



Why Copenhagen?

A guide to living, working, and Life Sciences in
Copenhagen by Etienne van Wyk



A NOTE FROM ETIENNE

As a talent growth advisor that is heavily focused on building true human connections in Denmark through supporting learning & development and recruitment projects across varied industries, it naturally led to Copenhagen being one of Impel's core locations, because of its strong life sciences industry.

I thought it would add value to give a bit of an overview on the capital's culture, cost of living and some interesting statistics on the pharma, biotech and medical device sectors. This article should also be an interesting summary for expats that are looking to move to Copenhagen.



WHAT MAKES COPENHAGEN SPECIAL?

Denmark is a northern European country with 406 islands. The Danish mainland is called Jutland and consists of flat, rural farmland, a few smaller cities, and coastal fishing villages. Of the Danish islands, only about 70 are inhabited including the largest and most populous island, Zealand, this is where you'll discover the population and cultural centre of Denmark – Copenhagen.

Copenhagen, the capital of Denmark, was originally a fishing village founded in 1167, before it became the capital in 1443. The city is known for its vast canal systems, and has a strong reputation for its cycling culture, and a comfortable and happy lifestyle. With a population of roughly 800,000 people in the capital, it is a far cry from some of the other overpopulated cities in Europe. The city is linked to Malmö, Sweden by the famous Öresund Bridge, and is considered a hub for travel throughout Europe and Scandinavia.

The historic city center includes Frederiksstad, home to the royal family's Amalienborg Palace, as well as many other Renaissance castles and architectural sights to enjoy. Tivoli Gardens and the Nyhavn Canal are popular places to visit, but even just a walk through the charming cobblestone streets lined with colourful houses along the canals can offer a lovely way to spend the day.





THE CULTURE

The Danish culture of modern Copenhagen is rooted in the humble nature of that small 12th-century fishing village. Danes take pride in maintaining a collective and equal society whilst living a simple and happy life. When you slow down to enjoy some classic Copenhagen cultural experiences, you'll discover it.

The Danish concept of "hygge", meaning to be cozy, relaxed and feeling joy for life, is applicable regardless of the weather because there is always something to bring a little hygge to your life in Copenhagen. With a vast expat community, this location is equally attractive to locals, tourist and international professionals.

Food, drink, art, and architecture are mainstays of Copenhagen and contributes to its reputation for being a positive place to visit and live with excellent winter holiday markets.

Consistently ranked one of the top cities to live in for its quality of life, Copenhagen is safe, clean and a beautiful place to live. Greater Copenhagen's life sciences industry is world leading for R&D spending, clinical testing and drug development.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Copenhagen consistently sits in the top 10 cities in Europe for Quality of Life. In 2021 a report was done by the Economist Intelligence Unit, where the capital was ranked the Safest City in the World!

"Quality of Life" means something different to every individual, be it financial stability, living in a cultural hub or closer to nature with wide open spaces, this coupled with the friendly locals and the already multicultural environment, Copenhagen tick most people's boxes.

With a strong government supporting economic growth and cultural diversity, Denmark as a whole is looking to the future.

The cold weather isn't for everyone, but this can open you up to new experiences, sport activities and another side to nature you might not find in warmer climates.

LIFE SCIENCES IN DENMARK

Denmark is number one regarding biotech research & development and the number of clinical trials per capita in Europe, thanks to a strong life science industry employing roughly 50,000 people. A leading life sciences cluster has grown across the greater Copenhagen region and the southern region of Sweden, this amalgamation of pharma, biotech, medical device organisations has become known as Medicon Valley.

Medicon Valley has 9 life science universities with nearly 24,000 students, producing 5,000+ PhDs every year, 28 hospitals of which 11 are university hospitals and more than 600 life science companies. This means that some of the best leading researchers, clinicians and academics in the world are based within the Medicon Valley region. Medicon Valley is based on close collaboration between industry, academia and the public sector, and has Scandinavia's best knowledge transfer between the public and the private sector, providing excellent R&D opportunities.

With a short processing time for drug trial applications, A single-point-of-entry system ensures that drug trial applications are processed within six weeks with parallel submission to the Danish Medicines Authority and European Medicines Agency (EMA). And there is a 95% approval rate on drug trial applications.

13% of the Danish population has contributed to a clinical trial or medical research, which is more than 100,000 persons annually.

Denmark is investing more than 5.6 billion Euro in new hospitals over the recent and following years.

Medical products are the single largest export category in Denmark, amounting to 18 billion Euro annually. Pharmaceutical R&D accounts for 21% of the total private research spending in Denmark. In addition, around 130 million Euro is spent on clinical research every year. This results in a powerful pipeline with around 400 compounds in Danish companies, ranking Denmark third in overall pipeline in Europe.



OPPORTUNITY IN COPENHAGEN

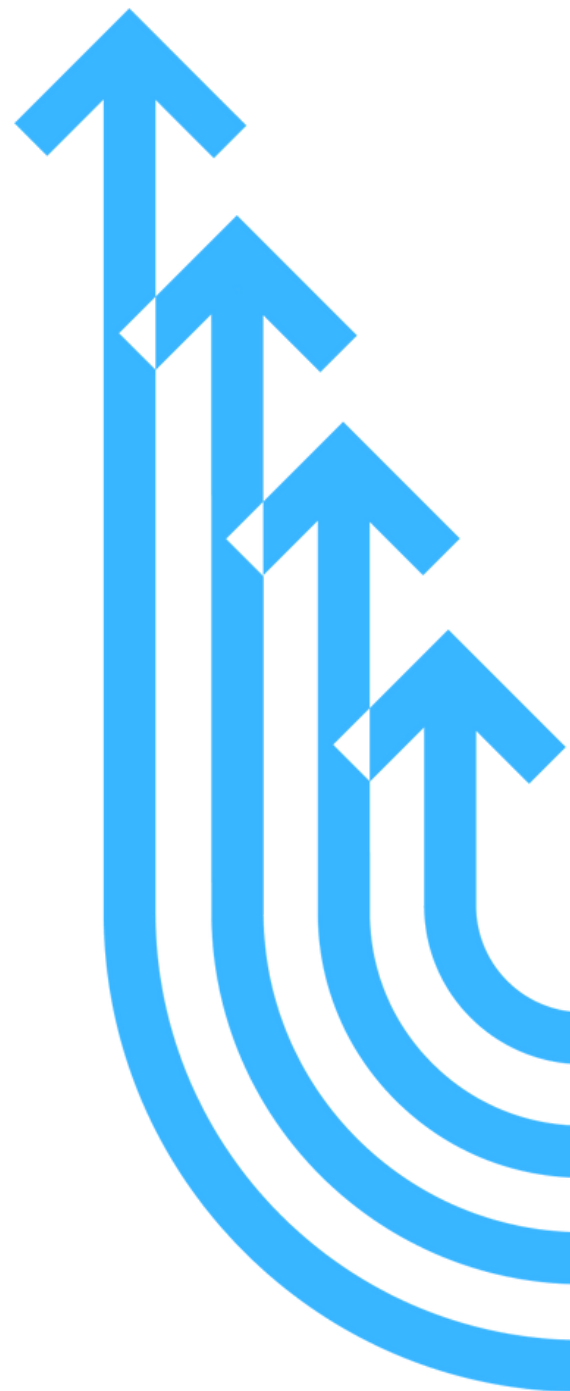
Copenhagen is clearly one of the top destinations for professionals in Europe, it is a global leader in quality of life and consistently a top performing city for the life sciences industry with vast opportunities and leading innovations.

For Impel Talent, it will stay a focus area of support for our exclusive services in recruitment and our bespoke learning & development programs – our network and impact in this area will keep growing and I hope this information adds some valuable insight for people who are looking into opportunities in Copenhagen or Denmark as a whole.

ABOUT IMPEL TALENT

At Impel Talent, we focus on building high performing teams through genuine human connection by delivering innovative career solutions to businesses around the world combining recruiting, career coaching and leadership development under one roof. Led by ex-industry professionals across Renewable Energy, Life Sciences, FMCG and Space & Technology, we exist to equip businesses and leaders with the skills to create a fulfilling career path that aligns specifically to their needs.

Our mission is to create long term partnerships that continue beyond the recruitment process by providing accessible, bespoke development resources to drive long term gains in career progression, team leadership and business resilience. We invest in the long run, not only supporting our contacts in securing a new role, but consistently developing, teaching and expanding their abilities. We do this through in-house curated development programs now recognised globally as some of the best training resources in class.





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AREA OF EXPERTISE

- **Quality**
- **Regulatory Affairs**
- **Clinical Development**
- **Medical Affairs**

RECENT ASSIGNMENTS

- **VP of Medical Affairs** - Belgium
- **Regulatory Affairs Manager** - Netherlands
- **Medical Affairs Director** - Switzerland
- **Medical Affairs Senior Manager** - Switzerland
- **Regulatory Compliance Manager** - Germany
- **Regulatory Compliance Manager** - Denmark
- **Qualified Person** - Denmark
- **Head QP** - Denmark
- **Head of QA/RA** - Germany

Etienne has 10 years recruitment experience and has become a focused niche Regulatory and Quality specialist in the life sciences industry with success across the EMEA, US, APAC and LATAM.

He started his career with a focus in Swiss recruitment, supporting varied clients from start-up to multinational corporations in defining their RA/QA talent growth strategies. This naturally grew to a broader geographical scope over the course of his career, that has led him to have an exceptional international network in Regulatory Affairs and Quality Assurance.

Prior to joining Impel, Etienne managed a RA/QA focused recruitment company, raVine global, however the long-term strategy and ultimate goals of Impel coupled with their value structure and expanded service offering had Etienne truly excited about what can be achieved as a comprehensive Talent Advisor.

Over and above Etienne's drive for personal connection, be it with his family and friends or with business connections, Etienne truly enjoys the outdoors, such as mountain biking, golf, surfing or any activity that leads to a bit of adventure