

EXCHANGE REPORT

COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL

DENMARK

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Year 3 Accounting & Marketing

WELCOME TO THE WORLD'S HAPPIEST NATION



MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG

August

I arrived at Copenhagen in mid Aug. A student buddy picked me up at the airport. He brought me to my dormitory, Kathrine Kollegiet, and handed me the welcome info pack, which consisted of basic arrival info, telephone sim card, dormitory keys, maps, etc. All exchange students would be assigned a buddy and be notified by email. *Make sure you check your CBS email and contact the buddy about your arrival info. If you are not staying in a dormitory, do let you buddy know earlier so he/she could bring you there.*

August in Denmark was wonderful with temperature around 17 to 24 degree. There was plenty of sunlight so It is a good time to walk around, take good photos and explore Copenhagen. I basically hit most of the tourist attractions such as Christianbourg Palace, in Copenhagen during this period. The view along the canals in Central Copenhagen was fascinating.



In late August, the CBS International office organized a series of orientation activities, both compulsory and voluntary. Those includes cultural integration classes, social gatherings, or boat trip. I attended most of them and knew some friends, both from HK and other parts of the world. These activities let you know more about the school and Copenhagen as people offered me tips on what to do, where to go, and how to do perform certain tasks, eg printing in school.

Friends I knew there became my groupmates for projects and companions to travel with later on.



Facebook is a very useful tool to integrate into the community and seek help. Not only can you reach the CBS office staff, you could also search for used bike, or rent housing, etc. Make sure you subscribe for pages like Buy a Bike Copenhagen.



Try Danish Pastry. They are so delicious.

September

School started in September. I bought a second hand bike and biked to school. Classes there were different from those in HK. Students were much more active and curious. Lecturers expected the class to be interactive and hoped students could contribute in the classes.

In mid September, I joined a weekend trip to Berlin in Germany. This trip was organized by the CBS office and was well planned. The office also organized another one for Denmark. I did not join it but as I heard it was really nice as you could go to different cities in Denmark which the scenery was astonishing.

School life was not dull with a lot of interest groups and clubs you could join. There was a society day which representatives of different societies set up booth on campus and recruited members. Students did not need to pay to join the societies and just had to "like" the facebook pages. So I joined as many societies as I liked. Choices included Arts, Marketing lab, choir, running club, fashion club, etc. Afterwards, I received updates about upcoming activities or being invited to participate in events.

Copenhagen is a dynamic city. There are different events going on in the city nearly every day. People there use Facebook very frequently and many of the activities are promoted and spread via FB. *Stay tuned to FB and like more event pages! You wont get bored in CPH.*

September was a good time to travel too, within and outside Denmark. Not only because the weather was still warm and sun was still out, school just began and students did not



have much workload. I seized this opportunity and went to Munich for the famous Oktoberfest.

October

The summer was gone and it was always raining. Temperature dropped to 13 degree and it was super super windy. It was impossible to bring an umbrella so you never see the locals carrying one.

October was in the middle of school term so I had more and more work. However, I still felt comfortable and relax as the workload was light compared with HKUST. I went to explore some smaller attractions, or places which was popular among the locals, eg Copenhagen Street Food, Black diamond (Public Library), aquarium, Copenhagen Zoo etc.

There was a long break in October. Most exchange students went outside Denmark. I travelled to London with another friend for more than a week. *The flight price skyrocketed so make sure you plan your trip ahead. Buy tickets earlier.*

In late October, I went to Tivoli for its Halloween setting. Tivoli is a beloved theme park and there are different decorations for different seasons, just like the Ocean Park. Buying an annual pass would be a better option if you would go there for more than twice.



November

I attended some seminars and talks. The seminars were useful and the speakers mainly talked from an EU perspective, which is very new to Asians. These seminars gave me new insights and broadened my horizons.

There were some group projects and presentations in November but they weren't demanding. *In November, make you sure you attend as much classes as possible as the lecturers usually give instructions and tips about the exams. These instructions were important to get a pass.*

Exams were coming but nothing could stop me from travelling. I went to some nearby cities. For instance, I went to Odense, where Anderson was born. Odense was a very small town. Last



minute train ticket was extremely expensive, eg 600DKK, to commute to nearby towns from CPH. *Plan ahead and buy Orange ticket (discounted train tickets) which was usually sold out quickly.*

The First Friday in November is called the J day which Carlsberg releases its Christmas Brew (Christmas beer). Special trucks would send the special beer to all cafes and bars on that day. All the café and bars in Copenhagen would then launch the beer sharp at 20:59. The whole city was excited. You could see people everywhere, drinking Christmas beer, wearing Santa Claus hats and having fun.

The first snow came in mid November and it was so heavy that train and metro stopped service. *Read the weather forecast. Go home as soon as possible when it starts snowing.*

The wind in Copenhagen was brutal. I used to bike everywhere in September. However in October, since the wind was too strong, I could not bike properly and nearly injured myself. I would suggest not to bike from November onwards.



December

The temperature was usually around zero degree, plus or minus 3. It was always rainy It was very rainy, windy and occasionally snowing.

It was the exam period so I basically studied and wrote papers. I explored some nice study cafes too.





As Christmas approached, I observed a lot of differences on streets and people. People started to become happier and streets became more colourful with decorations. The Christmas Markets emerged. They were fabulous and Glogg (Hot red wine, a tradition Christmas drink in Europe) sold in the market is a must-try. There was also a Christmas market in Tivoli.

In late December, I realized I had too much stuff. Therefore, I mailed some parcels to home. Sending parcel was expensive in Copenhagen which could cost you at least 500DKK per parcel. My dormitory tenancy agreement ended on 31 Dec so I had to move out. I moved to an Airbnb and stayed for one week before I returned to HK.

GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

Visa Procedure

You will first need to submit application and pay the Danish Embassy on a website called New to Denmark DK. You will get necessary documents from the CBS Office. Then you have to go to Guangzhou Danish Visa application Centre to submit other documents. At the office, you will need to pay again in RMB. Do send an email to the Guangzhou Application centre to check what documents are needed before you go there. Some of the requirements may not listed on the New to Denmark website.

Orientation Activities

Compulsory activities include school introduction. Student online system Introduction, etc. Non compulsory activates are paid and called Introduction Week Social Package. You will receive information via emails in early August. The price was 575 DKK but it included quite a lot, namely Standup comedy, Folk dancing, Canal tour, Lake Party, Movie Night, and Welcome Dinner. Most exchange students would join this package so it is a good chance to expand your social circle.

Another less popular choice is the Crash course week package. This is organized before the Introduction Week Social package in mid August, which most exchange students have not arrived



yet. As I heard, it was not as interesting as the Introduction week package.

In early September, the office would organize one or two weekend trips. The trips are well organized and worth going.

The office likes to release info and address students' concern on its Facebook page. Much of the interaction happens on the page so make sure you stay tuned to it.

Courses Registration

You could only study at most 4 courses. I studied the followings.

Neuromarketing: similar to psychology but focus more on the marketing purpose of brain science. Not much workload but the paper can be challenging. Make sure you either read the textbook or attend classes if you wish to pass.

Written Paper + Oral Exam – Lecturers ask about definitions and theories. You also need to know the experiments, eg pros and cons. what experiments to be used under what situation. They could also challenge your opinion in your written paper. Don't be nervous. As long as you could explain, you are fine.



Retail marketing: Interesting and easy to follow. A lot of discussions in class. Much of the class content resembles the textbook.

Written Paper + Oral exam: Writing the paper is easy. Make sure you study all topics in the syllabus. Examiners will ask questions on all topics and may even create a scenario for you apply the knowledge.

Organizing Global Business and Marketing: Syllabus consists on a lot of topics and is very broad. Contents in lectures are different from the textbook. This course is difficult to follow even if you attend class.

The professor will not release past exam questions online. Instead, he will show them in class. The real exam questions are similar to the past exam question he shows in class.

International Commercial Law: It can be challenging in the beginning but it gets easier and easier. Only need to study a few PPTs and some articles. No workload but no credit transfer.



Cost/Expenses

The tax rate in Denmark is 25%.

I had a local bank account in Denmark. Nordea Bank is good and there are Nordea branches near school. Bring along your passport, CPR Number, address proof and residence card to open a bank account. Afterwards you will need to wait for 5 weeks to get the approval and the ATM card.

Debit/Credit Card payment is very popular. Basically you don't need cash around.

Transportation:

Download the app Rejseplanen on iOS or check transportation on <http://www.rejseplanen.dk>

The information is very helpful and is real time.

Buy a personal Rejsekort as soon as possible. (It works like octopus in HK) Once you have your CPR No. you could go online to apply for a personal Rejsekort. There are various types of Rejsekort but a personal one offers more discounts.

Accommodation

I stayed in Kathrine Kollegiet (KK), one of the dormitory offered by CBS. It takes 20 minutes to walk to school, 7 minute biking to school and 3 minute walk to Flinthom, the nearest Metro station.

Pillow, bed sheet/cover and blanket are offered. There are also cooking utensils provided.



CHECKLIST

Visa / MasterCard Credit Cards & Plus/ Cirrus ATM Card

- Bring an ATM card which you withdraw cash.
- Bring a Plus or Cirrus card. UnionPay is NOT wide accepted in Denmark.
- Bring more than one credit card, Visa or MasterCard, just in case.
- UnionPay is NOT widely accepted in Denmark, either for cash withdrawal or credit card payment.
- *To save trouble, please bring Visa or MasterCard credit cards and a Plus or Cirrus ATM card.*

Wind proof and Rain proof jacket

- It is rainy and windy.

Water Proof Boots / Snow boots

- Ground is always wet because of rain or snow

Warm clothes

- Scarf, hat and gloves

Wifi Router

- There isn't wifi in KK but Ethernet in KK

Adaptor

- Normal EU plugs

Hair dryer

- There aren't a lot of shops selling electronic appliances and the tax rate is 25%.

Chopsticks

