

EXCHANGE REPORT
COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL
Fall 2015

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Monthly Activity Log

August

I arrived Copenhagen in late August. This was my second visit to the far-famed country of joy, widely recognized as the “happiest nation in the world”. Not much had changed in two years’ time. The transport network, the self-driving metro in particular, offered a much pleasant experience per usual. It was still summertime in Denmark, right before the fall season characterized by strong, at times relentless winds, and diminishing daylight hours taking over to be the new norm. With the rich color scheme of Nyhavn, the glorious blend of design and technology, and a superior form of civilization in terms of social development and a constantly robust economy, Denmark had a lot to offer, and a lot to impress. Copenhagen Business School was the only institute specializing in education of business administration in the city, and was renowned, in particular, for education of international business and the groundbreaking design of campus, such as the Tietgen that made frequent appearances on books and journals. CBS offered a welcoming package loaded with social activities (including some clubbing activities, which were possibly deemed as the highlight of the introductory week) and orientations of various kinds (facilities, campus tours and so forth) for the incoming exchange students. It was a blast and I would recommend joining the program as it offered plenty of occasions and venues for you to meet new friends and get a taste of how your Danish life in the several months ahead would be like.

September

The fall semester officially commenced. The forms of teaching, in my opinion, did not differ drastically from what you have been accustomed to in UST, except that the lectures were more interactive and the majority of students were more than keen to voice out their minds. I took the time to explore the city in greater depth, wandering around parks and strolling around streets. With some efforts, you could well discover many unexpected hidden gems of restaurants and cafes. It was no secret that Danes brewed coffees of exceptional quality. With the décor and fine interiors, spending some good afternoon time in a café could by all means refresh your mind and stimulate your thoughts. In late September, I visited Norway’s Oslo and Bergen. Bergen offered some of the finest salmon in the entire world, and the spectacle of fjords in Norway was definitely not to be missed.

October

Workload wasn’t too heavy at this point, and there was a weeklong break in this month. Therefore, I spent considerable time traveling to various locations in Europe during October, including Munich, Athens, Santorini and various parts of Switzerland. Visiting Athens, you could really tell how the recession had ruined Greece, and the day of economic revitalization had yet to come. On the other hand, Santorini had a vastly different landscape as if it wasn’t part of the debt-ridden Greece. The impeccable blend of ultra blue from the sky and Aegean Sea and the snowy white free of flaws from

Fira and Oia would be an everlasting scene on my mind. After that, I visited Switzerland. I was humbled once again by the craft of nature throughout my journey to the Alps region and Zermatt situated under the Matterhorn. Returning to Copenhagen, I shifted my focus to projects of my courses, and took the chance to bond with my French group mates through collaborating on the work and hanging out afterwards. You could definitely experience the diversity in perspectives and modes of working through this kind of intercultural interactions.

November

This was the time when workload built up. With freezing cold temperatures setting in and bare daylight, staying in was a wise choice when you had to study the course materials. Nonetheless, I took some time to explore the more remote locations in Copenhagen. I also spent two days in Stockholm. Furthermore, I had my first ever birthday celebration outside Hong Kong with a bunch of friends, and I would remain much thankful for meeting these amiable and kind people along the way.

December

Exams were around the corner. Therefore, I spent the majority of time preparing for exams in the first half of the month. Following the exams were a series of festive Christmas celebrations. While Christmas markets prevailed all over Europe, I still found something intriguing every time I popped into a different Christmas market. Towards the end of the month, I embarked on my first ever trip to Eastern Europe, and had the chance to visit some of the most mesmerizing work of nature in Slovenia and Croatia, including Lake Bled and Plitvice Lakes National Park respectively. After that, I travelled to Iceland on my own. The Northern Lights aka Aurora Borealis was an otherworldly beauty that was beyond surreal, giving me lots of chills. I also had the opportunity to travel to enormously remote locations in Iceland by jeep. Along the journey, I met a very amicable American family, an experienced and dauntless jeep driver and lots of Icelanders befriending me. I promised to return to this land as soon as I can. I was having a tight schedule in between the trip and departure from Denmark, and didn't have the chance to say a proper goodbye to this city I fell in love with in the past few months, though I could never thank her enough for creating the time of my life for me.

A little bit of thoughts:

Towards the end of December, I went to Møns Klint, a touristy location that was not easily reachable during wintertime. Without the connecting bus that operated in summer, my friend and I had to walk an hour to reach the cliff. Along the way, I was much taken aback by the countryside and the sea view, and even got to see a complete, glorious arch of rainbow. There's barely any one but my friend and me. It was a very tranquil picture that stimulated, and is continuing to stimulate my thoughts. In the middle of the journey, there was a crossroad with one side extending towards the sea, as if it was meant to take you straight across the sea to somewhere far away. Guess life is a prolonged search of

one road to somewhere we belong.



General Information

1. **VISA procedure:** Early application is a must when you are not a holder of EU passport, and the nearest Danish embassy available for your application is located in Guangzhou (Linhexi Metro Station). A certain fee has to be paid for the application of a case ID code online before your actual trip to Guangzhou. Bear in mind that your application cannot be processed without the online payment and a valid case ID code. You would find more information about the items you need to supply upon application on the website of the embassy (including passport, completed ST1 Form, acceptance letter by CBS, bank statement, address proof, hard copy of the entire passport and so forth). You can expect obtaining your visa approval via e-mail in four to eight weeks' time.
2. **Orientation:** As I described earlier, it is a much recommended orientation package. The package includes a comedy night, a film show, a canal tour, folk dances and lots of partying and a formal dinner. Not to be missed! In addition, you can apply for being paired with a local student from CBS in the buddy program so that you can have some one picking you up at the airport. Your buddy would be the one providing you with the room key, the SIM card and other orientation materials.
3. **Accommodations:** CBS offers multiple residences, and a third party (e.g. property management company) manages most of them. You could expect the average monthly rent to be around 4000-6000 DKK. The application and reservation is scheduled on a specific day before your departure from Hong Kong (one to two months in advance) and is on a first-come-first-serve

basis, so make sure you have a stable (ideally fast) internet connection upon the application. A certain amount of deposit is required, and would be refunded fully so long as you meet the requirements and standard of conditions upon checkout.

4. **Course registration:** There are two major rounds of course registration. You have to identify your preferences of courses in the first round, and would have the chance to alter the choices in the second round of application. Some courses last a quarter while most are full-length. You can check out the exchange section of the webpage of CBS where course catalogue detailing assessment schemes and contents of the courses would be listed in due course.
5. **Teaching & Assessment:** There are no midterm exams, and most assignments (if any) and projects do not account for the final grade you receive. Usually the final exam is the sole determinant of the grade you will receive. Orals/written tests are both possible. In the case of oral exams (or some marketing courses), the oral exam can be in the form of a presentation linked to the product of your project. In that case, your project becomes a substantial constituent of your grade.
6. **Social Clubs/Networking Opportunities:** Clubs are quite diverse, ranging from management consulting to gourmet. Talks by remarkable business leaders or scholars will be hosted regularly so grab the chance to learn more about the Scandinavian perspectives of business. In addition, there would be job fairs with the presence of representatives of companies ranging from MNCs to businesses focusing on the Scandinavian region.
7. **Transportation:** Most Danes are gifted in biking (in my opinion). Biking is the mainstream mode of transportation, alongside trains and metros.
8. **Communications:** You will receive a SIM card from CBS upon your arrival. Just topping up following the instructions and you are good to go.
9. **Climate:** I've been to Copenhagen both in summer and fall. Winds are very strong from fall onwards with diminishing daylight hours. Warm clothes and protective items such as gloves are vital.
10. **Food:** Dining out can be outrageously expensive (if you are going for the Michelins). Otherwise I would say it costs fairly more to dine out in Denmark compared to Hong Kong. If you prefer cooking on your own or with your friends, depending on your budget and preference of sources, there are diverse grocery stores and supermarkets available for you.

11. **My expenses (in estimations):**

Visa application	HKD 4,000
Air tickets (Finnair & Emirates)	HKD 12,000
Accommodation (Katherine Kollegiet)	HKD 25,000
Transportation	HKD 6,000
Food & Miscellaneous	HKD 60,000
Traveling	HKD 50,000

Total	HKD 157,000
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Items to Bring

Adaptor

Cash (Euros, DKKs, etc.)

WIFI Router

Power Strip

Warm clothes and protective items

Suit

Rice cooker

Passport-sized photos

Medicine

If more information is in need, please don't hesitate to get my contact from SBM Exchange Team by emailing at bmugexch@ust.hk. Wish you an awesome once-in-a-lifetime exchange experience!

