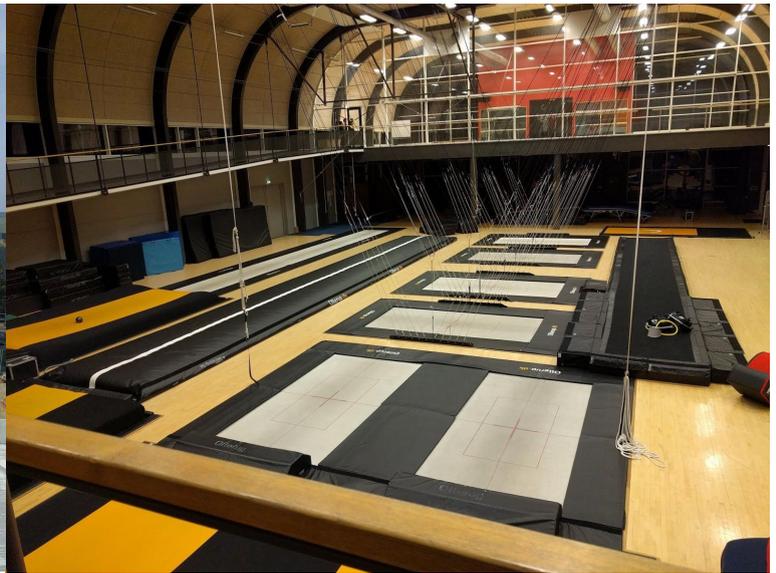


April 2018

Greetings from Denmark!

I've been having so much fun here at Ollerup that I've hardly noticed how much time has gone by... I can't believe we're already halfway through the semester. After arrival in January, we one week of introductory activities, then it was straight into the regular schedule. This includes about 7 hours of Team Gym per week, as well as intercultural studies, NGO (non government organisations), an optional sport subject (I chose martial arts), Danish lessons, and others. As you can imagine, life here is super busy. So far I've done so many active things, I'm surprised I haven't had any injuries. Some other things we have done include; ballet, yoga, meditation, singing, cycling, swimming, Danish folk dancing, running, and a lot more. The classes are great, but the school itself is also amazing. Here are some photos of the facilities:



1) The school's main building and outdoor pool.

2) The tumbling center.

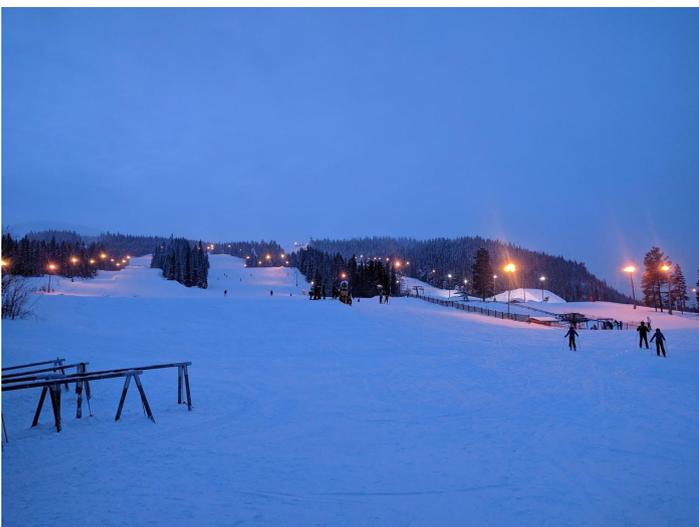
When I first arrived here in Ollerup, everything was quite a big shock. A few days before leaving New Zealand, I had been camping in the Coromandel where it was roughly 27-28 degrees, then a few days later I was in Denmark where it was about -4. Here are some photos of some of the more pleasant winter days:





Another big shock was the communal living, everything here is shared. The bedrooms, the showers, the meals, the cleaning, everything you do is almost always done with others. It was tough for the first week, but once I got used to it, I started loving it. There's always something to do or someone to talk to.

One of the best experiences I've had so far is the ski trip to Norway where we spent 5 days at a ski lodge called Trysil. We got to choose whether we wanted to ski or snowboard, I'd done skiing a little before but never snowboarding so I thought I would give it a try. After one day of frustration, I managed to get the hang of it, and it was some of the most fun I think I've ever had. The mountain was beautiful, the instructors were incredible, it was such a great experience. I can't wait to go snowboarding again. Here are some photos of the ski trip:



After the ski trip, we started to get ready for the 2 upcoming Team Gym competitions. This means we have been training a lot of rhythmical/dance (something very new for me), as well as deciding our rounds for tumbling and mini tramp. It has been great to get back into training, as I haven't trained any gymnastics in about 10 years. The competitions will be a big challenge because of this but I'm really excited to compete in a new discipline for the first time.

A very welcome break from the busy schedule was the 5 day holiday over Easter. My girlfriend was sent to Germany for some work training, so it was perfect timing for her to come and visit for a few days. We spent 3 days in Copenhagen, and woah... the amount of castles/palaces in the city is amazing. We also visited the, Viking ship museum, the national aquarium, and Tivoli (a big theme park). It was also very refreshing to visit a big city with efficient public transport, I think Auckland could learn a few lessons. After 3 days in Copenhagen, we took a quick trip to Stockholm, Sweden to stay with one of my friends from Ollerup. Stockholm is such a great city, I have to be honest and say that I think I prefer Stockholm to Copenhagen, but I won't be telling the Danes this anytime soon. Below are some photos from our trip:



After the easter break, all international students started organising an International Day and Night. This is an event where every international gets to create a workshop all about their own country/culture. Some did sport workshops, some did presentations with lots of facts, myself and the 3 other New Zealanders had a lot of fun making a short film showcasing fun facts about New Zealand, and in the afternoon we taught the Danes how to play rugby:



That's all from me for now, until next time!