

Exchange Report

Copenhagen Business School, Denmark



CBS



**COPENHAGEN
BUSINESS SCHOOL**

HANDELSHØJSKOLEN

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Table of Content

Part I

Monthly Activity Log	3
----------------------	---

Part II

General Exchange Information	5
------------------------------	---

Part III

Items to Bring	7
----------------	---

Part IV

Useful Contact	8
----------------	---

Part I: Monthly Activity Log

August 2017

I arrived in Denmark Airport and a buddy who was assigned by CBS came to pick me up. They will send you to your accommodation with keys and a welcome package. This month was mainly involved in getting yourself ready for your stay in Denmark. I then later went to open a bank account in Nordea Bank and registered my CPR as a Danish citizen at the town hall. I also took the chance this month to sightsee around Copenhagen with my friends.

September 2017

Classes began on the first of September 2017 for the fall semester. This month, you mainly have introduction classes. I took four classes and they all began on September. Notice that certain classes at CBS only begin after the 2nd month (those are called second quarter classes). This month I had classes on only certain weekdays and was free for some days near the weekend. I took the chance to travel to other countries in Europe like Germany and went to the lollapalooza music festival. I also visited Austria and France later this month.

October 2017

October began with certain exams where the classes that only were half quarter would have exams during this month. Fortunately for me, my exams were all in December. Therefore, there is also an October break during this time of the year. During October, many Europeans also celebrate the beer drinking Oktoberfest and would a great opportunity for you to visit Germany during this time of the year. For me, I took the break to go to France and Italy,

visiting Southern to Northern Italy. I would highly recommend you to take some time to also visit other European countries during the October break, as the weather in Copenhagen can be quite dark and gloomy with rain during this time of the year.

November 2017

As exams began to strike, this month for me was mainly involved with group projects and preparations for the exam. There are many types of exams at CBS, and I will further elaborate on the part II of this exchange report. However, November was the month that I was mainly busy with university and preparing myself for my exams. However, if you already have finished your exams in October, then you will have some free time during this month. This mainly depends on the courses you take. Nonetheless, black Friday is also a big thing in November, so if you are interested in buying stuff, you should take a look into various stores, because there are big discounts during Black Friday.

December 2017

During December, exams will probably be finished. This month is the month of Christmas. Danish people are take a lot of significance in celebrating Christmas, therefore, December for them is quite festive. You will be able to observe changes in the environment, like lights and trees throughout the city. Moreover, you should also be aware of the different sales and discount promotions of Christmas. There will also be Christmas markets around town. I spent this month travelling both in Copenhagen and to other countries like Iceland, Norway, Sweden, and Finland. I would highly recommend you to also experience other Christmas in other European countries because each country has their own culture. You should also try the caramelized almonds, glogg wine, and other Christmas traditions in Denmark.

Part II: General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

CBS will immediately contact you regarding your visa application after HKUST has approved your exchange university with CBS. For me, as I was an international student in Hong Kong, I did my visa in my home country under the VFS. If you are a Hong Kong resident, I assume you only have to go into China to do the visa, as I have heard from others that there is no Danish Consulate in Hong Kong. However, the visa documents are relatively simple and as long as you follow CBS's instructions, there should be no problem. But please do spare some time for the application process, although mine took less than a week for my visa to be approved.

Orientation Activities

CBS will arrange some free of charge orientation activities for all exchange students. In addition to that, CBS also hosts various extra orientation activities in the Welcome Package for exchange students. However, you will have to pay an extra of around 500 Danish Krone for certain packages. These include Danish cultural dance, boat trips in the city, and city tour. I would recommend you to participate in the extra Welcome Package, as you will be able to meet more exchange students as well as experience the Danish culture in a unique manner.

Accommodation

There are different type of housing at CBS. You can browse through their website and choose the type of room and location you want. Some are near the campus and some aren't. For me, I stayed at Porcelaenshaven and it is located very close to the main campus. It was very convenient to get around town for me, as it was only a few minute walk to a bus stop or metro. I highly recommend this place. However, there are also other types of

accommodation in different housing styles and community. CBS will send you a link regarding the application process. However, please be aware that housing is very competitive for CBS and in Copenhagen in general. Therefore, be ready with a computer when the application process opens, or else you might have to find private housing yourself for your stay in Denmark.

Course Registrations

Course registration at CBS is relatively simple as the International Office would help you regarding this issue. You simply look at the courses that they offer during your semester and email your list of preference accordingly. If you are desperate to get into a specific course, you can also ask HKUST for a letter of priority for you to get into the course you desire. There can be time conflict in the course registration. However, CBS does not have attendance, and it is up to your decision whether if you would like to change courses or just leave it the way it is.

Teaching and Exams

The learning environment at CBS is relatively open and free. You are allowed to ask any questions and professors are there to teach and lecture. They have very clear goals and expect you to be there. However, if you wish to not attend the classes, it is also your option, as attendance is not compulsory in any courses. The exams in CBS are in 3 different types: Written, Oral, and Home Assignment. Written is a typical exam where you sit and take an exam at a specific time and date. For oral exam, you have to present your exam regarding a specific topic or thing of that course to 2 examiners. For Home Assignment, this is mainly a written report that you can do any time you prefer but submit at a given deadline online.

Sports, Clubs and Recreation

Sports in CBS is quite limited, as they do not offer a variety like certain big schools. You can check their university's sports website for the sports they

offer like Tennis, Basketball, etc. However, there are also other gyms at CBS run by other companies that provide discount for CBS students like Fitness DK Falkoner at Frederiksberg, just near the CBS main campus. You can also consider joining clubs for sports that aren't competitive in nature and attend their weekly practice sessions. More information can be found when you arrive at CBS.

Finance and Banking

Living in Denmark, you are mainly expected to use card or mobile pay. This is because cash is highly limited in the country and the majority of people pay by card. Therefore, you should definitely consider opening a local bank account in Copenhagen. There are various banks but I would recommend Nordea Bank, as it is the easiest to open for international students. The staff are also really friendly and helpful compared to other banks.

Food

Denmark offers a variety of Food. There are local Danish markets like Torvehallerne that I would also recommend you to visit to both buy food and fresh groceries. However, the price of eating out can be quite expensive. If you compare it with Hong Kong, it would cost you over 100 HKD for a simple and easy meal. Yet, if you eat at a fancier restaurant, it can cost you more than 500 HKD for a meal. However, tap water in Denmark is safe and clean, and also considered one of the best in the world. Therefore, there is definitely at least something free for you.

Health and Safety

Denmark is a relatively safe country. There should be no problems for you travelling alone at night because the crime rate is low in this city. However, you should be aware of certain gang fights in some districts of the city. Yet, you shouldn't be worried about your safety in Denmark in general. For health problems, the Danish system will offer you a health card where you can visit a doctor. The health system in Denmark is free of charge and you will be given

free advice and medical assistance. However, the doctors will not give you any medicine for certain symptoms, therefore, you will have to go to local pharmacists to buy the medicine, like Apotek. I have never had the experience of going to a doctor or pharmacy so my comment on that will be quite limited. But in general, it should be no worry for you to get medical care in Copenhagen.

Transportation

Copenhagen is a small town and transportation is easy. You can take the metro or bus. However, I find bicycling quite convenient as there are bike lanes throughout the city. However, you will have to be a good biker to bike in Denmark as Danish bikers can bike quite fast, so you won't be in any accidents. I mainly transported with a bike. Nonetheless, the metro is also a convenient way of travelling as it connects between the airport to various locations around town.

Climate

The weather in Denmark can be quite cold and gloomy. Rain is frequent and sun is rare. Depending on the month and year, rain can fall everyday and throughout the day. August is mainly sunny. However, September to December will mainly consist of strong wind and rain. It also gets cooler from September, where temperature would drop to single digit. Therefore, you should be prepared for the weather here and also bring clothes and jackets that are water resistant.

Communication

Communicating with locals in Denmark should be easy because locals can speak both Danish and English. There should be no problem when you go outside, as English is taught in the basic schooling of the Danish education system.

Cautionary Measures

Denmark is relatively safe. However, you should just beware of pickpockets and general rules and law of each country. You should keep in mind that you are a foreigner and also live life with awareness of your safety, regardless of anywhere you travel. Also, follow the rules and you should be fine.

Part III: Items to Bring

1. Adaptors for EU Plug
2. Personal ID and photos for certain documents
3. Cash either in Euro or Danish Krone.
4. Warm clothes (Winter is cold in Denmark)
5. Medicine (If any)
6. Small Suitcase (For trips in Europe)
7. Suit or Formal dress code

Part IV: Useful Contacts

1. CBS International Office, Dalgas Have 15, 2V.020, 2000 Frederiksberg (E-mail: ahc.intoff@cbs.dk)
2. Danish Emergency Helpline Tel: +45 1813
3. Emergency Line Tel: +45 112 (For Life-Threatening Illnesses and Situations)
4. Danish Non Urgent Police Assistance Line Tel: +45 114 (There is also a large police station at Copenhagen Central Station – useful for reporting any incidences of theft.)

*If you'd like any more information, please feel free to reach out to me by contacting the SBM Exchange Team at bmugexch@ust.hk.