan that far ahead, but right now I really hope to get tenure at my job this summer. At some point I would like to live abroad for a while - it was such a great experience when I studied abroad in Chicago, so that has really inspired me to do something like it again. And, of course, I hope that we will soon get rid of this stupid virus so that we can wave a proper goodbye to social distancing.