



Exchange Report

Copenhagen Business School | Spring 2017
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Part 1 - Monthly Activity Log

January 2016

I arrive at Denmark on 23th January. When I first arrive, my first impression is that it is really a freezing place, especially the strong wind, which kind of replicates the situation when there is a typhoon in Hong Kong. There will be an orientation week held by CBS for you to get familiar with the school and the people around you. Your exchange buddy will bring you around the city and show you what are some of the attractions in Copenhagen. When I first arrive, I still remember the first thing I want to know is the exam schedule. Supposedly, you have already been enrolled in courses you selected. But the exam schedule will not be released until early February. I have such a worry as I was planning for my trip and I literally want my exam dates to be close to one another so that I can fully enjoy my trips. This is also something that you can bear in mind when you register for courses. Semester in CBS is broken down into 2 phases. You can look at the course webpage. It will indicate clearly whether the duration of the course lasts for the (i) first half, (ii) second half and (iii) entire term. For me, most of the courses finish within the first half so I have lots of free time to travel in the second half.

February 2016

The weather continues to be horrible. You basically do not want to get out of the dorm unless there are lessons for the day. So it is very important to keep yourself warm as the last thing you want is to get sick on exchange. But the good thing is I start to get closer with other Danish students in my dorm. The dorm that I am living in is very special. First of all, it is undoubtedly the most beautiful dorm in Copenhagen. Second of all, it emphasizes a lot on making the dorm



feel like home so there are lots of weekly events for students living on the same floor. You get lots of chances to talk and cook with them. And they are so friendly that you feel like you're

living at home. And in the dorm, students are not only from CBS. They come from different local universities studying different subjects, like Medicine, Physics, etc. You can really immerse yourself into the local life and culture, rather than always spending time with other exchange students from Hong Kong. By this time, a lot of my Hong Kong exchange friends have already started traveling around Europe as they don't have much first half classes. But I deliberately postpone my trips to the second half as the weather by then is the best for traveling. Warmer and more sunshines.

March 2016

The classes have been interesting so far. You can really feel the difference in lecturer's style from the one in Hong Kong. In CBS, the lecturers stress a lot on paying attention to what they say instead of copying what's written on the lecture notes. In one of the courses, the lecturer does not publish his lecture notes on the online portal. He uses the slides in lessons. Some students simply take picture of the slides or keep copying what's written on the slides onto their own notes. That lecturer immediately asks the stop taking picture and copying contents. He told them to focus on what he's saying and the examples he raised. He repeated lots of time "That is not the way how you learn." This is so different from the teaching style in Hong Kong. Lecturers normally read out the slides and students just don't pay attention to it as they expect the slides to be uploaded to the online portal. Besides, lecturers there emphasizes a lot on doing extra readings as well. As opposed to the Hong Kong style of teaching, which stresses on lecture notes prepared by the professors, Danish professors encourages students to do readings of different journals and literature to have a deeper understanding of how the theories were generated. Although those contents may not be examined, students are still willing to read them. However, in Hong Kong, students care just about their scores in the course. Therefore, they don't want to be bothered by anything that cannot help them score better.

April 2016

As most of my courses are held on the first half, my exams are all held in April. Other than preparing for exams, I also attend some live soccer games and concerts and I have to admit the atmosphere was amazing. During the game, I got to see how the fans immerse themselves into the sports. They paint their face with their team color, stand throughout the game, keep chanting for their team and don't leave the stadium until the final whistle blows. This is again so different from the sports culture in Hong Kong. Talking about the exam format, in CBS, they stress a lot on testing your critical thinking ability. Therefore, most of the exams are home-finished reports where you need to write a long passage on the topic. There are no multiple-choice questions, no questions that can be answered based solely on rote memorization. The marking criteria are based on how well do you critically evaluate theories taught in lectures, rather than listing out all the theories you learnt in classes. You are also required to apply theories in real life examples. Therefore, answers from students to students can vary a lot. There is no fixed answer to a question. It really tests how well a student understand the course materials, rather than how well do they memorize the contents, which is totally different from the focus of Hong Kong education's system. You are usually given 24 or 72 hours to finish the

report once the topic has been released. You can expect that those hours to be pretty intense but in overall it is an exciting experience. By the end of April, I have already finished 3 exams,



with one report left to be submitted in mid-May. This is the time I started traveling around Europe without any stress.

May 2016

I am traveling most of the times in May. I usually go on trips for a week, then go back to Copenhagen for a day for laundry and leave the other day for other countries again. I have stayed for only several days in Denmark in this month. The countries that I went include: Swiss, Prague, Budapest, Poland, Slovakia, Norway, Netherland, Belgium, U.K., Greece, Italy, etc. You can really feel the difference between different Europe countries. In Nordic countries, places are cleaner and tidier, with much higher living standard. In East Europe, people are more impolite but things are a lot cheaper. The architecture styles are so different countries from countries as well.

Part 2 - General Exchange Information

Visa procedures

CBS provides the proof that you need to apply for a Danish visa. But the annoying part is that you need to go up to Guangzhou to apply for it. Make sure you get all the required documents with you before that as you don't want to travel back and forth. It is also better for you to find a friend who goes to CBS too to cross check items with him.

Orientation Activities

CBS will hold 2 orientation weeks for exchange students, one is mandatory while the other one is not. Both serve as good chances for you to get to network with students from other countries. Don't feel shy to reach out to different people as they might be a very good friend of you throughout the exchange semester and beyond.

Accommodations

CBS provide a list of student dorms for you to choose. They vary in price ranges, locations and level of coziness. I live in the Tietgenkollegiet, which is the best dorm in Copenhagen in terms of design and it comes with a reasonable price as well. The only shortcoming of it is that it is not very close to the CBS campus. It takes around 20 minutes of metro to get to school everyday while students living in other dorm may take only a 10 minute walk to go to school. You will receive the list in around November and you need to get to the website to register for your desired dorm at a pre-announced time as it is first-come-first-served.

Course registration

You have to pre-register the courses before you arrive CBS. You should also look at the HKUST credit transfer website to check if there are courses you want to take that are transferable. For courses that are not up on that UST website.

Teaching & Assessment Method

Most of the exams are in the format of take-home reports. Some even come with an oral exam, which means you have to present your report to the professors and they will raise follow-up questions on the course content in a verbal manner.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

There are not much sports facilities in the CBS campus. If you want a place for exercise, you can subscribe in monthly plan in local gyms at a reasonable price. If not, riding bicycles to school everyday is a good way to exercise too.

Health and Safety

When you arrive at Denmark, you will soon be prompted to apply for a citizenship card, which entitles to health benefits. You can pay a much lower fee when you need to see the doctor with that card. But still it is better to bring some essential medicines with you just in case.

Food

I mostly cook myself as the restaurants in Copenhagen are quite expensive (except Kebab shop). So it is better to learn cooking prior to your exchange.

Transportation

Transportation in Copenhagen is very expensive. It is better to subscribe to monthly pass so that you pay a fixed amount, which can save you a lot of money. The best way is of course to buy a bicycle and sell it before your exchange ends.

Climate

The weather is going to be freezing for most of the Spring semester. The warmer weather is not going to come until late May.

Finance and Banking

Most of the expenses will be on traveling, transportation and food. Though there is a dedicated currency in Denmark, the Danish Krone, most of the people will not use cash. They use mobile payment or debit cards. Therefore, it may be more convenient for you to open a local bank account in Denmark so that you will not carry lots of cash with you.

Part 3 - Items to bring

Cash	Jackets	Stationary	Traveling documents
Acceptance letter	Dorm payment receipt	Medicine	Charger
Adapters			

Part 4 - Useful links

Course catalog

<http://www.cbs.dk/en/international-opportunities/international-students/guestexchange-student/undergraduate-courses>

Accommodation

<http://www.cbs.dk/en/international-opportunities/international-students/accommodation>

Exam formats and grading

<http://www.cbs.dk/en/international-opportunities/international-students/academic-experience>