



Copenhagen Business School, Denmark Fall 2015 Exchange Report

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Part I – Monthly Log

August

I arrived Copenhagen International Airport on the 20th August 2015. My flight landed at Kastrup Airport at around 4pm. Earlier in June, the International Office have already assigned a buddy from CBS to help you cope smoothly with the new life in Copenhagen. My buddy was not free that day because she has to work, most Danish students have a part-time job, but she had a friend to pick me up from the airport and brought me to my residence.



The Introduction Week started a week before school starts, and I highly recommend you to join the program as it gave you an opportunity to get to know the city as well as other exchange students. The introduction week usually includes event like welcoming dinner and canal tour.

September

School started this month but the classes here are quite different from those in UST.

They had a longer time span, usually over 3 hours with a break in between, but they met less frequently. Moreover, the Danish education system lean more on academic reading which means that most of the courses had readings assigned to you before each class. Most of



the classes I attended did not have assignments and graded presentation, and solely rely on one exam to determine your performance. In mid September, I joined the Berlin Trip organized by the exchange social program. It was really a good bargain and you get to visit Berlin with new friends from all over the world. The trip included transportation (Bus), hostel, one dinner meal and a visit to Sachsenhausen concentration camp led by tour guides. The whole trip lasted for a total of 4 days. I had a lot of fun in Berlin and it remained one of my favourite city in Europe. September should also be the month that you receive your residence card, which is a very important document for both domestic use and travel in Europe.



October

During late September and Early October, I was once again heading to Germany, but this time to Munich for the Oktoberfest. Oktoberfest, also known as the Beer Festival, is an annual event held in several Germany cities including Stuttgart, Hamburg and Munich. However, the largest and

most traditional one is in Munich so it is the best place to go naturally if you want to experience the vibe and good German beer. Beware that Oktoberfest actually starts in **mid September** and last till usually the **first week of October**, despite its name of

Oktoberfest. Also, try to plan for Oktoberfest a few months earlier to get accommodation, train/plane tickets and most importantly reservation for table in one of the Beer Tent. Or else you would have to queue up as early as 7:30 am in order to get into a Beer Tent. Transportation to Munich gets very expensive when it is near Oktoberfest. Final reminder: Drink responsibly and have fun!



I also visited Malmo, which is the third largest city in Sweden, just besides Copenhagen. The train ride to Malmo was just under 45mins and if you are a football fan, you must visit Malmo because that's where Zlatan Ibrahimovic was born! In late

October, I went to London and Paris to visit friends there. I watched a Chelsea game in Stamford Bridge when I was in London and it was really a dream come true!

November

School works started to catch up on me, with several projects and papers deadline looming. After two weeks of studies and hard work, I left Copenhagen again for the Alpes in Switzerland. The view in Jungfrauoch, deemed the highest mountain in Europe, was beyond magnificent. It was definitely worth going, but be prepared for the expensive prices in Switzerland. Also, bring enough clothes, as it would be freezing in the mountain range. The final week of November was spent in quite some studying and paper writing. The library would be very crowded during that period of time and if you want to

guarantee a seat in the library, logon on to the CBS library website to book a seat in advance.

December

December is the month for exams and project deadlines. Most of my exams are scheduled in the first 2 weeks of the month. They are all 4 hours essay writing exam for me, but there are also take home 48 hours paper exam as well. As there are quite some times in between my first two exams, I was able to squeezed time to visit Barcelona, another of my all-time favorite city. In Barcelona, we visited the magnificent Sagrada Familia as well as Camp Nou. We were able to watch the best player in the world, Lionel Messi, played against Deportivo de La Coruña in the 100,000 seats arena. And you just cannot missed the paella in Spain! That was the most delicious dish I have had in Europe.



My exams finished on the 16th of December but I have already begun the check out procedures for my dormitory because I had planned a month travel plan right after exam. You need to email the check out date/time to the Housing Department and clean your room before departing. Make sure that you have all the personal dishes and utensils accounted for because if some were broken or even missing, money will be deducted from your deposit. And remember to give instructions to the Housing Department on how to wired back the deposit to you. The Housing Department offers a great service by **allowing exchange students to store their luggage there**. Therefore, I put the majority of my luggage there and went on to my after trip with only a backpack and a small luggage. They had no apparent limit to how long you wish to store the luggage so it was indeed a very exchange friendly policy. You can collect your luggage anytime during their working hour before leaving Copenhagen.

January

Continuing from above, I started my after trip on 18th December. My first destination was Italy. I visited Milan, Venice and Florence within a span of almost 3 weeks. I mostly relied on Bus while travelling across city in Italy. Tickets between Milan and Venice could be as cheap as 4 euros. I flew to Paris to meet up with friends and spent the New Year in Paris. It was a wonderful night despite the Paris attack just a month earlier. An overwhelming numbers of security personnel were deployed in the city, besides that, Paris still retain its lasting charm.





I headed to Prague right after New Year. It was very cold in Prague so be prepared of unfavorable weather in Europe during January. After Prague, I went on to Salzburg and later Vienna in Austria. Both are very historical cities with music and art as their major attraction. Moving on from Austria, I continued south to Croatia and Serbia. As

it was winter when I visited Croatia, I did not go to the famous costal area so I advise you to take season into your travel planning as well. Zagreb is a very tourist-friendly city with extensive public transportation network and English signs everywhere. The best about Eastern and Southern Europe is that the prices are very cheap compare to those in Central or Northern Europe. After Zagreb, my friend and me went on to visit Belgrade, the capital of Serbia. It was a very interesting trip in Belgrade as Serbia was usually not a top choice for Asian tourist, even for exchange students. The city itself was pretty well developed although some parts were very worn out. The damages of war from the Yugoslavia conflict could still be seen in the city so it is a perfect place for student who would like to know more about the contemporary Slavic history. One other thing worth mentioning was that we conquered the notorious Belgrade-Budapest train unscathed. I found myself in Copenhagen on the 19th January, and I manage to collect my luggage from CBS, deregister my residency and cancel my bank account that day before catching my flight back to Hong Kong.

P.S.

The monthly log is only a snapshot of my stay in Europe as a lot of interesting facts about travelling in Europe are not included. Despite my focus on travelling around Europe in the log, **Copenhagen is a splendid city if you know the way, which I do.** Feel free to contact me and I would love to share with you further my exchange experience.

Part II – General Exchange Information

1) Visa procedures

It is quite inconvenient to apply for the residence permit in Denmark as it must be done in Guangzhou since the Danish Consulate in Hong Kong was closed in 2012. The visa application procedures take about 1-2 months so make sure you have with you all the necessary documents before your trip to GZ. The total fee for a Danish visa is around HKD5000. Remember to apply for Case ID online before going to GZ.

2) Orientation

It is not a mandatory event but I highly recommend you to join the Introduction week. The entire package cost around DKK600, including events like canal tour, folk dance, party night, comedy show etc. It is the best way to get to know new friends.

3) Accommodation

You will get to register online for your choices of dormitory approximately 2 months before your arrival. The registration was on a **first-come, first-serve** basis, so make sure you are there to apply when the application open because student dorm places are very limited. System jams or crashes are normal. There are around 8 dorms offered to students and the price depends on the size of the room. You can have a preview of the room on CBS website before picking. I personally recommend dormitory such as Holge (my dorm), Porcelænsøen and Kathrine Kollegiet because they are all within 10mins biking distance from CBS. If you unfortunately do not get a place, try email the Housing Office directly and explain how "dire" your situation is that might give you a place directly.

4) Course registration

The course registration consists of 2 rounds of application, and they are **NOT** on a first-come, first-serve basis. During the first round of registration, you can fill out 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. Beware of credit transfer requirement and if some courses are not on the Credit Equivalent Database, applied to ARRO for prior assessment before choosing them.

5) Teaching and Assessment Method

No attendance is taken in most courses so students should be self-disciplined. Discussion is very common in classes and students are encouraged to be more active in learning. Workload here is lighter than that in HKUST and quite a number of courses just have 1 final exam. Rarely, there are mid-term exams or quizzes. Exams can also come in different formats, such as traditional written exams, oral exams and take-home assignments.

6) Transportation

It is recommend that you rent a bike from any bike store in the city. A fair price would be around DKK1000 for a second-hand bike. You can sell you bike to incoming exchange or even back to bike store when you leave. I recouped about 20% of my initial cost at the end. If you are no fan of bike, than you should get a monthly Rejsekort card after you got

your residence permit. This Rejsekort with residences permit give you a 50% discount on Metro, S-Bahn and bus. But even if you decided to use bike as the main way to go around, also get the Rejsekort card because it is really difficult to bike during winter weather.

7) Telecommunication

CBS International Office provides you with a Lebara SIM card in the welcoming package. You can go to any 7-11 to top up the SIM card and get Internet access. This can also be done online after manually activating the card at the first time. The cheapest option should be 2 hours of call minutes & 10 GB of Data for 99DKK. However, I personally recommend the plan offered by 3 Denmark or Telia. This particular plan offer user 10GB data (4G) monthly in Denmark and also 20 other European countries for a price of DKK200 a month. The plan is not contract bounded and you can cancel the plan anytime you wish. However, you do need your residence permit and CPR number to purchase.

8) Bank details

One thing before you leave Hong Kong is to make sure you are aware of the PIN of your credit/debit card. Transactions in Scandinavia are mostly done by cards instead of cash, so I recommend you to open an account with Nordea Bank or Danske Bank. You can also enjoy a very convenient mobile banking system from these banks which virtually rendered cash useless. Beware that overseas remittance and cash withdrawal may incur service charges by the bank in Hong Kong. That also hold for withdrawal in other parts of Europe.

Visa	HKD 4000
Air ticket (SAS)	HKD 7200
Accommodation (Holger)	HKD 35000
Transportation	HKD 8000
Living Expense	HKD 30000
Trips and travels	HKD 20000
Total	HKD 114,200

Part III - Items to Bring and Contact

- Electric adaptor
- Personal ID photos
- Cash (EUR, DKK)
- WiFi Router

- Warm clothes (down jackets)
- Laptop
- Rice Cooker
- Medicine (Medical check-up is free but not the pills!)
- Small-size Suitcase (For short trips)
- Suit / Formal dress code
- Vacuum storage bag

Contact

Feel free to email me at clmlee@connect.ust.hk if you have any questions.