

Fredericia – We offer experiences that leave an impression

MALENE FEDDERSEN FREDERICIA MUNICIPALITY

“Fredericia Municipality is a place where you have access to everything, really. There are lots of cultural and social events and cosy, peaceful restaurants and cafés as well, and it’s all surrounded by beautiful nature. You can sit in a café in the city centre with your friends and five minutes later you can be on a beautiful beach. I think it’s fantastic.” - says Malene Feddersen, the newcomer guide in Fredericia Municipality.

A lot of international newcomers come here to live because of the interesting companies, which provide good opportunities for newcomers and their accompanying spouses; and because of the booming international community in the region. The good cooperation between the newcomer guide and the companies located in Fredericia makes it easy to bring any expat-related information to the corporate world and, with the help of Business Fredericia, newcomers can get answers to their questions in relation to their job search too.

The city regularly hosts conferences, job fairs, entrepreneurship seminars and business networking events. This creates a great international meeting place for diverse groups of people and new ideas.

Fredericia is one of those Municipalities where newcomers are in focus. Therefore, local politicians and the management of

the Municipality provide full support to help both Danish and international people who move to the region. The Municipality has created a detailed newcomer strategy and made it possible to have a full-time working newcomer guide, who especially focuses on expats. The various events which are organised for internationals are often financed by the Municipality too.

A place, where the needs of the newcomers are in focus
“When I started to work in this position three years ago, taking care of the newcomers and internationals was only a part of my job. However, we thought that it was very important to understand the needs of the expats. So, we made a row of interviews with internationals to hear about their own, first-hand experiences and to see what kind of help they really need.



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Message from Malene

“As

a newcomer, you need to be proactive in a lot of fields of your life, which is not always easy, but don't be afraid of going out and asking for help if you need it. In my experience, if someone is active socially and tries to contribute to the local life as well, it pays off in the end, so you can really feel at home. In a lot of situations, it helps if you use your creativity to find opportunities, but again with some help, luck and work it brings success.”

In this first period, our aim was to gather knowledge, to empower networking among expats and to build up a concept for our future work.” - explains Malene.

Since then, her position has become full time as a newcomer guide and her experiences with the challenges of newcomers naturally extended, but the approach to her work hasn't changed. She is still eager to learn about the needs of expats; she tries to make the space and time to interact with the newcomers in person; she empowers social media communication in the international community, so people can connect and share questions and experiences with each other in an easy way and she shows up at events organised for internationals, so they can meet even more often.

“People ask me various questions. Questions related to housing, rental opportunities, events, networking, language school, job search help for spouses, resident permits, schooling and many more. We talk about the possibilities and I guide them to the right place, where they can get the help they need. It's also very important for me to follow up on the cases personally,

because I want them to know that they can count on me when they need help.” - says Malene.

In Fredericia there is a very active social association (forening) life. Different sporting and cultural activities are available through these organisations, and they are open to international members as well as Danes. In order to bring these opportunities closer to newcomers, the Municipality organises sport events for internationals, where they can meet and try different sport clubs, just like kayaking, gymnastics, fitness, etc.

There are other – more traditional - social events, which aim to help internationals and internationally-minded Danes to meet and bond with new people. The yearly Expat Dinner and the successful concerts at Tøjhuset in Fredericia are just two of them.

CONTACT

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If you want to learn about the life in Fredericia, please visit www.livinginfredericia.dk and join the Facebook group Fredericia Internationals & Friends.



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