

EXCHANGE REPORT COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL, DENMARK

Nicole Hou Spring 2017

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Part I-Monthly Log

Mid-January 2017

I arrived Copenhagen on 20 Jan and was picked up by my exchange buddy. She took me to the flat I rented near Amagerbro Station, and showed me the shops nearby and suggested ways for buying a second-hand bike.

My lessons started in the following week, as well as the orientation activities. I met all the Hong Kong students who were studying at CBS too. We even celebrated CNY together. It was really fun and made me feel so warm.



February 2017

I have always wanted to visit Switzerland-one of my favourite countries and I got the chance in early February. I went to Lucerne, Interlaken, Zermatt and Zurich and I also visited two of the most famous mountains in Switzerland including Mattahorn and Jungfrau. Although the travel expense was really high, it was worth visiting. I also managed to make a visit to Cambridge, Bath and London in the UK as well as meeting my friend who was studying in the UK. We tried punting, which was like a must-do tourist activity in Cambridge. We were lucky to have a "private" punt, as no one booked the same session as we did.



March 2017

I didn't go travelling this month because exam was coming. It was a busy month as I had 3 exams to deal with. In the meantime, there was a night that all the Hong Kong students gathered together and had hotpot. That night was really unforgettable. I missed Asian food so much and hotpot was always one of my favourites.

<u>April 2017</u>

During the first half the month, I still got exams to deal with. In the second half, I went to Ireland alone. Ireland is a safe city to visit, even for a girl. The highlight of this trip would be the Giant Causeway Tour, which was a one-day trip. The tour brought me to the most beautiful places in Ireland including Giant's Causeway, Carrick a Rede Rope Bridge and Belfast City. At the end of April, me and my friends went to Amsterdam and Brussels together. When we were at Amsterdam, we went to Keukenhof, where you could see tulip fields, tulip parade.



<u>May 2017</u>

In May, I travelled to many countries including, Hungary, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Italy, Portugal, and Spain. I was very contented with all my trips. Although there are still many places that I haven't been to like Greece and Austria, it was a wonderful exchange experience that I could ever had in my life.



Part II- General Exchange Information

Visa Procedure

There's no Danish Consulate in Hong Kong and the nearest one is at Guangzhou. CBS will send you an email regarding the visa application, you will have to fill out the forms given and make copies of the required documents. Make sure you bring all the required documents and enough money with you when you go to Guangzhou. I waited 11 days since my return from Guangzhou and the visa approval document was sent to you via email.

Orientation Activities

There was an orientation week before the semester started. There were 2 sections: the morning section and the evening section. The morning section was compulsory, all exchange students had to attend. For the evening one, you would have to pay for the Exchange Social Package. I didn't join the social package because it was quite expensive, it cost around 5xx DKK.

International Services and Activities

There is a Facebook group called CBS Exchange Students for each semester's exchange students. You will have to search and request to join the group. Many announcements were made in the group, so make sure you join the group before your arrival. CBS will arrange a buddy for you, just like what SBM does. Your buddy will pick you up at the airport and bring you to the dormitory you will be living in. They will also bring you an exchange pack. It includes all the information you should know when you are studying in CBS and a SIM card. They are super helpful, and very willing to answer all the questions you raise.

Accommodation

My room was not allocated by CBS Housing Department due to some technical issues on the enrollment day. Luckily, I was referred by CBS to the Housing Department of University of Copenhagen and I lived in a dormitory called Nordre Fasanvej which was 15-minute walk from CBS. It was a single studio flat, with an en-suite bathroom and a kitchenette. There were no common rooms or common kitchens, so you don't really have the chance to meet others living in the dorm. The good thing is there's a supermarket downstairs.

Course Registration

The course registration system is very easy to use. But, the bad thing is you won't know the schedules of your courses until January, and that means you won't know whether there's a time clash. If there's a serious time clash, you will have to find another course to replace your original one.

Tips: It would be better for you to request a Priority Course Letter from SBM staff if the courses you wish to enroll are important for fulfilling your academic requirement.

Courses I took:

| BIMK1008E | Visual Communication |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| BINBO1160E | Principles of International Marketing |
| BHAAV5006E | Innovation Management |
| BHAAV1988E | Retail Marketing |

Teaching and Assessment Method

Professors in CBS like having discussion in class, they don't expect students just sit in class and listen to them.

I had 3 different types exam in this semester. (i) 72-hour home assignment, after the exam question is released, you will be given 72 hours to finish the report. (ii) Sit-in exam, it is a digital exam, you have to type your answer and submit it online. (iii) Oral exam, you will have to submit a written report first, then a few days later, you will have a 20-minute oral exam and your grade will be immediately released once the oral exam is finished.

Sports and Recreation Facilities

There's a school gym in CBS, but you need to pay for it, it's like a monthly subscription. You can also sign up for gym memberships near your house, it might be cheaper than CBS. For recreation facilities in CBS, there's a café called Nexus. Every Thursday, party is held until 2am.

Finance and Banking

I registered for a bank account and a debit card at Nordea Bank in Denmark. It is very convenient to have a debit card with you. People living in Denmark seldom use cash, but debit card. Even when you are travelling, you can withdraw cash using the debit card. A lot of ATMs in Europe don't accept Unionpay debit card, but Visa and Mastercard, so it would be better for you to get a Visa debit card. You need your CPR number to create a bank account, so don't forget to get your CPR number when things are settled down.

Social Clubs & Networking Activities

There are many clubs and societies you can join in CBS. Some of them will set up counters at the main campus during the start of the semester.

Health & Safety

Once you get your CPR number, a yellow card will be given to you too. You will be assigned to a doctor near your place, and when you get sick, you can visit the doctor free of charge. It is safe to live in Denmark, still, be aware of the things around you.

<u>Food</u>

I suggest cooking your meal at home because dining out is quite pricey. But there's a place called Copenhagen Street food, it is a food market where you can find cuisines from all around the world.

If you want to cook your own meal, I suggest going Føtex or Netto. These 2 places will have everything you want.

Transportation

The transportation cost is quite expensive in Denmark, a one-way ticket would cost you 24 DKK, but there are a couple of options that can help you save the money. Option 1: Buy a second-hand bike, I think this is the best option you can have. You can even sell the bike when you leave Denmark. Option 2: Monthly pass. If you live quite far from CBS, it might be better for you to buy a monthly pass to save money, it is around 3xx DKK a month. Option 3: Rejsekort. It is similar to the Octopus card, but you can only use it on transportation. If you

live near CBS like me, and just occasionally travelling somewhere far away from your dormitory, you can get a Rejsekort, it will cost you around 12-16 DKK for a single trip.

Climate

From Jan to mid March, it is really cold in Copenhagen, and you don't see much sunlight as the daytime is so short. But things will get better and better, as the daytime will be longer and longer. When it was near the end of my exchange study in Copenhagen, the sunset time was about 10pm and the sunrise started at 4:30am. Don't forget to bring some summer clothes with you because in May, the weather is quite hot that you really can't go out with your sweater.

Communication

There was no communication barrier during my stay. Danish could switch between Danish and English easily, and they could really speak good English, so you don't have to worry about communication.

Part III- Checklist

- ✓ Clothes (hat, thick coat, gloves, scarf, boots)
- ✓ USB (you will need it when you have sit-in exam)
- ✓ Universal adapter
- ✓ Medicine
- ✓ Laptop, laptop charger
- ✓ Credit card/ cash
- ✓ Passport, visa, acceptance letter
- ✓ Backpack

Part IV- Useful Links and Contacts CBS Student Portal

https://my.cbs.dk/

Facebook Group: ESN CPH: Give-Buy-Sell-Rent

This is a Facebook Group where you can find second-hand things like bikes