



BI Norwegian Business School
2017 Spring Exchange Report
So Hiu Ming
BBA (FINA & OM)



Monthly Activity Log

Jan

1

My schoolmates and I took the same flight to Oslo on 6th January, which was 3 days before the commencement of the semester. When we had arrived Oslo, we immediately went to SiO Office to get the housing keys. It was a snowy day. I was extremely excited as it was my first time to see the snow. On the other hand, thanks to the heavy snow, it was extremely difficult to carry the luggage. I was lucky to have my friends who helped me to carry my luggage.

In January, there were a bunch of orientation activities for exchange students, comprising "How to study in BI?" and a Norwegian learning talk. It would be a golden opportunity to make new friends from different parts of the world.

On the second week of the month, my friend came to Oslo to visit me. We spent half of the month to explore Oslo. After I had got my residence permit, I started my first trip to UK to visit my cousin and friends. We visited London, Bath, Brighton, Portsmouth, as well as Oxford.



Feb 2

February was a fantastic month to do winter activities. We went skiing, built snowman, visited Tromso to see aurora. Unfortunately, the weather was cloudy. We could not see northern light simply through our eyes. Nevertheless, by using camera, very fade northern light could be captured.

On top of the winter activities, I travelled to Copenhagen of Denmark, Stockholm of Sweden, Prague of Czech Republic and Vienna as well as Hallstatt of Austria to visit my friends. Among all these places, Hallstatt surprised me the most. Every corner of this place was extremely beautiful. You should never miss it!



Mar 3

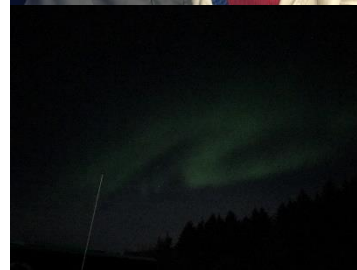
I went to Iceland in March which was my long-awaited trip. This was the second time for me to chase the aurora. Originally, it was said that the KP value was only 1 which implied that the probability of seeing aurora was very low. Still, after waiting for nearly half an hour, we eventually see the aurora successfully. I will never forget this impressive aurora. The weather in Iceland was fluctuated. When I was on the tour bus, there was heavy rain in the left part of the bus but a blue sky and sunny view in the right part of the bus.

Warm reminder: check the aurora forecast before you book the aurora tour. An app namely "AURORA" is useful for aurora forecast.

On top of Iceland, I travelled to Germany (Hamburg, Munich, Frankfurt, Berlin), Netherlands (Amsterdam, Leiden, Steenwijk, Zaanstad, Amstelveen). I personally think that Germany is a perilous country which is even more dangerous than France. Please be aware of your personal belongings. Besides, there was conman in front of east side gallery.

If you are in fond of flowers, I strongly suggest you to go to Netherlands in end of March or early April. There will be an annual flower exhibition in Keukenhof. You can see countless of beautiful flowers especially tulips and cherry blossoms.

Please reminded that you should start applying internship before it is too late. Some firms will not provide special arrangement for exchange students. It would definitely be an advantage if you can find internship before you go to exchange, but mostly these internships are from ibanks.



Apr
4

Easter holiday commenced. I went to France, Italy and Greece with my friends from CUHK. We saw the renowned most beautiful sunset in the world in Oia. Undoubtedly, it was stunning. After travelling to a few places, it was time to get back to work and prepare my first final examination.



May
5

Actually, May was a study month for me as all of my course assessment methods was 100% final examination. Still, I spent the week between my examinations on travelling to Bergen, Croatia and Hungary. My friend and I were so fortunate to see rainbow across Danube which was amazing.

On 17th May, 2017, it was the Constitution Day of Norway. A vast majority of the Norwegians who wore their traditional costume, namely Burnad. They participated in a parade together. In the parade, everyone was yelling "hurra" which means hurray in Norwegian. All of them celebrated this national-wide holiday with their smile. I could genuinely feel Norwegians' patriotism, how they love their home country.

After the last final examination, it was time to say goodbye to this beautiful Norway. I went back to Hong Kong for my internship.



GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

1. Visa Procedures

I made my VISA in October. The procedure is quite simple. I contacted the representative from the Norwegian Consulate who is called Sidney Wong. Just follow his guidelines, make an appointment with him and bring along all the required documents to the Consulate. And eventually, the VISA will be done.

2. Orientation Activities

There were plenty of orientation activities throughout the semester, including coffee hours, Norwegian learning talk, "How to study in BI", etc. With these orientation activities, we could adapt to the new learning environment easily.

3. International Services & Activities

ESN holds different functions to other countries frequently. Exchange students are also able to participate in their functions at discounted price.

4. Accommodations

BI guarantee student housing for BI exchange students. As many UST students from previous years, we chose Kringsja Student Village furnished single room. It took around 20 minutes to BI campus.

5. Courses Registration and Teaching & Assessment Methods

In June, course list of spring semester was released with detailed course information. You can start applying for course equivalency in September. In Early December, I registered for the courses studying in BI. In most cases, there are sufficient places for exchange students.

Courses taken:

Course Name	Assessment Method	Course Equivalence
Options and Futures	100% Final exam	Finance elective
Shipping Finance	100% Final exam	Finance elective
Real Estate Finance	100% Final exam	Finance elective
Norwegian Culture and	100% Final exam	Common core-Humanity

History

The workload of studying in BI is low. I got 3 day off per week. Most of the final examination questions are more or less the same as past paper questions. Itslearning and BI myportal are two important websites for your final examination preparation. Besides, professors explained everything slowly and thoroughly. Even each lesson lasts for 2 hours and 45 minutes which seems to be much longer than the lectures in UST, there is a 15-minute break for every 45-minute session.

6. Sports & Recreation Facilities

SBIO is the student council in BI which provides a raft of student activities including sports and recreation. There is a gym room in BI which involves a payment.

7. Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)

It is better for you to apply for Citibank debit card which does not charge administration fee.

Expense items	HKD
VISA	3000
Insurance	1000
Travelling	40000
Accommodation	17500
Transportation	2000
Daily expenses	15000
Flight ticket	6500
Total	85000

Warm reminder: BI held experiments occasionally. You can apply to earn extra money for your exchange.

8. Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

In January, there was a date for recruiting new members of various student associations. Exchange students are also able to join the associations. Moreover, there were regular coffee hour in Kroa and BInner which served free drinks or meals. It is a good idea to join these activities in order to make more new friends with various nationalities.

9. Health & Safety

Norway is a safe country with low crime rate. In my opinion, it is even safer than Hong Kong. Still, please stay alert when you meet drunkard or travel to other perilous countries especially Germany, France, Italy and Greece.

10. Food

Price level in Norway is very high. It costs over NOK 30 per bottle of coca-cola. However, it is much cheaper if you buy for a bigger bottle and buy it in supermarket. Dining out is expensive in Norway. However, there is still some restaurants offering delicious food with fair price like Jensen's Bofhus.

11. Transportation

All of us bought the Ruter card which costed NOK 50. It is strongly suggested to buy the student monthly pass (Zone 1). By using this pass, we could take all the public transportation in Oslo Zone 1. Moreover, by using the Ruter card, we could buy the extension ticket of NSB to the airport which was around 40% off.

12. Climate

It was cold in Oslo especially from January to March. The temperatures are mostly below 0 degree Celsius. It was snowing even in May. Nevertheless, I was extremely excited to see the snow in the first day of arrival. Still, remember to bring enough warm clothes.

13. Communication

Generally, Norwegians' education level is high. They speak fluent English. Therefore, communication is definitely not a problem.

14. Cautionary measures

Call 112 for the police.

ITEMS TO BRING

- Wind and water resistant coat
- Waterproof shoes
- LAN Cable and router (if you live in Kringsja Student Village)
- Financial calculator (Casio calculators cannot be used in BI)
- Adaptors
- Laptop
- No need to bring warm packs
- VISA
- Passport
- Citibank OTP generator (if you use Citibank credit card)
- Medicine
- HKID
- Admission letter
- Cash
- Skincare

USEFUL LINK & CONTACT

Academic studies <https://at.bi.no/EN>

<https://bi.itslearning.com/>

Travelling <https://www.airbnb.com.hk/>

<https://www.expedia.com.hk/>

<https://www.goeuro.com/>

<https://www.skyscanner.com.hk/>
