

Copenhagen Business School,  
Denmark  
Fall 2016 Exchange



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Accounting and Management



# Part I. Monthly Log

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Arriving at Copenhagen International Airport on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September, my buddy assigned by CBS was at the arrival hall and gave me a ride from the airport to my dormitory. Due to my internship last summer, I was unable to join neither the introduction week nor the Danish crash courses. September is also a month where lots of registration takes place, including residence permit, CPR number, bank accounts and phone data plans.

School started a few days after I have arrived at Copenhagen. The Danish education system is very different from that of Hong Kong, in terms of what they focus on. Students are evaluated based on only one final assessment, and therefore we are granted much freedom to allocate our time and effort throughout the semester. Also, I did some weekend travelling to Spain and Italy in September, as I only have class from Monday to Wednesday.



After a month in Copenhagen, I have learnt a lot more about the Danish culture, especially the word “hygge”, meaning a cozy and relaxing attitude towards life. As a result, I started to adapt to the culture and slow down the pace of my life. Stopping by different cafes, long dinners with friends and strolling down different cobblestone streets become my regular activities. During the potato week (similar to a midterm break), I visited Ireland, Iceland and Greece. Weather is still nice, although a bit chilly in Copenhagen. I also figured out how the transportation in Europe works, and started

to know where to get budget air tickets and book accommodation in advance, in order to minimize the travelling expenses.



As exams are approaching in late November or early December, I devoted more time and effort to prepare for the papers and final exams. I love visiting different themed cafes (there are many in city centre, Norrebro and Frederiksberg) to study. You can also go to the royal library (Black Diamond) or the school library, by booking a seat on CBS library website in advance. Autumn has come and gone during November. The weather has started get a lot colder and day time getting shorter and shorter. I tried to bike during the remaining days before it gets too cold. In addition, I headed to Paris, Helsinki and St. Petersburg in November. I also got to visit my German friend in Cologne, and received a warm homey feeling from their family. Travelling on budget and frequently is starting to get exhausted. Therefore, I spent more time studying and hygge-ing in Copenhagen afterwards.



Two of my sit-in exams are scheduled in the first week of December. Both are 4-hour exam in the examination hall, where students are allowed to bring in all materials needed. Be aware that the keyboards and software are all defaulted in Danish, therefore it may take some time to get used to them. Also, make sure you reach the venue 30 mins before the start time, or else you may not be able to get into the examination hall. Afterwards, I only have one paper left, which I planned to finish it during my travels. Then, I started my one-month trip around Europe, visiting in total 9



countries. Travelling in Europe is generally convenient, connected with buses and trains. People are also helpful, although you may not understand their language.

Winter has arrived in December, and Christmas is everywhere. The Christmas market in Prague was the most impressive, in my own opinion. The Chimney bread is a must-try, along with traditional soups and snacks. You get to feel the Christmas atmosphere basically everywhere in Europe and there must be a Christmas market near you. Copenhagen itself has more than 5. Although they basically sell similar stuffs, the one in Christiania, which is only opened for a short period of time, is a must-go, with lots of hand-made Danish products!



With only two weeks left in Europe, I spent the first week travelling, while the last week in Copenhagen, catching up with friends that I have met during my exchange. The last week was particularly hard for me with a lot of farewell to say. It is also difficult to end my exchange in Copenhagen, where I have lived for 5 months. I wish I could remember every detail of the city, including how modern architecture meet traditional ones, biking on norrebrogade and the hygge culture (many more to mention).

## Part II. General Information

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### A. Visa Procedures

Residence permit in Denmark must be obtained in Guangzhou since there is no Consulate of Denmark in Hong Kong. Nevertheless, if you hold a EU passport, then you can simply enter Denmark with your passport and register for residence permit after your arrival. Details will be given to you by the school through email.



## B. Orientation Activities

As aforementioned, I skipped the orientation week, due to my internship in Hong Kong. Nevertheless, I have heard from fellow classmates that the introduction week included events such as welcoming dinner, Copenhagen day trip and a canal tour. Also, there is a week of Danish crash course, which teaches student basic Danish. Although it may not be necessary to know Danish (Most of the people in Denmark speaks perfect English), it may be useful in understanding more of the Danish culture.

## C. International Services & Activities

The staff at CBS is extremely friendly to international students and typically replies your enquiry emails within a day or two. They also assigned a CBS buddy to every international student, so you can get to know more about the practical information about living in Copenhagen.

## D. Accommodations

Accommodation is allocated on a first-come-first-serve basis. I have stayed with a friend which she kindly registered for a studio room (for two people) with our own kitchen and toilet. Most of the campuses of CBS are located in Frederiksberg. Therefore, it would be more convenient to find a place nearby, although it may get a bit pricy, as it is a relatively affluent area.



## E. Courses Registration

There are two rounds of course registration. Unlike HKUST, it is not on first-come-first-serve basis (good news!), instead you are asked to enter a preference for your 4 courses. It is required by the school that you take at least 30 ETCs and if you have special requests on a particular course, you can ask HKUST to issue an official letter for you.

## F. Teaching & Assessment Methods

No attendance is taken throughout the whole semester and your course grade is only determined based on the final assessment, including take home essay type exam or in hall examinations. Most in-hall examinations are open book, where you can bring in all your notes, both hard copies and soft copies, so make sure you have an USB with you! The picture shows one of the CBS campuses (dalgas Have).



## G. Sports & Recreation Facilities

There are fitness centers and gyms all around the city. One of my friend joined a yoga course package, where you can register for classes throughout the contract period. Biking around the city is a great exercising opportunity!



## H. Finance & Banking

As I am living at the Norrebro district, outside Frederiksberg, I had to apply for my CPR number at the international house. The process took extremely long for 2 months. As a result, I decided not to open a bank account, with 2 months left in Europe. However, if you manage to get your CPR number early, it would be more convenient to have a bank account, as mobile payment is very popular.

## I. Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

I have passed through a few networking occasions held at the main campus and there are career booths, introducing different internship programs.

## J. Health & Safety

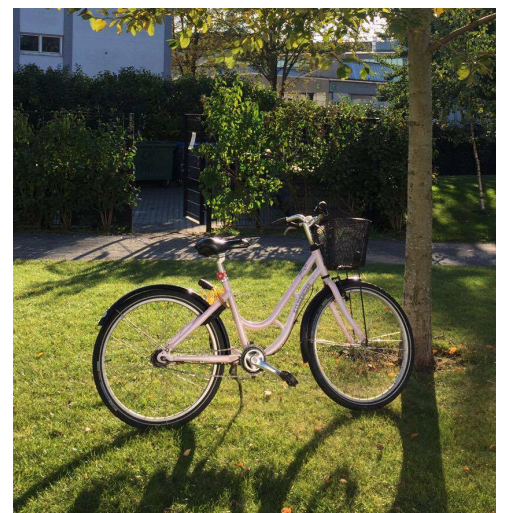
If you are sick, you will need to take your CPR card to make a doctor appointment. The doctor is assigned to you and medicine can be purchased in pharmacies.

## K. Food

If you are looking for special Nordic cuisine, Vækst and Host are both highly recommended (<http://hostvakst.dk/vakst/>). There is also an instagram called "madaboutcopenhagen" featuring lots of restaurants. (Mad means food in Danish) However, dining out in Denmark is quite expensive. It is also common to cook our own meals. Chinese markets can be found near the central station and the cheapest chained supermarket should be Netto.

## L. Transportation

With more bikes than cars in Copenhagen, biking is definitely a good choice of transportation, as the facilities are very well-planned in the city. You may buy a second hand bike online and sell it to others when you are about to leave (I earned 200dkk simply by re-selling my bike!). Facebook group such as Second-hand Bike Denmark, will be useful. If you plan to take the metro, S-bahn or the bus, be sure to get the Rejeskort (like Octopus in HK), which will give you a 50% discount. Check in when you board





any transportation and check out when you are done with the whole journey, which means you can just transfer to different transportation without checking out, as they only charge you on the zones that you have travelled.

#### M. Climate

In the fall semester, weather will gradually become colder throughout the semester. In September, the temperature is around 20 degrees, while it can get to -5 degrees in January. Bring more clothes or you can just purchase during the Christmas and new year sales.

#### N. Communication

If you plan to travel around Europe, I recommend you to use the mobile data plan at 3, which you can use it in most European countries. There is a store near the campus.

#### O. Cautionary measures

Denmark is regarded as one of the safest countries in the world, but still be careful of your own belongings from time to time, especially when you are biking!

## Part III. Items to Bring

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- Cash (Dkk, Euros)
- Passport/ ID card/ Documents (acceptance letter)
- Warm clothes (down jackets)
- Laptop/ electric adaptor
- Small-size suitcase for short trips (budget airlines charge you on check-in bags)
- Medicine
- Rice Cooker
- Chinese style sauces/ cooking ingredients

Hope you will enjoy your exchange in Copenhagen and hygge always! 😊