

How to keep in touch while studying in Denmark

A comprehensive guide to saving money on broadband deals and mobile phone costs while you're studying abroad.

Researched and compiled by Ofcom accredited broadband, TV and phone comparison site www.cable.co.uk

Students travelling to Denmark can expect a multitude of quality mobile phone and broadband options that make it easy to keep in touch with friends and family back home. We'll explain everything you need to know in this useful guide, so you can get on with embracing Danish culture and making new friends.

Broadband providers in Denmark

The vast majority of student halls of residence in Denmark have internet connections, which are paid for through your monthly rent. So if you're staying on campus, you'll most likely already have an internet connection, but if you're living in a private rented house you may need to sort it out yourself.

Like the rest of Scandinavia, broadband in Denmark is modern, fast and reliable. The big name providers include Telia, TDC, Telenor and 3, which cater to the cities and larger towns.

Fast fibre optic connections are available in Denmark but most students will find up to 20Mbps broadband more affordable and pretty ample for most needs. Unlike in the UK, Danish providers must commit to a minimum speed too, which is usually 10Mbps lower than the advertised rate.

To sign up to any kind of broadband or mobile contract in Denmark, you'll need your Danish personal identification number (CPR). It is usually included with your residence permit, but bear in mind that you might not have it on your first day in Denmark.

To sign up for fixed-line broadband, you'll need to have a CPR and commit for at least six months. For this reason, prepaid mobile broadband might be more appealing to students who don't want to commit to a contract.

Mobile broadband providers in Denmark

Mobile broadband is just as popular, if not more so, than home broadband in Denmark. In fact, mobile broadband is more common in Denmark than any other country in the world. Telia offers the broadest coverage, followed by TDC and Telenor.

It's wise to check coverage in your area before signing up with a provider and finding out if you need a CPR. It is generally not needed for prepaid mobile broadband (Pay As You Go), but most providers require it if you want to pay monthly.

Mobile providers in Denmark

The easiest solution to get mobile in Denmark is to buy a SIM card for your existing handset, although the cheapest way to contact home is generally internet calling – such as Skype – through your mobile broadband or subscribing to a mobile contract with data included.

A prepaid SIM card is easy to get but not cheap to use, and usually only appropriate for light local calling and texting.

Getting a broadband or phone contract in Denmark

To sign up to any kind of broadband or mobile contract in Denmark, you'll need your CPR. It is usually included with your residence permit, but bear in mind that you might not have it on your first day in Denmark.

You can purchase plans and SIM cards online from the providers' websites, but Google Translate can get confusing so visiting a shop is generally the best approach. This way you'll get assistance in choosing the right deal and appropriate contract length, and ensure that you buy a SIM that fits your phone.

International roaming: what you need to know

Using your mobile to call the UK with a Danish SIM-card is expensive and it could work out cheaper to use your existing UK tariff and SIM card if you haven't already cancelled it.

Under the European Union Roaming Regulations, calls and message sent from Denmark to the UK using your UK mobile network cannot not exceed capped rates. The maximum an operator can charge is about 20p a minute for outgoing calls, 6p for incoming calls; 7p for texts and 37p per megabyte of online data. Rates will drop further from July 2014.

Local information

Here's some basic translations for Danish broadband and mobile terms to help you on your way.

Bredbånd: broadband

Mobiltelefon: mobile phone

Mobilt bredbånd: mobile broadband

Superhurtig bredbånd: superfast broadband (referring to fibre optic connections)

Forudbetalt: Prepaid (Pay as You Go)

Abonnement: Subscription (contract)

Manage your data

Here's some advice to avoid high data bills overseas:

Wi-Fi hotspots

You'll find plenty of Wi-Fi hotspots around France – so connect to free wireless broadband to save on your 3G or 4G data bill.

Download before you go

Think ahead and try to anticipate what apps, downloads or files you're going to need on your laptop, smartphone or tablet. By grabbing them before you leave the country, you'll avoid potentially expensive data bills while you're overseas.

Check your email settings

Unsure if your email automatically checks for new messages or downloads attachments? Check your settings to make sure these options are off.

Turn off roaming

Check the settings on your phone or 3G/4G tablet to ensure that auto-roaming is switched off.

Know what it's costing you

Currency exchange rates can fluctuate during any journey and it's important that you know what you are spending. Use a reputable currency exchange service to check the latest rates. Popular exchange rate services include Oanda, Reuters, XE.

Useful Links

Reuters: <http://www.reuters.com/finance/currencies>

XE: <http://www.xe.com>

Oanda: <http://www.oanda.com/currency/converter/>

Cable.co.uk is a provider of impartial information to increase public awareness in matters of broadband, TV, landline and mobile.