

EXCHANGE REPORT

**COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL,
DENMARK**

FALL 2015-16



BY CHAN JONATHAN SAI HONG



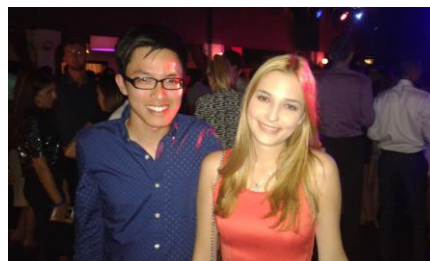
Part I -- Monthly Activity Log

August

CBS arranged a very helpful Exchange Buddy to take me from the airport to the hall, and the Orientation Social Week organized by the Exchange team in late August were unforgettable, including a canal tour, poolside party, comedy show, folk dancing etc. I then spent a day at the City Hall (“Kommune”) to obtain the CPR Residence Card and the Yellow



Medical Card. With these cards you can purchase a Travel Card



“Rejsekort” (Similar to Octopus Card in Hong Kong) and you will be allocated with a specific GP doctor at a clinic which you can enjoy medical check-up services for free. Cycling paths in Copenhagen are brilliant and it is super convenient to get around the city with a bike, so I also bought a second-

hand bike for 1000kr a few days after my arrival. Just a few days before school started, I travelled to Malmö and Lund, 2 of the biggest cities in Southern Part of Sweden which were easily approachable by the 3-times-an-hour “Øresundståg” at just 35 minutes. Malmö is famous for its container ports and is also the home for the famous football star Zlatan Ibrahimović, while Lund is famous for its 850-year-old Cathedral. By the way, from Jan 2016 onwards, all passengers travelling from Denmark to Sweden by train would be subjected to a mandatory passport check as the refugee crisis got worse and worse, so remember to bring yours if you are planning such a trip to Sweden.



September

Lessons started in the first week of September and they were much more interactive than classes in HKUST. A lot of in-class discussions and presentations are included in class, and professors are very kind and friendly. There are 5 campus in total and classes for the same course were conducted in different venues every week, so it took quite a while for me to look for the correct classroom during the early weeks. There



is an Asian Society in CBS and they held a mooncake-making workshop session during the Mid-Autumn Festival. On Mid-Autumn Day, some locals and other European students joined us for Chinese hot-pot and Chinese dumplings to celebrate the festive day after we shopped around for ingredients from some Asian Kiosks near



Copenhagen Central Station. As the workload in September is very little, it is better to take up the chance of visiting other European countries and I have visited Swiss, Germany and France. In addition, sunset takes place after 8pm during this period of the year so it is more worth-going to travel around before the winter chill season approaches.

October



As said, there were only few assignments to be handed in during the first month, so I had participated in a 24-hour marketing case for Tuborg, one of the prominent local brewery brands owned by International Brewery Giant Carlsberg, which is headquartered exactly in Copenhagen. It was a great opportunity to look at how the foreign students conduct their presentations, as they mainly stressed on creativity and ways of communications, with rather low focus on feasibility and budgeting. My group was luckily to be chosen as one of the five Finalist teams and fortunately we

got the 2nd runner-up prize presented by the Carlsberg Group CEO. During the mid-term break, I travelled to Stockholm and Uppsala in Sweden, as well as Oslo and Bergen in Norway. The Swedish Capital is somewhat similar to Copenhagen with a list of museums to be visited and the world's largest IKEA warehouse is just 30-min away from the city center. The historical University town of Uppsala is tranquil and it takes an hour there from Stockholm by train. Oslo and Bergen are relatively less vibrant than Danish cities, with mountains and lakes as their most popular sightseeing attractions, and don't forget to try out the Norwegian Salmon!



November

Some courses in CBS only last for half of the semester with lessons being held more frequently during September and October. Exams for these courses takes place in early November. Oral exams are quite common in CBS and other Danish schools,



particularly for marketing and management subjects, at which you would have to interact with the professor for around 20 minutes at his/her office. I spent another week travelling in the UK, as well as some other Danish cities, including Helsingor, home for Shakespeare's Hamlet Play; Odense, hometown for fairytale writer H.C. Andersen; and Fredericia in the West of the country. It was magnificent to witness the first snow in Mid-November as a snowfall of 50cm thickness was recorded in some parts of Copenhagen! Despite the stunning snowy scenery, it was almost impossible to bike anymore since then and probably you have to spare more time to travel to anywhere in town.

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December

There was a week of study break before the Exam period started, so I grasped the final chance of going on a short trip, at which I booked the fan-fare price coach tickets to two other Swedish cities of Helsingborg and Göteborg. Don't forget to try



out the seafood at the Göteborg Feskekörka (Fish Market)! As December came in, Christmas Markets mushroomed all around Europe. Some large Christmas markets in Copenhagen include the ones in Nyhavn, Kongens Nytorv, Strøget, Nørreport, Radhuspladsen etc. A variety of

accessories, ornaments, snacks and warm alcoholic drinks can be found in stalls in the Christmas markets. And back to the exams! Written exams took place in an Exam Center in the Eastern part of the city near the Metro stop of Øresund Station, and students will be assigned to a computer in one of the exam halls to sit for the exam, with the answers typed in a Word document and submitted online through the portal system. Exams usually last for 3-4 hours, with most of the questions being open-ended, and all the essay-type questions are having equal weighting. During the Christmas week, most of the stores and shops are closed, so the best way to spend the Christmas Festive Season in Copenhagen would be going to the Tivoli Theme Park which opened through the Festive week, or to do ice-skating in the city.



Part II – General Exchange Info

- **VISA:** If you are holding a non-EU/EEA passport, you will have to apply for a visa WELL IN ADVANCE before you travel to Copenhagen. The nearest Visa Application Center is in Guangzhou (Linhexi Metro Station, 1 stop from Guangzhou East Station), opening on Weekdays 9am-3pm. Remember to apply for a Case ID code and pay online by credit card on Danish Embassy's webpage BEFORE you go to Guangzhou, otherwise the Guangzhou Office would not process your application without the Case ID Code. When going to the visa application center, bring your completed ST1 Application Form, HKID Card, Home Return Permit, a personal photo, your acceptance letter issued by CBS, a Hong Kong bank statement with your name, your Hong Kong address proof, your passport and a copy of your entire passport! (Each and every page of your passport, otherwise they will charge you ¥1 per page!). The process at the application center should last for around 30 mins and it takes 6-8 weeks for them to email the formal visa form to your mailbox in pdf form.

- **Orientation:** It is not mandatory, though I would highly recommend students to join this. Organized by the Students' Representatives and taking place at the week before semester starts, the package costs around 600DKK, including a canal tour, folk dance, party night, comedy show etc. It is the easiest way to get along with many other exchange students from all over the world, and eventually you would recognize their faces again in campus or in halls.

- International Housing Department: Upon your arrival to Copenhagen, you would have to fill in the form concerning your accommodation and your personal particulars, and acknowledging the potential penalties of damaging the facilities at dorm. The form is to be submitted to the International Housing Department at Dalgas Have 2/F.

- Accommodations & Laundry: There are quite a number of accommodation halls offered by CBS. Personally speaking I would recommend Holger Danskes Vej, Porcelaenshaven and Kathrine Kollegiet. Holger Danske is a CBS-owned property occupied mostly by local and American students, so it is a great opportunity to increase your exposures to foreigners from different backgrounds. Porcelaenshaven is another great choice as it is just steps away from the main campus. Kathrine Kollegiet is another hall 5-min away from Flintholm Transport Hub, with en-suite kitchen and bathroom but no common rooms. Facilities like Soccer Machine, Video Games and Pool Table are provided in the Svanevej Hall, yet it is situated in the multi-cultural Nørrebro District which might be rather shady at late nights. Laundry tags are provided with your room keys, and laundries are available at the basement of each dorms. Remember to pay online with your cards to purchase laundry credits beforehand. Some private housing options are available online as well, and they are of similar prices to CBS Halls.

- Courses registration: There are 2 rounds of course registration, with first round filling in your preferences on the courses, and you are allowed to replace the courses in the second round of registration if any of your top preferences are not satisfied. Some courses will last for a quarter only while some last for the entire semester. The course catalog will list out whether the courses are having oral or written exams, so spend some time to think about that before you enroll into the courses.

- Food: Denmark is famous for its pastries and bakery, and you can easily find a number of bakery chains in town. "Smørrebrød" (Open Sandwich) is another popular dish you can find everywhere in the city with different kinds of toppings for you to choose from. There are plenty of Pasta and Pizza shops near the campus, some offering takeaways at really cheap prices. "Chinese Buffet" restaurants are often found in downtown but don't expect too much as most of the dishes are deep-fried dishes. It is rather expensive to dine out for dinner, so we usually cook at halls for dinner. Lidl, Fakta and Netto are among the cheapest supermarket chains, with Rema1000 and Føtex offering food and houseware items at reasonable prices as well. Irma offers a larger variety of organic food choices and thus it is relatively pricey.

Copenhagen is also home to a few Michelin-star / Michelin-recommended fine dining cuisines, but make sure you make advance booking and prepare the budget for that.

- Transportation: A single ticket ride costs you 24 DKK, so it is wise to get a “Rejsekort” Card which you can enjoy half price for every trip. The fares are determined by the number of zones that you are travelling, and so it costs the same no matter you travel by Metro, S-Train, Bus or Regional Train if you are travelling within the same zone. Do remember to “Check-in” and “Check-out” your card when travelling, otherwise you may risk a penalty fine. If you are living in the suburban areas, it might be cheaper for you to buy a weekly/monthly ticket instead of paying with the travel card each and every time. Biking is another convenient and cheaper option to get travel within the campus and the city with biking slots available everywhere in town for free.

- Telecommunications: A Lebara SIM-Card is provided in the welcoming pack by CBS. You can go to any 7-11 to top-up for call minutes and Internet Data. The cheapest option should be 2 hours of call minutes & 10 GB of Data for 99DKK. If you are planning to travel to many countries in Europe during your exchange, you can consider joining the monthly plan at “3 Telecom”, at which you can enjoy 10 GB of Data Usage in 20 European Countries at a cost of around 200DKK per month.

- Cost / Expenses + Bank Details: Shops and restaurants in Scandinavia prefer to receive payments by cards rather than cash, yet many of the card terminals would require a card with a pin. I would suggest you open a bank account at Nordea Bank or Danske Bank and they will provide you with a Debit Card later on. Almost all of the stores accept the Debit Card and you can swipe it until your bank balance approaches zero. As the Danish Krone is pegged to the Euro, you can bring Euro cash to exchange for DKK at banks for a more favourable exchange rate. Overseas remittance and cash withdrawal may incur service charges by the bank in Hong Kong.

Here are my total expenses: (DKK 1 = HKD 1.15)

Visa & Travelling to Guangzhou	HK\$ 4,000
Air Tickets (Lufthansa)	HK\$ 8,600
Accommodation (Kathrine Kollegiet)	HK\$ 35,000
Transportation	HK\$ 6,000
Food & Other Living Expenses	HK\$ 69,000 (DKK 15,000 per month)
5 Short Trips	HK\$ 10,000
Total	<u>HK\$ 132,600</u>

Part III – Items to bring

- Electric adaptor
- Power Strip
- Personal ID photos
- Cash (EUR, DKK)
- WIFI Router
- Warm clothes / Jackets / Gloves / Lotion / Snow boots
- Rice Cooker
- Medicine (Medical check-up is free but not the pills!)
- Small-size Suitcase (For short trips)
- Suit / Formal dress code

Contact

Should you have any enquiry, feel free to get my contact from SBM Exchange Team by emailing to bmugexch@ust.hk. Wish you all a good time during your exchange!