



# Exchange Report

## Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

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Fall 2016

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## Part I

### Monthly activity log



#### August 2016

I arrived in Copenhagen on 23<sup>th</sup> August and my exchange buddy from CBS picked me up at Copenhagen airport. (CBS International office assigned an exchange buddy to each of us) She then brought me to my dormitory, Katherine Kollegiet, with a welcome pack consisted of campus maps, telephone SIM card and basic arrival information. After settling down in my dormitory, I went to the International House for CPR registration (residence card and yellow card would be arrived in few weeks time!) and prepared the documents for opening a local bank account.

#### September 2016

As I wanted to experience Copenhagen the local way (cycling is the way of life in Copenhagen), I bought a second hand bike from a bike shop and it had become my main way to get around the city for the next few months. I started to explore this beautiful city by visiting the tourist spots such as Nyhavn and The Little Mermaid. The semester started in this month but as the workload was quite low in the beginning of the semester, we could still visit some places in other countries. We went to Aarhus (the second largest city in Denmark), and Stockholm in Sweden in the weekends.



### October 2016

The weather was still nice in October so we spent more time on travelling. We travelled to Iceland and Edinburgh, and we were able to see the Northern Light in Iceland! A special note here, in week 42, we had a week off from school, which is called the “potato week”. The name originates from back when the children were needed to help harvest the potato crops, so they got the week off from school. However, it was a study week for me because I had an exam after this week off.

### November 2016

It was the month when the courses were ended. It was always cold and rainy, with shorter daytime, and it snowed as well! It was very interesting to see how the Danes are crazy about cycling since they ride their bike throughout the whole year no matter what the weather is. I tried to bike under the snow too and it was a romantic experience! In the weekend, I went to the famous amusement park “Tivoli”, which is the second-most popular seasonal theme park in the world and the most-visited theme park in Scandinavia. Also, I went to Odense (the third largest city in Denmark and where Hans Christian Andersen was born) and Amsterdam in this month.

### December 2016

It was the exam month! I had 2 written exams and a project report to submit. There was a study break before the exam period so I got some time to study before the exam. As it was so much colder (around 0 degree) in December, it was always good to stay in your warm and cozy room and do some study! It is also the month of Christmas! Copenhagen is a real Christmas city and the town is full of festive atmosphere few weeks before Christmas day! Christmas is my favourite festival and I was excited to celebrate Christmas in Europe this year!



## **Part II**

### **General Exchange Information**

#### Visa procedures

CBS provides detail of the visa application in around April and they will send you the acceptance letter as well. You have to submit the attached ST1 form along with other required documents (payment receipt, photo, HKID, copy of all pages of passport including the front page and copy of bank statement) to the Danish Consulate in Guangzhou. You should apply for the VISA as early as possible since the application usually takes around 1 to 2 months. After that you will receive an email from the Consulate with your residence permit and you need that letter for immigration in Denmark. When you arrive in Copenhagen, you need to apply for your CPR number at your local municipal (either Fredericksberg Kommune or International House Copenhagen). Remember to bring along your passport, proof of residence (e.g. rental contract) and your acceptance letter.

### Courses Registration

You are required to take 4 courses but you can also apply for an additional course. You will be asked to list 4 preferences and alternative choices in the first round of course registration. After that you will be notified whether you are enrolled successfully. Please be reminded that sometimes the course may not be established due to small class size.

Two of the courses I took:

International Economics: it was a one-quarter course so the schedule was packed in the first 6 weeks of the semester. In each week we had 2 lectures and 1 tutorial class. Not much workload, we only had few exercises and a final exam at the end of the course. The class was easy to follow.

Big data analytic for managers: The content of the class was quite advanced to me and the only thing we had to submit was the 20-page report. We had to generate a regression model for predictive analysis, which was quite challenging.

### Transportation

The public transportation in Copenhagen consists of metro, S-train and bus. If you wish to search routes on how to get to your destination, you can download the app **Rejseplanen** or check transportation on <http://www.rejseplanen.dk>. It provides accurate and real-time information.

For tickets, one of the options is to 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. Another option is to buy multiride tickets on an app **DOT Mobilbilletter (hovedstaden)**. You can purchase 20 tickets at a lower cost than the normal price and just use the ticket everytime you need. It is very convenient since you only need to show your ticket on your phone. It is reminded that you must buy a valid ticket or else you will be fined 750DKK!

### Banking

The application procedure to open a bank account at Nordea or Danske Bank is very simple. It only takes around 15 mins to do the application and please bring along with your passport and CPR number (which means you can only do it after you receive your CPR number). After 1 – 2 weeks, they will send you the cards and the detail of activation procedure to your home address. I found it very useful to have a bank account since I didn't to carry the cash around and it is very common to pay with your debit card at any shop in Denmark.

### Accommodations

The application for accommodation is done via an online system and it is on a first-come-first-served basis so make sure you have a speedy and stable network. There are 8 student residences to choose from, you can check out their description on CBS housing website. CBS Housing Department also provides private housing assistance if you don't get a room in the official dorms.

### Orientation

There is an organizing team at CBS who organize activities for the incoming exchange students such as the Orientation week (Canal Tour and Danish Folk Dance night), a Danish Crash Course and City tour to Berlin. They have a Facebook page and they will upload their latest event on the page regularly.

### Health and Safety

Copenhagen is a very safe city and the crime rate is often low. However, it is still advised to look after your personal belongings and protect yourself from pickpockets since one of my friends got pickpocketed near the Central Station.

There is no medical center/clinic at CBS. However, after your CPR registration, you will be given a residence permit and a yellow health insurance card as proof of identity at your doctor's surgery. On the yellow card you can find the name and address of the doctor you have been assigned and you should contact your own doctor if you have any health problem.

### Sports

There is no sports and recreation facility at CBS but there is a fitness center right next to the CBS main campus.

### Food

It is very expensive to eat out in Copenhagen so you may consider cooking with your friends in dorms. There are canteens in the main campuses and these are relatively cheaper than the restaurants in the city. Not to mention, you will find an abundance of high quality bakeries in Copenhagen that offer traditional Danish pastry!

### Climate

The climate is cold and temperate, and the coldest month is January. The rainfall in Copenhagen is also significant.

### Part III

#### Items to Bring

- ✧ warm clothes (e.g. coat, gloves, boots, hat, scarf)
- ✧ backpack/ small suitcase for travelling
- ✧ laptop, adapters, chargers
- ✧ ethernet cable (there is no Wifi in Kathrine Kollegiet)
- ✧ camera & memory card
- ✧ medicine
- ✧ cash, atm card & credit card

### Part IV

#### Useful Links and Contacts

- ✧ CBS student portal  
<https://learn.cbs.dk/>  
<https://e-campus.dk/>
- ✧ CBS housing department  
<http://www.cbs.dk/en/international-opportunities/international-students/accommodation>
- ✧ CBS international office  
<http://www.cbs.dk/en/about-cbs/organisation/administrative-units/the-international-office>