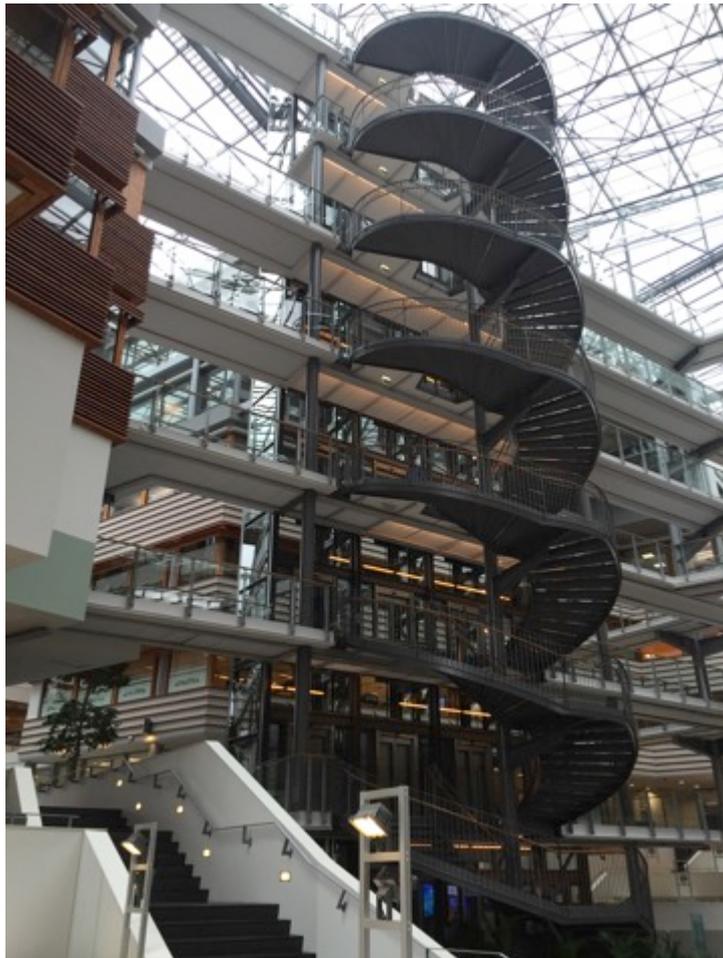


Fall 2016 Exchange Report



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BBA in Finance and Information System

Part I – Monthly Activity Log

August 2016

I arrived Oslo in the beginning of August, earlier than the pick-up service date that BI offered. There I have to figure out everything by myself after arrival. You have to take Flytoget or NSB to the city centre.

I had been to IKEA for some necessities, like pillow, bed sheet; people could get there by free shuttle bus. Besides, during August I had been exploring Oslo with my new friends and joined some BI orientation activities for both exchange students, and local students. It's highly recommended to join these activities, if you wish to know more people.

During August, Oslo held a big music festival, the FINDING festival, which is amazing. You will see people come around the world all crazy about the music.



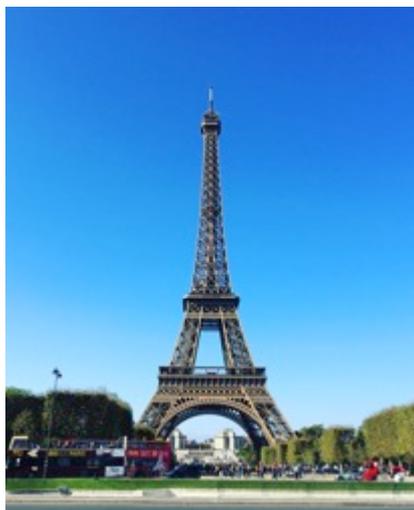
September 2016

Having classes in BI is quite comfortable, each class divided into 3 sessions, which session lasts 45min with a 15min break. As I only had classes 3 days a week and the light workload of class, I could make some short trips during my study on top of exploring Oslo. I had been to Bergen and hiked up to Trolltunga, that is an unforgettable hike, a real challenge. Besides travelling in Norway, I also went to Iceland, Barcelona, Stockholm, Berlin and joined the Oktoberfest in Munich with my exchange friends.



October 2016

Because of more homework deadline in October, I only went to Paris, Amsterdam and Brussels. I was really impressed by the Louvre in Paris. It is a must-visit spot if you go there. It is my first time been to a museum that huge, and can see the famous painting, Mona Lisa in front of me. And Paris is really a good place for foodie, my friends and I ate a lot in that trip, and we find the food there is much cheaper than Oslo. The living cost in Oslo is really high compare to other countries.



November 2016

Since Exam was coming in December, I did not travel a lot, and focused on my study. Most of my time was spent with my friends who studied full time in BI to revise, and hang out in Oslo. They taught me quite a lot interesting facts about Norwegian and Oslo. Also temperature in Oslo dropped really fast, few degrees lower each week. And we faced our first snow in November.

However, I still visited Tromsø, a northern city in Norway and had a short roadtrip at the end of the month for chasing the northern light, husky sledging, the beauty of Tromsø and northern light make me speechless.



December 2016

Before my exam period started, I went to my first skiing in Norway. It is an exciting game. If it is your first time, you have to prepare to fall a lot and get a lot of bruises after it like me. But it is really fun. My exams only lasted for 2 weeks, after that I kept traveling for two weeks and celebrate the Christmas together with my Singaporean exchange friends. We had been to Switzerland, Italy, Vatican City, Austria, Hungary, Croatia, Czech Republic until they had to go back Singapore.



January 2017

After say goodbye to my exchange friends, I had been to Poland, UK and Ireland until the middle of January. And I spent almost one week in Oslo before I headed back to Hong Kong to revisit all the places that I had seen for the last 5 months and tried to memorize the details as much as I can and farewell with friends.



Part II – General Exchange Information

1) Visa Procedure

If you are holding HKSAR Government passport, you can apply for a study visa (Temporary residence permit) by sending application to Norwegian Consulate in Hong Kong. Details could be received by simply sending an email to them (norwayhk@ncchk.org.hk). They would give you information on how, and what should you prepare. It is easy and clear if you follow the instructions.

After arriving Oslo, you have to make an appointment with immigration department. BI would arrange a day at school for all exchange students to make appointment to the department. This is the easiest way to make appointment. Otherwise, you have to give a call to the department to make your own appointment. After few weeks, you would be informed to get your student ID card and your residence card together at BI student centre.

2) Orientation Activities

There are two weeks-long orientation activities. In the first week are activities only for exchange student, including some tea-gathering session, visiting the Oslo Opera House. BI students will not provide any activities or really involved in it during the events. They just simply arrange some date and location on Facebook that gather exchange students.

There would be another orientation week before school starts. That's for both local and exchange students, which organized by a student society. During that week, you will be assigned in one buddy group. They would organize some activities, like barbecue in park, playing softball, etc. And most of the time of this orientation week is all about party, which you will be required to buy tickets. They party for a whole week. Be responsible drinker during that week, since in party, Norwegians drink a lot.

3) International Services and Activities, Social Clubs/ Networking Opportunities

In every month, there is an event called BI-nner. It is a free dinner provided by school.

Each month they will have different themes. It gathers international students, including master and bachelor students. It is a great opportunity to meet new friends. They will make announcement on Facebook, and you have to register for it. It is first come first serve. After you got a ticket, you need to pick it up at student centre. There are also some social clubs that you might join, BI will have one day for clubs to do promotion. You could get more details on that day.

4) Accommodations

There are two main housing providers, BSN and SiO. The one I chose is a self-furnished room in Kringsja student village. In there, you have to share kitchen with 7 others on the same floor, and bathroom with one room. Overall, the living condition in Kringsja is good. There is a supermarket that opens from Monday to Tuesday. However, you have to change train when you go back school. That might be quite trouble, as the train is not well linked, if you miss the one, you have to wait for 7-8 minutes. There are some other choices, that would be closer to school and newer the building provided BSN, you could check it out in their websites.

5) Course Registration

The international office will send you an email about your desired courses. And then you could register courses online following the instructions giving in the email. It is simple and quick. Be noted, you are allowed to choose overlapped courses.

6) Teaching and Assessment Methods

ELE3732 – Financial Bubbles, Crashes and Crisis [FINA Course]

During this course, a huge amount of readings are required to read before and after class. Every lecture, there will be a discussion session. Students are required to form groups and answer the questions that related to lecture content. However, the PowerPoint will not be uploaded beforehand but after the lecture, so you have to focus and jot down the main points he taught, and have to finish reading in order to answer those questions.

The workload of this course is light. Your grade 100% based on final exam of 3 essay type questions. The potential questions will be given during the semester. You only need to prepare all those questions, and it is not hard to get a good grade.

EXC3671 Corporate Finance [FINA Course]

It is an advanced course of FINA 3104. The course content is easy and clear.

Professor would demonstrate some example, and provide several exercises to do in class or after. However, there is no assignment. As long as you attend each class, it is not hard to nail it. It is also 100% based on final exam with 30 MCs.

EXC3611 International Finance [FINA Course]

Lectures will be given. There are 3 assignments and 1 Final exam of the whole semester. The difficulties of assignments increased every time and might take some time to complete.

EXC3670 Financial Markets and Institutions [FINA Course]

The teaching of this course is unsatisfactory. The content is disorganized, and the lecturer has poor time management. She used a lot time on one topic, and the rest she just rushed over. And the exam content is ambiguous, and not really related to the content she taught in class. The whole course includes two assignments, one Bloomberg Session and one final exam. The Bloomberg session is quite time taking.

7) Sports and Recreation Facilities

There is a gym room in BI. You have to apply for a membership in order to use it. Personally prefer jogging and running. Everywhere in Oslo is good for jogging.

8) Health & Safety

There is a clinic inside BI. You could see doctor there, and you required buying your medicine in Apoteke (= pharmacy) separately.

9) Food

Most of the time I cooked either by myself or with my friends. You could buy cheaper vegetables, fruit and meat (only beef and chicken) in Grønland. Among supermarkets, price in KIWI and REMA 1000 are lower. And you have to pay attention to discount, during tilbud (= discount). Some kind of food is really cheap. Also there are several Asian markets in Oslo, which you could buy Asian food there. You could find them by Google.

For dining out, you have to expect each meal costs around 200 HKD. However not many choices, most restaurants are serving steaks, burgers, ribs, etc.

10) Transportation

Mainly depends on T Bane (underground). After arrived the city centre, you could buy Ruter card, which is a local transport card costs 410kr for student. It includes all the transport, underground, bus, ferry in Oslo (zone 1). The card needs to be renewed and activated with their machine every month, and you must carry it with your student card while you travel in case of ticket inspection, otherwise a fine of 900 kr will be charged.

One thing to notice when taking public transport, if you wish to get on/off, you required to press the button on the train/bus door to open it. They are not automatic, because of this; two of my friends had missed few stations because of

failure to open the train door.

11) Climate

The weather in Oslo is cool and dry in summer. Most of the time short-sleeve could be worn. During autumn and winter, most of the time I wore short-sleeves t-shirt inside, and changed jacket according to temperature. As when I enter indoor, it is really warm. Every place got heater, so it is capable in winter. This winter is warmer than previous years. It is around -5 to 3 degree during winter. And the first snow came in November.

12) Communication

English could be used in most of places. Norwegians speak good English. Even though people might speak Norwegian to you at the beginning, once you tell them you don't understand, they will change to English.

Part III – Items to Bring

- Passport
- Confirmation of Resident Permit
- Admission Letter
- Extension
- WIFI Router
- Down Jacket
- Water-proof/ Wind-proof Jacket
- Snow/Hiking Boots
- T-shirts/ Other Clothing
- Financial Calculator
- Stationery
- Backpack
- Credit Card & Cash
- Computer
- Charger
- Slippers
- Adapters
- Medicine
- Neck Pillow
- Nail Clipper
- Cosmetics
- Locks
- Snacks/ Instant Food
- Compression Bag
- Water Bottle
- Copies of documents

Part IV – Useful Link and Contacts

- Norwegian Consulate - norwayhk@ncchk.org.hk
- International Office of BI – international.office@bi.no