

My experience with NordPlus

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Date of NordPlus: November 21st-December 1st 2016

Place I went to: Kangerlussuaq and Nuuk in Greenland

In November 2016 I went to Greenland with the Express Mobility grant from Nordisk Journalistutbildning. I attend the Danish School of Media and Journalism in Aarhus and as a final project of my international semester, we could choose a place in Europe to write a problem oriented story from. I decided to write a story about Greenlandic tourism, so I went to Kangerlussuaq and Nuuk for 10 days.

The grant was an indispensable help for me and I couldn't have gotten the same experiences without it. It covered almost all of my flight and accommodation expenses.

Before I went to Greenland, I had two interviews with experts on Greenlandic tourism and economy. In Greenland I first spent three days in Kangerlussuaq, where I interviewed a guy who has his own tour agency. Then I went to the capital, Nuuk, for a week. There I had interviews with politicians, Visit Greenland, the CEO of a hotel and people who work with tourism development. I shot video footage and took pictures in both towns, so I could make a video that contains different elements that attract tourists to Greenland.

I learned a lot during my stay in Greenland. I worked alone for the first time in a long time, and I enjoyed being in complete control of what I was doing. My patience was tested as one of the members of the self-government was so slow at answering his e-mails that it took me a month to settle a date with him for an interview.

I also learned a lot that doesn't involve journalism or journalistic methods. As a Dane, it was extremely interesting to go to Greenland, as it's part of the Kingdom of Denmark. I don't know anyone who has been there before, so I only had my knowledge about Greenland from the media.

Greenland is very different from all other places I've ever been to. They speak Danish, so that gave me a homely feeling. Apart from that, almost everything is different. The nature is spectacular and fascinating. While I was in Nuuk I saw the northern lights, and it's just indescribably beautiful. Both towns were quiet – especially Kangerlussuaq. There were almost no people in the streets and only 500 people live there.

Everybody was friendly and I'm definitely going back to Greenland one day. It's a beautiful country with an interesting history and an even more interesting future. When I opened the Greenlandic newspapers they had articles about independence every week and many of the political parties want the country to become independent very soon.

I would really like to thank NordPlus for giving me this grant and opportunity to explore Greenland. It has been an unforgettable trip, and I'm so happy I was selected among the candidates.

// Mette Højmark Mikkelsen