Masters in International Health at the University of Copenhagen

Prof. Dipl. Biol., Dr. phil II, Franziska Matthies, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

In the summer of 2000, the first class of 25 international students graduated from the Department of International Health, University of Copenhagen with a Masters in International Health. By May 2005, 128 students from 30 different countries had completed the one year study programme in Copenhagen. Students from low and middle-income countries as well as from Denmark, other European countries and North America contribute to the interesting and challenging learning environment for students and facilitators.

Today, students have three options for studying International Health at the University of Copenhagen:

- They can either follow a one year full time modular programme at the Department of International Health, which includes a 3 month core module, 2 advanced modules (8 weeks and 4 weeks) and a 3 month Masters thesis. As part of the core module in Copenhagen, students have the opportunity to gain field experience with qualitative research methods and during a five weeks module in India, organised together with the Christian Medical College in Vellore, they learn about aspects of community medicine and primary health care.
- The Department of International Health is a tropEd home institution which runs the 3 month core module starting in September each year. Students who start their Masters Programme at one of the other tropEd home institutions can select and join a range of accredited optional advanced modules in Copenhagen.
- As an Erasmus Mundus Consortium Member the Department of International Health hosts international scholars and offers modules and thesis supervision for the following study paths: Health Systems, Health Policy and Management, Health Research Methods, and Health in Emergencies.

Internationalisation is a priority at Copenhagen University for both undergraduate and post graduate studies and research. The Rector has recently signed a contract with other leading universities within and outside Europe. Some courses are already offered through English and full study programmes (bachelor and masters) taught through English are being setup if not already available. International health is a priority, too, and a "Copenhagen University School of International Health" is planned for the near future (see also www.ku.dk).