

Exchange Report

Copenhagen Business School
Fall 2017



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Year 3 (MARK & MGMT)

Monthly Journal

August & September 2017 – A month of exploration

The school has organised an array of orientation activities during for all international exchange students during the last two weeks of August. The activities in the first week are optional while the second week is mandatory. I arrived the city just before the commencement of the compulsory events. These include a city excursion, introductory talks about their international offices and other supporting facilities etc. I believe this is the best time to cope with the time difference and jet lag problem before the official start of the school year.

On my 7th day of arrival, I bought a second-hand bike from another exchange student from Poland who was planning to return to their homeland. The bike was important to most of my commute in the city, as it is quite costly to travel around with public transportation. With the city's well-planned cycling tracks, I have travelled on my bike for approximately 145 km during this month. One of the remarkable journeys I have was to Jægersborg Dyrehave (a.k.a Deer Park) located in the suburb of Copenhagen. The 1000 hectares' park is a great weekend getaway for families and friends. Cyclists can easily ride their bike across the park.

On a relaxing Sunday, my friends and I have decided to go on a day trip to Sweden. With less than an hour train ride from Copenhagen Central Train Station, we have travelled across the border to a town called Malmo in Sweden. Most of the shops were closed during the weekend, but we managed to find some weekend markets and museum. Along the journey, we spent about half an hour watching a circus show by a group of Swedish performers. Before returning to Copenhagen, we visited the landmark "Turning Torso" - the tallest building in Scandinavia and spent some time in admiring the sunset along the coast.

To learn one's culture, it is also important to learn one's language. CBS has provided many opportunities for the student to learn Danish, either in form of a credit-bearing course or as interest class like what I did. Partnering with IA Language Centre, students are able to take interest course for free, with a deposit, on their campus. The course will provide all necessary materials including 2 textbooks, notes and access to their internet platform. The class takes place once every week and we are required to hand in some assignments.

I went to their student society day which is similar to the Promotion Period in HKUST. Different society showcases their own work to the students. However, you are not required to be a member in order to participate in their society's event as long as you sign up for their activities during the semester.



City Excursion



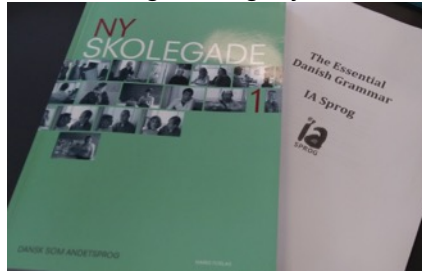
Jægersborg Dyrehave



My Second-hand Bike



Malmo - Turning Torso



Danish Textbooks and Notes



Student Society Day

October 2017 – An European Perspective

In the first week of October, I flew over to the United Kingdom for several HKUST admission talks. Coincided with the Mid-Autumn Festival, together with other student ambassadors, we celebrated with the mooncakes brought from Hong Kong. This was also the first time for me to celebrate this “Traditional Chinese” Festival overseas. Given this valuable opportunity in the UK, I managed to visit my old friend who is currently studying in Cambridge during the weekend. He brought me to many interesting sites in the Campus and shared with me his encounters in the school.

The second week back in Copenhagen was filled with excitement and work. As the mid-term break (a.k.a. Potato Week) is approaching in Mid-October, it is time to submit part of the coursework (These are not marked) and also running the international exchange fair for CBS students. This is a time where we are invited to showcase our school and city to students of CBS who are considering their exchange studies.

On 13th, Copenhagen organised a city-wide event called “Culture Night”. Participants are required to purchase a ticket for 95 DKK, it includes all the transportation fees and admission tickets to most of the attraction in town. During the night, my friend and I managed to visit the Carlsberg Factory (Originally 130 DKK), attended a show in National Opera and visited the Zoo (Originally 180 DKK).

On 15th morning, I embarked on my second journey around Europe for the month. I first took a 7 hours’ train journey to Uppsala, a town near Stockholm, where my friend was having his exchange studies. Then we move on to other places around Europe. In total, I have visited 3 countries, they are Sweden, Belgium and the Netherlands.



Celebrating mid-autumn festival in UK



Cambridge



CBS Exchange Fair



Stockholm



Belgium



The Netherlands

November 2017 – Work Hard. Play Hard

In the first week of November, I participated in seminars and workshop organised by one of their student society, Oikos Copenhagen. From the workshop, I gained further insights about CSR reporting in the Danish Context. I was fortunate enough to meet a number of representatives from Danish corporation and professors in the field.

There are many free-of-charge entertainments in town, you can easily find them online. My friends and I have tried most them during this month. I registered a guided tour to the Danish Parliament where I learnt the political development of the society. I also visited the Design Museum to learn the success story behind the world-renowned Scandinavian design (*It is free to all full-time students). During a Tuesday afternoon, my friend and I visited “Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek” with art collections from the Carlsberg Family. (*Free admission on Tuesdays). I also visited the UN City during a guided tour on Friday afternoon.

My HKUST fellows who were having his exchange in the UK came to visit me during this month. As a “host”, I showed him around the city and major tourist attractions. His visit coincided with the World Cup qualifying match between Denmark and Ireland. Despite it was only 8 degrees, we spent hours outdoor watching the match with other Danish Football fans. It was definitely a unique experience.

This is also time to begin preparing for my examination. All 4 courses that I took in CBS required written an assignment for the final assessment. It might seem relaxing to have

an only written assignment for examination, however, it took some time for me to complete all of them.



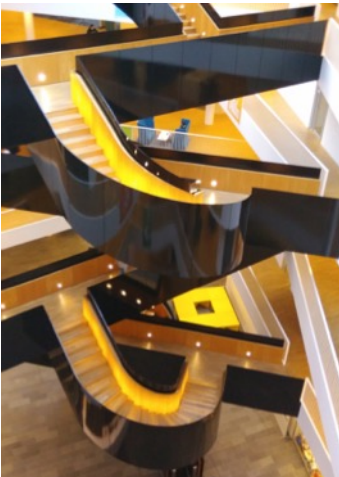
Oikos Copenhagen Event



Meeting Prof. Glenn Frommer



Denmark Parliament



UN City



Denmark vs Ireland



My written assignment

December 2017 – Examination and Ready to Say “Hej Hej”

One of the courses that I took required Oral examination base on the written assignment, the professor would ask the question related to the assignment and the implications of the theory that was examined in the essay. As this was the first time in my university life that I encounter this style of examination, I was a bit clueless when preparing for it. One of my fellow course mates suggested me to consider how the theory I have written would relate to what professor has taught in the lecture. This tactic worked and the professor gave a considerable grade upon my performance.

“Hej Hej” stands for goodbye in Danish, with examinations and assignments due I am ready to say goodbye to my friends in Denmark before embarking on another journey

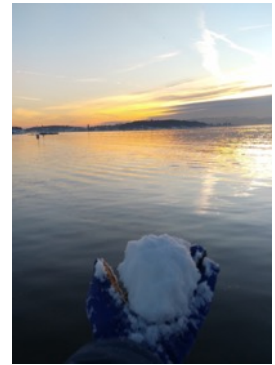
around Europe. The trip started with Norway, it was -8 Degrees Celsius on the day that I arrive the country! In the rest of my journey, I have visited Frankfurt, Munich, Zurich, Luzern and Paris.



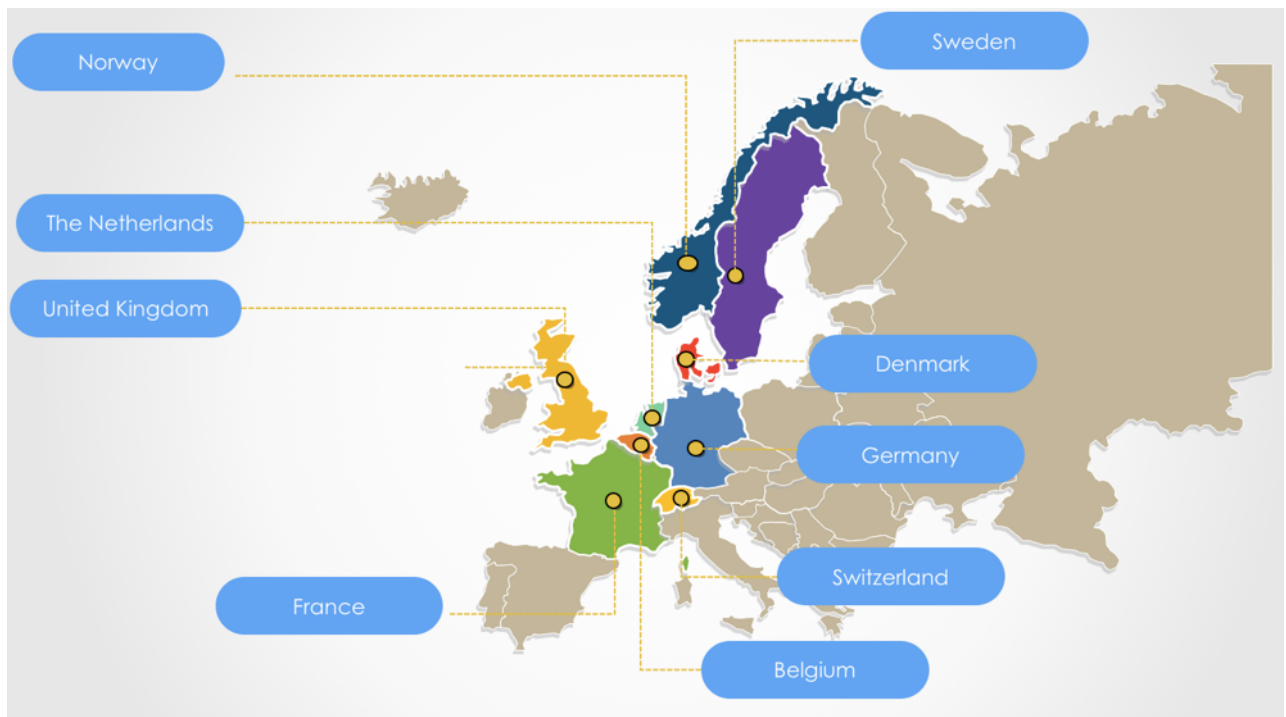
Farewell Lunch with Danish Friend



Norway Salmon



Oslo, Norway



The map has included all the countries that I have visited during this 4-month period.

General Exchange Information

Visa Application and Residence Registration

If you are holding a **Hong Kong passport**, you would need to apply for a **student visa** once you have received the confirmation letter from CBS. *(You might refer to another exchange report for information regarding the procedures)*

If you are holding a **European Union (EU)** passport and has the right to abode in Europe (as in my case), you are **not required** to apply for any student visa in advance. However, upon your arrival in Denmark, you are required to apply for the **residence permit** with the State Administration. The permit is free-of-charge for all EU citizen. The State Administration has special opening hours for the student to get the permit in one day – a process that otherwise takes three weeks. Hence, it is important to pay attention to the email from CBS International Office. During the day of application, we are required to bring along the OD1 form (available online), original and the copy of your Passport or ID, acceptance letter from CBS. The office usually gets crowded during the day, my advice is to get there as early as possible to avoid long queue time.

The **Danish Civil Registry (CPR)** is a document required for all residence staying in Denmark. It is useful when you would like to register a bank account, mobile subscription or seeing a doctor. One should go to the municipality office depending on where he/she resides, as for my case, I did the registration in Frederiksberg Municipal office. The office will also pair you up with a local doctor in case you need any kind of medical assistance. They will issue a “Yellow Card” which includes all your important information which you should keep it in your wallet in case of an emergency.

Orientation Activities

The mandatory orientation activities feature talks organised by the International Office, Housing office, Library, IT Office and city excursions. In addition, students have an option to participate in the social package specially dedicated to exchanging students including folk dancing, movie night, lakeside party and a boat trip.

International Office

The office coordinates all major issues that an exchange student would encounter along the semester. Their staff response our email enquires efficiently and if you encounter difficulties in terms of the visa, housing, course registration you can send them an email at receipt.inoff@cbs.dk or visit them the office at Porcelaenshaven 18A, 2000 Frederiksberg.

The Housing Department of the International Office could help keep your luggage during the Winter Break so that you don't have to worry about your large luggage during your travel. *(This policy might change, please check with the office for updates.)*

Internet Account

Once you are accepted to the exchange programme by CBS. They will arrange an internet account for you with the access to <http://my.cbs.dk>, outlook email and other online systems including their online learning platform <http://learn.cbs.dk> (similar to Canvas in HKUST) where you will get all the materials for your lectures. You are required to renew the password once every three months for the sake of security.

Accommodation

Danish universities do not own student-housing facilities. There are eight student residences to which CBS has access are located in different areas of Copenhagen, among them there is only one on-campus housing option available.

Dormitory spaces are limited and hence having a serious shortage problem every semester. The Housing Department of the International Office will send a link to the application system to your CBS email account in advance. If you prefer staying at the residence hall provided by CBS, my advice is to log on the system once you receive the email as the residence spaces will run out quickly. I was fortunate enough to secure a space for an en-suite (pantry and toilet inclusive) single room in the dormitory called Katherine Kollegiet. The rent varies according to room size and cost 29000 DKK (excluding refundable deposit) in total for my room. Below are some photos for your reference.



You may refer to the link below for more information regarding accommodation:

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

Course Registration

CBS will list the courses that they are going to provide in the coming semester online. You will be able to find the course code, syllabus and outline which are useful when considering the courses that you are going to take and whether a course can be transferred back to HKUST.

Course Catalogue

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

The registration is rather simple where you are required to register your course preference on the online system. You should also consider a backup choice for your preference, which is helpful when the course is full. Courses do not have a regular weekly schedule, hence, there might be clashes between different classes. If overlapping of classes for over 3 hours in a semester, CBS might recommend you taking another course instead. Please note that there are two quarters in a regular semester, most of the course would take place for the entire semester but occasionally there are courses for 1 quarter only (examination time might differ).

Most schools in Europe are not credit-based, including CBS, where they have a similar system called ECTS. Generally, a course would carry 7.5 ECTS, and the workload for a full-time student is 30 ECTS. Thus, we are required to take 4 courses in CBS. (Courses might differ) If you consider overloading, you must request a letter from SBM office prior to the course application.

Teaching and Learning

Most of the courses that I took in CBS are theory and reading based and professors would spend a considerable amount of time discussing them with the class. Hence, students are expected to complete the reading materials as to catch up with the lectures. On average, I have to read approximately 80 – 100 pages of textbook or academic journals per week.

That brings us to the important issue of textbooks. As it is quite expensive to purchase the physical copies, I would suggest considering buying an e-book. On one hand, it is cheaper and the other hand, you could save up some luggage space. However, some courses might require a compendium which is only available at the Academic Bookstore of CBS.

Different from Hong Kong where lectures gave his/ her speech for the entire lesson, Professors in Copenhagen encourage class discussion with our peers. You might expect to spend up to 25 minutes per lesson for case discussion and present your ideas to the rest of the class. Think more and be confident in expressing your own thoughts are two key takeaways from this exchange study.

Assessment

There are no mid-term examination or quizzes. The final exam/ assignment would make up 100% of the final grade. There are different types of exam, sit-in examination, oral exam based on written product or home assignment.

An oral exam is where a student must construct a written argument surrounding a topic, followed by an oral defence of the article. The examiner (or Professor) might ask topics that were discussed in class. A grade will be given at the end of the oral exam.

You might refer to the link below that introduce the oral exams in CBS.

<http://studentlife.cbs.dk/video/the-oral-exams/>

Clubs and Network

As mentioned, there is going to be a student society day at the beginning of the Fall semester. This is when you can learn more about what different societies do and what their core purpose is. You are free to join any activities organised by the society as long as you have signed up for it. There is no membership required.

Their career centre organises a range of talks and careers fair for students to participate and exchange students are welcome to join. This is a precious opportunity to establish your professional network by mingling with representatives from Denmark corporations.



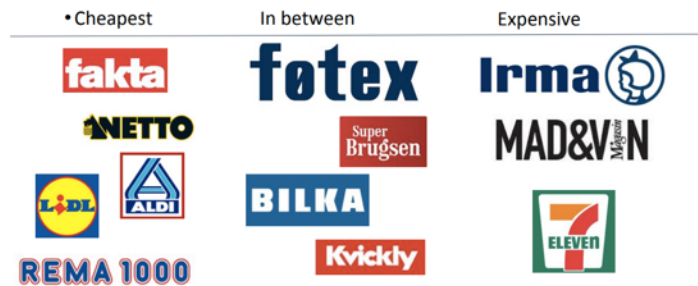
Finance and Banking

Most shops take credit card and cash (Danish Kroners), hence, it is not necessary to exchange a lot of local currency in advance. Also, you can choose to open a Danish bank account in Copenhagen, but it might be complicated as you are only staying for a few months. Instead, I was relying on my debit and credit card issued by banks in Hong Kong. You should also make sure that you have activated the overseas ATM withdrawal limit prior to your exchange. Most ATM in Copenhagen would accept a debit card with Visa Plus and occasionally with Union Pay. (Charges might differ).

Food

Supermarkets are conveniently located around the city. You can find most of the food produces in the shop. There are different Supermarket chains (refer to the graph below). If you would like something authentic Chinese, you might need to visit the Chinese Supermarket near Central Train Station. However, the scale of "China Town" is not comparable to those of London or Paris.

Grocery shopping



CBS Exchange Crew (2017). Student2Student [PDF]. Retrieved from <https://goo.gl/FyMiJk>

Transportation

It is easy to get around the city, but at the same time, it might cost you a fortune. As transportation is quite expensive, a single journey ticket costs 24 DKK each. The best way to get around the city is by bike, which is also what I enjoyed the most. Copenhagen has a great city planning where cycling tracks are all around the city and most of the land is flat. Hence, it is comfortable to ride the bike everywhere in the city.

In terms of public transport, there are options such as Metro, S-Train and Bus. For Metro, there are currently two lines which operate across major location of the city covering the International Airport (more lines will be in operation in years to come). It operates 24 hours. The S-Train operates in the city as well as some suburban areas. Passengers are charged according to the zones that they travel. Frequent commuters (i.e. if you stay far from CBS) might consider purchasing the monthly pass from 375 DKK up.

Climate and Daylight

The Summer for Copenhagen is cool, temperature generally ranges from 15 to 20 Degrees Celsius with occasional rain and showers. The daylight usually last for 15 hours with sunrise at 05:30 and sunset at 20:30.

The Winter for Copenhagen is a rather cold when compared to Hong Kong, temperature can be as low as 3 Degrees Celsius for most of the time. It has a dry weather. The shortest daylight only last for 7 hours with sunrise at 08:15 and sunset at 15:15. One should be prepared for the long night in the Winter. It usually snows in late December and early January. Fortunately, I have experienced the first snow on 10 December 2017. Most of the buildings have internal heating, staying warm indoor would not be a problem.

Communication

Most Danish speak both English and Danish. Hence communication won't be a problem.

Sports and Recreation

CBS does not have any on campus sports facilities. There are gyms and swimming pools near the main campus. (Admission fees required)

Health and Safety

Although it is safe to walk on the street at night, I would not recommend staying out late. In case you are sick, you may visit the doctor (for free) assigned to you by the municipality office.

Brief Summary of Expenses

Item	Amount (1 DKK = 1.26 HKD)
Air Ticket (Round Trip)	HK\$ 8,300
Accommodation	DKK 29,000
Food and Household	DKK 18,000
Transportation	DKK 2,400
Mobile Subscription	DKK 600
Textbook	DKK 500
Total	HK\$ 71,930

Items to Bring

- ✓ Camera (Or phone with good quality camera)
- ✓ Computer
- ✓ Portable Wireless Router
- ✓ Hair Dryer
- ✓ Down Jacket for the winter
- ✓ Danish Kroner & Euros
- ✓ Waterproof Shoes
- ✓ European power adaptors

Useful Links and Contacts

CBS International Office receipt.inoff@cbs.dk

CBS Course Catalogue

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

CBS accommodation

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

If more information is needed, you may get my contact from SBM Exchange Team by emailing at bmugexch@ust.hk