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# EXCHANGE REPORT

Solbjerg Plads 3

COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL,  
DENMARK (FALL 2017)  
LEE WAI YU



# 17

*Hej (Hi in Dansk)!* Before I write my exchange experience, I would like to tell you my targets and challenges set well before I went abroad:

1. Cycling: Copenhagen is known as a bicycle-friendly city, yet, I did not know how to cycle, so it was a bit worrying. Therefore, I learnt cycling in June'17. But I was still not very confident on a bike.  
After arriving, I realised that the metro system here is actually so well-built that you can go wherever you want in just a few minutes' time. So if you do not know how to bike, is still perfectly okay!
2. To meet International friends and maintain the friendship
3. To explore why Danmark is called as the HAPPIEST country on Earth with such a gloomy weather!



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### Monthly Journal:



#### *August 2017*

20<sup>th</sup> – Arriving Copenhagen!

21<sup>st</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> – Joined both the Crash Course Week Social Package take place in week 34 (21–25 August) And the Introduction Week Social Package (28Aug – 2 Sep), where you can meet other exchange students. I have also gone for some sightseeing around Copenhagen.

#### *September*

3<sup>rd</sup> – The day before the start of the semester, my flatmate and I have gone to Bakken – The world's oldest amusement park since 1583. They only open during summertime, so make sure you check the dates before going!

4<sup>th</sup> – Semester starts! CBS has smaller size classes than UST's, therefore, the professors encourage high participation rate, and you will also be asked to do some readings before the class for discussion purpose. The business cases that they use are interesting, and mostly about Europe, so it really provides insights to you in terms of business ideas and the business environment.



I love Hip Hop dancing, so besides going to the business school, I also went to dance schools in Copenhagen. It was an eye-opening experience as the class was instructed totally in Danish and I was the only foreigner there. But this also gave me another angle to discover how's the real Danes work and learn in real-life.

Nexus is the university bar on campus, and it holds a party on each Thursday during semester for students to relax. There was also a semester-start party – The Nexus Party on the first Thursday of the new academic year. The semester start party will transform the whole school into a party floor.



#### Day Trip:

10 Sept: To Malmo – It is just a 20-minute ride from Copenhagen. As an art and history lover, I have been to the Malmo Castle and Moderna Museet Malmö. Sweden once was under the rule of the Danish Kingdom, therefore, you could find tracks of history of the Danes there. Sweden is also famous for its design, and I was glad that I have had the chance to see how artists think behind their designs at the art museum.

#### October

There is a Fall break known as the “potato week” of Denmark. I had one of my courses’ examination during the week. But other than that, I was out to explore the Greater Copenhagen area, such as the famous Frederiksborg Castle, Tivoli and celebrated Halloween in the Danish way!



#### November

It was the month that I had my birthday. So I decided to stay in Copenhagen and experience it with my friends. It was the month of festivals in Denmark so I recommend you to stay in Denmark during weekends in November too. In November, there would be the J-dag (Christmas day/First snow day), which is the day that Carlsberg delivers their Christmas beers. Following, it would be the opening of the Christmas Markets. I was also lucky to witness the day that Denmark had its World Cup Qualifiers Competition with the Republic of Ireland during November. I also finished all my lectures on 24<sup>th</sup> November, with only examinations left. And in late November, I went to Hamburg and Berlin, Germany with my flat mate, then Helsinki, Finland to visit my friend from exchange, as she was also in Finland.

## December

As 4 out of 5 of my examinations were take-home written ones, I have much flexibility to plan for Christmas and my holidays. As all of the deadlines for my examinations were due in early December, I visited many cafes in town to work on them. After that, my family came to visit and we had a day trip to Lund in Sweden, which was just 1.5-hour bus ride from Copenhagen. Then, I have also been to Reykjavik of Iceland and explore the Scandinavian region. On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, we had Christmas parties and presents-exchange activities.

## January 2018

Wrapping up, before leaving the Nordics, I travelled to Stockholm and Oslo (Sweden and Norway) as the last destinations. And on the 9<sup>th</sup>, I left Copenhagen and back to Hong Kong.



## II. General Exchange Information

### 1. Visa Procedures

Visa application is fast, yet there are things that you have to beware of. First, if you are holding a non-EU passport or like most of us, a HK passport, you have to go Guangzhou's Visa Application Centre (<http://www.denmarkvac.cn/contactus.html>), which is the closest one to Hong Kong. For students of other nationalities, you may have to seek help from CBS or the Denmark Embassy for further details. On top of the visa application, make sure that you bring enough money to go beforehand; as you would have to pay once to the Denmark Embassy online and the second time physically to the Visa Application Centre (They are different as the embassy has outsourced the application process). In short words, it means that you have to pay twice for the visa application.

### 2. Orientation

*"You will have fun during the week with different cultural events and parties!"*

The exchange crew team is very helpful and friendly in organising the orientation activities for students. They have social packages (The crash course week and the Introduction week, which costs around 400 HKD and 700 HKD respectively). I have attended both weeks, and as they were only

night activities, especially in the crash course week, you would have some time to explore the city yourself.

#### **Crash course week\***

- 1500 DKK for Dansk course
- Social Package that complements with the Dansk course

#### **Introduction week\***

- Mandatory morning/afternoon talks on exams and facilities
- Social Package at night with parties

\*You can choose which to participate, except for the mandatory introduction week talks

### **3. International Services and Activities**

CBS International Office will help you to deal with all the issues that you faced before, during or even after your exchange. However, in terms of accommodation, you have to go to CBS Housing Department Office instead, as CBS does not own their own dorms, the housing department is there to assist you. In terms of service, if you are travelling in December, the International Office can help to store your baggage for the period till January, after you have reached the end of your rental period. In terms of activities, the International Office recruits local students to guide you throughout your exchange studies and organize welcoming activities for you. You should check your email often, especially your CBS email, after you have been nominated by HKUST.



### **4. Accommodation**

*“Experience the Danish culture while you are living in a private housing!”*

I was among the unlucky ones who got no hall/dorm allocated. But fortunately, the power of the Internet was huge. After I posted my situation online, there were friends who refer me to their buddies, and CBS was being helpful in private housing seeking. So no worries if you were not able to get a dorm. CBS got a Facebook group also, managed by the private housing officer. She will post possible housing options online and as long as you are active in replying, there should be no problem. Through the help of the group, I was glad to talk with different exchange students before I went on exchange and find an apartment located in the city centre with just 9 mins of Metro to CBS. I shared the flat with a CUHK girl who happened to be the friend of my UST peers. One benefit of living in a private housing is that, it is much cheaper comparing to the price of dorms. My friends who got a hall paid around 6500 DKK/month while I pay 5000 DKK/month to my “landlord”, who is currently a CBS student too. Therefore, I guess it would be a great option for the ones who is on a budget, but don’t forget to watch out of scams and frauds while searching online.

The private housing that I lived in is very Danish-like. It is decorated with the colour tones that Danes like, black and white. They also got candles in their flats to beat their “Winter Depression”! So if you have the chance to rent your own apartment, remember to also experience the Danish huggle(relaxing) culture a bit over the weekends at your balcony!

### **5. Course Registration**

*Finding the suitable course is not easy, but I am glad to receive the help from UST SBM and CBS office!*

There are many courses to choose from Marketing, International Economics and trades to Psychology. You would be able to transfer most of the credits back to UST, so CBS is a really good choice. The courses that I have taken can be used to satisfy my major requirement. Here are the courses that I took during my study at CBS:

BIMKV1701U 3C: Comprehending Consumers across Cultures

BIMKV1601U SME Marketing and Global Market Communication

BINBV1106U Danish - Integrated Skills

BINBO1321U International Business Environment

BHAAV6013U Qualitative Methods in Marketing and Consumer Research

(Each course counts as 4-credits back at UST; each course counts as 7.5 ECTS, and as an exchange student you will need 30 ECT)

Before you register your courses, remember to fill in GR-22 form to the HKUST Credit Transfer Department, or else you might risk the chance of getting the credits successfully transferred! CBS officers are nice people, after all, the courses of your priority were not transferable at HKUST; you can always ask them to drop the course and add a new one. Apart from getting the credits transferred, I also sought approval from the SBM office for credit overload, and the requirement is the same as the one you have generally in HKUST, so I was able to register 5 courses (37.5 ECTS), which equals to 20 credits at UST.

There are also Q1 or Q2 courses within a semester, i.e. you will only attend the Q1 classes in the first half of the semester; while the Q2s in the second half of the semester after the potato week (Fall break). For me, BINBO1321U International Business Environment was a Q1 course and the exam was a take home one that took place during the potato week.



## 6. Teaching and Assessment Methods

Courses here are fun, you will usually have a 2.5-hour long lecture and that is all for the week for a course. In class, you will do group exercise and case studies which allows you to talk to both locals and other exchange students. Among the 5 courses, I just have one course that has a 20-min oral exam, while others are just written home assignments and researches. The professor here encourages you to explore and discover different new aspects of businesses, therefore, you can always set your own paper's topic.

## 7. Finance and Banking

*You have to get your finances under control, before everything else!*

Danish Krone (DKK) is the legal currency in Denmark, yet, it is not a common currency in Hong Kong. So the rates might be quite unfavorable here. And unfortunately, not even a single bank in Hong Kong has branches in Denmark, so it made things very difficult at first. As I have to remit money from Hong Kong to my landlord in Copenhagen, therefore, I have to compare the service charge with different local banks to get the best rates.

After I arrived in Copenhagen, I also opened a bank account. Only Nordea, as I know, offers free opening of bank accounts for international exchange students in its Youth Programme. Other banks might require 500dkk or more as service charge. Remember to print your bank statement from home and also get your NEM ID from the Immigration (International House) when you are about to get your own CPR in Copenhagen. Just tell them that you would like to request for one. After receiving your NEM ID, you would be able to open the account within 2 days.

Cost of living here is very high; it is even more expensive than Hong Kong for some products as the VAT is 25%. Therefore, be prepared for paying more or transferring money to Denmark for a several times.

## 8. Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities

The club promotion day is held in the middle or at the end of September for Fall semester. On that day, societies will tell you how to join them and you can choose which to join. I personally actively joined CBS Dance, StudentTalks and attended some activities of CBS Improvisation and CBS Culture. Unlike HKUST, you do not have to pay before joining a club. Just sign up on Facebook or even walk in the venue, CBS students are very welcoming and would not mind you joining. However, as CBS does not have a gym or sportsground, if you are joining some of their sports team, you might have to pay for the venue fee, which I heard is just around 150krs per semester. For networking, I have been to the Entrepreneurship Day, which I have spoken to many of the entrepreneurs and interested parties. CBS also has a helpful career centre that holds events for you to mingle with the executives of the companies in Denmark. However, some are offered just in Danish, therefore, you might have to look through their website before signing up.

## 9. Health and Safety

You do not have to worry if you are sick. Healthcare is included in your student visa as a temporary resident of Denmark. With your CPR (ID in Denmark) registered, you will be automatically assigned to a doctor nearby your area of residence. It is free to visit him/her, and the doctor can usually help you with most of your minor problems. In addition, you can freely drink tap water anywhere in Denmark, and is very common that people go to washrooms and fill up their water bottles. One interesting fact is that the tap water here is calcium-rich, therefore you will see a light layer of substance in the water, and it is worse if you boil it as the substance would be floating on the top layer. But you do not have to worry, it is perfectly normal to drink the water.



Generally, Denmark is a very safe country, it can actually be called as the safest within Europe. Danes are often well-paid in their job therefore, there are not as many robberies as other European countries. But some have still experienced pickpocketing during their stay, therefore, it is highly recommended to keep an eye on your belongings all day long. However, during the period that I went, CBS sent out an email about gangsters fighting in certain districts like Nørrebro, and there were helicopters monitoring the district, yet, it is still perfectly safe as the gangsters would normally just fight with or shoot their own enemies but not a random civilian. In a nutshell, Denmark is a very safe place to visit and study.

#### 10. Food: Danish Cuisine – Det Dansk køkken

Danish food is very different from Asian's. The Danes love eating cold food more, and even though it's cool there, they eat ice-cream, cold sandwiches and pasta mostly. There is also a Danish national dish called- smørrebrød that one should try. So be prepared to taste some of the Danish and traditional Scandinavian dishes in Denmark! You would love it!

#### 11. Transportation

*It's a long ride to Denmark, but it will get you all excited!*

There is no direct flight from Hong Kong to Denmark, and you need to beware of the insurance policy covered by HKUST for exchange students on the start and end destination of the exchange trip. I chose SAS (Scandinavian Airlines), which is similar to the Cathay Pacific of Hong Kong in the Nordic areas; while some of my HKUST buddies have chosen Thai Airways. Unfortunately, in my period of exchange, there was no agreement on discounts from CX and our school, therefore, you really had to bargain and seek for the best price. I would recommend you to consider factors like 1. Transition point (e.g. SAS has transit flights in both Beijing and Stockholm, and I chose the latter one), 2. Baggage allowance (sometimes students might have higher baggage allowance), 3. Travelling time (especially for the ones who dislike long hauls) etc. But at the end, SAFETY is the number 1 factor!

I am not a cyclist; therefore, I use the public transport mostly. Copenhagen consists of 1-99 zones, and CBS is in the 1 and 2 zone. As I live in I bought a monthly metro pass for 2 zones for 375kr/month. You can use it for all public transportation, including trains, buses, metro (but except taxis) within the zones that you have purchased. However, when you try to head out and explore the Greater Copenhagen area, depending on the zones, you might have to pay more. There is something called "orange ticket", which allows you to buy train tickets in advance in a much cheaper price (sometimes 1/3 of the original price), when you have to go somewhere further like Billund (where Legoland is), Ødense (hometown of H.C. Andersen 安徒生). Moreover, you can also purchase a "Rejserkort" which means travel card in Denmark, it works like Octopus in Hong Kong, but your cost of travelling will be much lower if you use rejserkort instead of buying the paper tickets.





## 12. Climate

The climate in Copenhagen varies quite a lot from summer to winter. Denmark's 2017 summer had least sun for 17 years, most rain in 6. And when it's August, the daytime weather is pretty hot (which means people actually wear sleeveless clothes) but at night, it will drop to around 10 degrees only. So prepare yourself with many sweaters and jackets that you can wear on top.

Relatively speaking, Copenhagen has a dry weather. It is more humid than most European countries, but you will surely need some hand cream for moisture during your stay here.

In winter, you will feel the coldness of the Scandinavian area. The temperature would be around 0 and may drop to -5 to -10. However, due to the humidity, you might feel like -15 to even -30 degrees during winter here. So make sure that you bring a huge coat to keep you warm.

### Items to Bring

- Passport/ID
- Personal ID photos (just in case and for your metro card), or else it's around HKD 100 for just 6 photos
- Enough Cash
- Package food – in case if you landed late, Copenhagen does not have a lot of restaurants and marts that open till late night, but they do have lots of 7-11
- Portable charger
- Socket charger
- SIM card for Denmark (or you can buy in CPH, but CBS will probably give you a free Lebara SIM card – top up needed)
- A light jacket for your journey

***Feel free to ask SBM for my contact for more information in applying for exchange or going to CBS or Denmark. Have a safe and fun trip!***

### Useful links and Contacts

1. Emergency: +45 112
2. CBS International Office:  
Address: PORCELÆNSHAVEN 18A, DK-2000 FREDERIKSBERG | TEL: +45 3815 3006
3. DSB: Enquiries about Orange ticket/Rejserkort/Metro monthly pass - <https://www.dsb.dk/>



### Useful mobile applications

1. Flixbus: It's a bus provider app. You can find very cheap ticket to places around Europe. For example, it costs me only €9.99 to go from Stockholm, Sweden to Oslo, Norway. It offers very decent prices for bus trips.
2. Goeuro: Goeuro is an app that helps you to search for the quickest and cheapest way to go around Europe
3. Rejseplanen: Planning your travel around Denmark, just like the MTR app in Hong Kong