

NORDPLUS GRANT - CLAUDIA LEVETZOW

DANISH SCHOOL OF MEDIA AND JOURNALISM, INTERNATIONAL PHOTO 1 FALL 2017

I am studying Photojournalism and Documentary Photography at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Hannover/Germany. During my studies abroad in Aarhus at the Danish School Of Media And Journalism (DMJX) I received the Nordplus Grant and in December 2017 I travelled to Tromsø/Norway for my final project. It was my first time in Norway and in the polar circle. I stayed two weeks and managed to realise a photojournalistic story about the Child Protection System of Norway (Barnevernet).

I grew up in the north of Germany close to the Danish border. Of course I knew Denmark but I had never been to the other Scandinavian countries. I was always curious how it looks like more up in the north. But as a student I couldn't afford to realise a project in a Scandinavian country.

At DMJX I heard about the possibility to apply for the Nordplus Grant if I realise my final project in one of the Scandinavian countries. I immediately saw my chance and applied for the grant.

I have a friend in Aarhus who is from Norway. When I told him I applied for the Nordplus Grant he recommended me to go to Tromsø if I get the grant and we started to brainstorm about a topic.

I was lucky and received the Nordplus Grant. My Norwegian friend gave me a contact in Tromsø and I managed to live in a student house to keep my costs low during my stay.

While I was working on my final project in Tromsø I found more stories which I would like to realise. I got to know to people from Tromsø and we became friends.

Especially one of my new friends is very well connected in Tromsø and offered me his help when I want to come back to realise a project. Soon I will be able to finish my studies. I am thinking of realising a photojournalistic project for my Bachelor in Norway because I now have contacts there.

For me as a student of photojournalism the Nordplus Grant was an impulse to look for stories in Scandinavian countries which I probably wouldn't have done because of high costs. With my new contacts I hope to realise more projects up in the north.