



Leo Ng

BSc in Economics and Finance (Year 3)

Fall 2017

Monthly Log:

August

The 17/18 fall semester, we got 7 HKUST students going to BI Norwegian Business School to start our exchange study. As the orientation week was going to start in mid-August, one of my exchange mate and I planned to fly together on 7th August which was one week before orientation to settle down. BI provided pick-up service in central station but we didn't use it. I used the whole week to go to IKEA and cleaned up my room. I went out dinner for the first three days to try some fresh salmon and local food in Norway. Also, I found out several Asian markets which have super cheap fruits and vegetables. They were good places to go after school. Coming up the orientation hosted by Fadderullan, I met my buddies from BI Norwegian Business School and other exchange students from other schools. It was a student driven organization which aims to provided BI students fun and educational stuff. It was an unforgettable week full of parties and beers. We started school on 21st August after all crazy parties.

September

Most of us only got classes from Tuesday to Thursday so we planned some short trips on our day-off and weekend. Our first trip was Bergen – within the Norway boarder. We spent about 17 hours to travel to Bergen. We took the train, ferry and bus to get to Bergen. The views there were magnificent with lakes, mountains and colored houses. Apart from the beautiful views, Bergen is also famous for its fish market where is closed to the sea. The seafood and salmon there were delicious and fresh. We used two weekends to explore around Oslo. At the end of September, we took the overnight bus to Stockholm. We tried meat balls there and visited the famous ice bar there. The night in ice bar was wonderful. We drank cocktails with cups which are made of ice.



Bergen



Voss



Stockholm

October

Although it was already the middle of the semester, I could balance trips and assignments easily. There were three assignments in this month. I normally finished the assignments on the day that it was announced so that I have more time to explore around. This month, I went to Copenhagen, Reykjavik and Helsinki. Iceland was probably one of the most unforgettable trips. The prices in Iceland was even more expensive than Oslo but we

managed to have meals in some cheaper restaurants. The attractions in Iceland has no transportations to go. Hence, a car or local tour is required to explore around. We booked some three local tours to visit geyser, waterfalls and see the northern lights there.



Black Sand Beach



Glacier



Goat Soup

November

Finals were coming at the end of this month. I stayed in Oslo for most of the days so I could have more time to prepare my exams and the last assignment. The assignment took me a whole week to finish. This R assignment required me to learn coding by myself to create a correct business forecast on one type of economic data. I would say this was the most difficult assignment that I have ever done before. But turned out I still got a good grade. Despite studying was important, I still went to Amsterdam to take a break. The famous windmill in Zaandam was a relaxing place to go, where it is a good photo taking point. I enjoyed my whole morning and afternoon there. After nearly two weeks of exam preparation, my Norwegian culture exam started on 30th November. I also had another two exams on 31st November which were Analyses of Financial data and International Finance.

December

Before I had the last exam for International Economics, I went to Paris, London and Dublin. I only had 2 days for preparing my last exam after my trips. As I focused in all the lectures, such a short period of time to study didn't affect my grade. The next day after my last exam, I started my one-month journey to explore the whole Europe. It was an exhausted trip but it was worth it. I could go around and experience different cultures throughout Europe. I went to Milan, Munich, Zurich, Frankfurt, Nuremburg, Prague, Cesky Krumlov, Hallstatt and Vienna.



Hallstatt



Hallstatt

January

I went to count down in Vienna and people were so excited that the plaza was full of people. The second half of my journey began in Budapest and following Barcelona, Lisbon and London. I watched the Phantom of the Opera at Her Majesty's Theatre in London. It was a great show and singers were too good at singing. Back to Oslo, I tried the fresh salmon for probably the last time in Oslo.

General Exchange Information:

Visa Procedures

You don't need a visa for travelling to Norway. However, you are staying there for more than 3 months so you still need to apply for a student visa. It costs around HKD 3000. Remember to bring your passport, ID card, money, passport photos and the UDI application form. When you get to Oslo, you need to go to UDI to report your arrival. Please make sure the Royal Norwegian Consulate is doing your application correctly. They made wrong documents so I needed to wait for one more month to get my visa done in Oslo!

Orientations Activities

Fadderullan is the largest student driven association for BI students. They had two weeks orientations activities including pint ball game, concerts, boat trip, parties, picnic and many more. Join as many as you want!

International Services & Activities

There is a Facebook group for all BI exchange students. Many activities were posted through that group. Also, international office in BI will support all your need.

Accommodations

I lived in Kringsja student village which is 15 minutes metro away from BI. It's close to city center and other places. There are also a lake and outdoor calisthenics park nearby. I go running and do gym there. And the housing costs only NOK3600 only.

Course Registration

You will get all the information you need in an email later. I had taken 2 FINA courses, 1 ECON course and 1 HUMA Course.

EXC3672 Analyses of Financial Data

2 home written assignments count for 10% and 20 % so the remaining written exam counts for 70% of the whole course. 2 assignments require coding in R. Good grade and high workload but useful.

EXC3603 International Economics

Only one written exam counts 100% towards the final grade. Good grade and no workload.

EXC3611 International Finance

3 assignments and one written exam in total. Each assignment counts for 10 % and exam counts for 70% towards total grade. Good Grade and fair workload.

EXC2901 Norwegian Culture and History – An Introduction

Final digital essay counts 100% towards total grade. Good grade and fair workload.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

Pay for around NOK 600 per month to be a member in Athletica (gym room). You can even join BI Athletics.

Finance & Banking

Oslo is a cashless city. I took one Citi debit card and one Citi credit card with plus and visa sign. All the countries accept my cards so I didn't bring any cash from Hong Kong. If you really need it, you can just withdraw cash from ATM.

Food

Food and drinks in Oslo are quite expensive around NOK 150 per meal but all are tasty.

Transportations

You can take Flytoget or NSB from airport to city center. It is suggested that you buy a monthly pass in zone 1 because single ticket costs you NOK 30. As the taxi price is super expensive, don't take the taxi in Oslo.

Social Club & Networking Activities

You can find many business clubs there, like BI Business Student Society. You can attend some small talks about how to do business in Norway.

Health & Safety

Norway is a safe city. There is no need to care much about pickpocketing. Also, the whole city is hygienic and rubbish is rarely seen in the street.

Climate

The weather in summer is cool and nice. It is a good time to do outdoors activities when the sunset time is at 23:00. But, in winter, the sunset time is at 16:00 so you need to go home before all the shops are closed.

Communication

Basically, people there are speaking Norwegian but English is widely accepted. There is no communication barrier.

Items to Bring:

- Waterproof and windproof outerwear, a pair of Gore-Tex shoes and waterproof backpacks
- Router, laptop, lamp, LAN cable, plug adapters (most essential)
- Passport, admission letter, study permit
- Medicines

Useful Links:

BI student portal

<https://at.bi.no/NO>

Housing - SIO

<https://www.sio.no/en/housing>

Flights – Norwegian

<https://www.norwegian.com/en/>



Holmenkollen Ski Museum



Disneyland Paris



Disneyland Paris