

John is English and lives in Copenhagen. Here he works in a small architectural office. He moved from London to Copenhagen a year and a half ago because he had found a Danish girlfriend and because he had received an exciting job offer. Although both cities are big cities, John thinks that there is a very big difference between living in London and in Copenhagen.

John found working in London very exciting. There, the projects were larger and they were often international. Everyone gave 100% to the project, and you worked a minimum of nine to ten hours a day - typically from nine thirty until six or seven all week. It was important that the boss and the other colleagues could see that you worked hard and for a long time. There was actually a bit of competition between the colleagues to work the most.

It was of course a little hard, but the pay was also super good and the taxes were low.

Transport to and from work in London took a long time. John lived a bit outside of London because housing in central London is super expensive. Therefore, he commuted approximately one hour each way. He was often home late, mostly ate take-away and went to bed early. He was far too tired to cook or hang out with friends in the evening. It was actually a bit lonely.

The first time after John had moved to Copenhagen, he felt that the city was very small and a bit provincial. There was not as much pulse as in London. He actually thought it was a bit boring here, but now he has got used to the slower pace.

The work culture is also completely different here. The working days are not so long and there is not so much competition. He actually thinks that there are some of the colleagues who do not work very much. He can sometimes be a little irritated by that. John still shows up at half past nine, and if he works after half past five, both the boss and colleagues ask if he isn't going home soon. At first it was very strange for him to go home so early, because then he didn't feel like he was working enough. But now he's used to it. And he actually thinks that you can be more efficient in 8 hours than in 10 hours.

In Copenhagen, he is often home from work at five o'clock. Here he also lives a little outside the city, but the distance is shorter and there are good cycle paths, so he can cycle to and from work in twenty minutes. And if the weather is bad, he can just take his bike on the train or subway. Now he has plenty of time to himself in the evening. He almost never eats take-away anymore, and now he has time to go to the gym, see friends and go to the cinema.

But there are also some disadvantages here. He thinks that you pay way too much in taxes. And he also thinks that learning Danish is difficult. But all in all, John is happy with his new working life in Copenhagen. He thinks that he has got much more energy, and he also thinks that there is more balance between work life and leisure life in Denmark than in Great Britain.