

Spring 2018

# Exchange Report

Copenhagen, Denmark



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# I. Monthly Activity Log

## January

It was such an exciting moment to finally arrive at Copenhagen. My Danish exchange buddy came to the airport and picked me up. With still half a month to go before my courses started, I was busy applying for my CPR number, setting up a bank account, and joining the introduction week orientation activities organised by CBS exchange team.



## February

Half a month had passed and my courses finally started. Some courses started quite early at 8am, so I had to get used to my new schedule. As CBS campus was scattering around different places in Copenhagen, it may take some time to switch classrooms between classes.



Apart from studying, I grasped the chance to go around Europe. My first trip was going to Aarhus, which is the second largest city in Denmark. I got to visit their famous circular panoramic rainbow roof walkway in ARoS modern art museum. Besides, I went to Berlin and Stockholm with my friends. My trip to Berlin was like a history study trip. When I was visiting the museums and underground tunnels about WWII, I knew more about German history and learnt to cherish the peace we achieved now. For food, I got to try out their world-renowned pork knuckle, and it tasted amazing. The skin was crispy and the pork itself was so tender. It was a must-try if you were travelling to Germany!



## March

I was busy having classes on weekdays, so I planned my travelling during weekends. I travelled to Finland, Belgium, and Italy in March. I went to visit the Santa Claus in Rovaniemi and tried out venison first time ever in my life. Although I could not stop thinking of the adorable rein deer when I was eating it, it still tasted nice and I recommend you have a try! For my Belgium trip, I travelled to two cities: Brussels and Bruges. Bruges might not be



that familiar to people in Hong Kong, but it was such a wonderful place with historical sites, European architectures, and attractions. It was being called the “Venice of the North”. In Italy, I had gelato nearly every day. They tasted so good and I tried out one in rice flavour. It tasted so special and surprisingly harmonious!



## April

I was having two exams this month. My first exam for my political economy course was a 4-hour sit-in written exam. Although it was called “written exam”, we used computers to submit our papers. All students were typing their answers using computers, along with an electronic pen for drafts or graphs. My second exam was a 20-minute oral exam for my Danish speaking course, consisting of self-introduction and conversations with 2 examiners. It was a bit intimidating because mastering a foreign language in less than 3 months was not easy, but finally I got over it! After finishing my exams, I travelled to Spain and Portugal. I tasted some authentic local cuisines, and I like the churros in Madrid and Portuguese egg tarts in Lisbon the best!



## May

I went to Legoland with my exchange buddies in May. It was in Billund, which took around 3 hours of bus from Copenhagen. Considering this, we decided to stay in the park for a night. If you were not a big fan of taking rides, you can still take pictures with those lego figures! After my trip to Legoland, I started my UK trip to London and Cambridge. You could try to punt along the River Cam which enabled you to enjoy the fantastic views of Cambridge College! After my trip to the UK, I travelled to some more cities in Germany, like Frankfurt, Stuttgart, and Munich. I visited lots of automobile museums, including BMW, Mercedes Benz, and Porsche. They were surely paradises for boys!



## June

Before the end of my exchange, I had to finish two exam papers for my remaining two courses. Before leaving the land of happiness, I grasped the chance to walk around Copenhagen alone. I also bought some cookies for my friends in Hong Kong to fulfil their desire, haha. It was always sad to say goodbye. But I had gained lots of amazing memory during my exchange, on the land of happiness.

## II. General Exchange Information

### Visa Procedure

You will receive emails from CBS regarding visa application procedures. Unfortunately, the Danish embassy is in Guangzhou, so do make sure that you have brought all the necessary documents, photos, and copies. The embassy will charge you if you need to copy over there! Remember to bring enough cash (RMB) as well. Apply for the visa ASAP because the processing may take up to 2 months.

### Orientation activities

CBS would offer 2 orientation packages for students to apply. The first package is called "Danish Crash Course Week", which includes a one-week Danish crash course, bowling night, international buffet and a bar night. The second package is called "Introduction Week", which includes Comedy Night, Danish folk dancing, lake party, movie night and welcoming dinner. Each orientation package costs around 500dkk. Although they are optional, I highly recommend you join them because you can certainly meet some new exchange or local Danish friends there!

### International services & activities

The CBS International office handles all the enquiries about the exchange. The staffs provide excellent support before and during the exchange. They reply emails swiftly and you can contact them anytime when you have questions about exchange arrangements. The office also provides great arrival arrangement by having a local buddy to pick you up at the airport and help you settle down.

## Accommodations

CBS offers student accommodation, but they vary in locations, price, facilities and room sizes. Make sure you mark down the date for online application, because I missed the application and only expensive choices were left. I lived in Holger Danskes Vej, single-room with shared bathroom and shared kitchen. This dorm is quite nice and located close to CBS (around 15 min walk). However, it was a bit expensive and I would recommend you choosing other dorms. Tietgen Kollegiet and Nimbuspark are good choices.

## Courses Registration

Normally you should register for exactly 4 courses in one semester to be qualified as an exchange student at CBS. The timetable would not be available until the semester starts, so please be patient and prepared to swap your courses if some of your time slots clash.

## Teaching & Assessment Methods

Teaching method in CBS is mostly in lectures format. Some courses may have exercise classes. Teaching assistants would coordinate in-class discussion and students could share their opinions. Having plenty of assigned readings is common in CBS.

There are different exam formats in CBS. One is sit-in written exam at the exam hall (open/closed-book). Another is take-home exam which you have to finish and upload your essay before the deadline. The final one is oral exam. You have to present your idea based on the project you have done and defend your stance. Examiner will ask you questions about your topic and grade will be released right after the exam.

You have 3 chances of taking exams for the same course. If you fail in the first time, you will have a second chance around a month later. If you still fail in the second time, you will have the final chance one semester later, which gives you enough time to retake the course and attend the exam.

## Sports & Recreation Facilities

There is not many sports facilities at CBS. No swimming pool or big gym room as in HKUST. Normally students will purchase gym membership at private fitness centre, which is quite common and the price is affordable. For recreation, there is a bar called "Nexus" on campus. You can have party night there every Thursday night.

## Money & Expenses

The official currency there is Danish krone. You can open a bank account there and get a debit card for daily purchases or undergo P2P transfer using the app called "Mobile Pay". I personally recommend Nordea Bank. I also encourage you to bring your HK credit card if you have one. The table on the right is my approximate expenses for my whole exchange trip for reference.

Air Ticket	HKD 5,800
Visa Fees	HKD 4,000
Accommodation	HKD 50,000
Living	HKD 20,700
Travelling	HKD 41,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>HKD 122,000</b>

## Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

There is a variety of different CBS clubs that you can join, and you can check them out on CBS website. There are also job fairs and talks held on campus. You can register online and feel free to join them.

## Health & Safety

Cold tap water in Denmark is drinkable. You may feel uncomfortable in the beginning, but you will be fine! For health insurance, you will receive a Danish health insurance card (i.e. yellow card) after your CPR number registration. For travel insurance, on top of the one bought by HKUST, you may purchase extra travel insurance to cover your travel around Europe (i.e. the school insurance does not cover your time out of Denmark). Make sure you do it before your departure from Hong Kong. Personally, I think Copenhagen is much safer than other European cities (like Rome or Paris). However, do keep an eye on your own stuff and try not to travel alone at night.

## Food

Frankly speaking, there is not much local Danish cuisines. The most "Danish" one would be open sandwich, draft beer and some Danish bakery. Most of the time, I cook for myself at the dorm. It usually costs around 20-50dkk per meal on average. You can find out lots of cheap ingredients in local supermarkets. I recommend Netto, Fotex, and Lidl. You can also eat in CBS canteen. Apart from drinks, bakery and sandwiches, all the entrees are in a buffet setting. Normally a decent portion for a lunch costs around 40-60dkk. Restaurants in Copenhagen cost similar to those Western restaurants in Hong Kong. Around 120-200dkk would be normal for a dinner.

## Transportation

Copenhagen is one of the most bike-friendly city on earth. You can easily buy/sell/rent a bike online or offline in Copenhagen. You can search on fb groups for cheap bikes from past exchange students. The local transport card in Copenhagen is called "Rejserkort". Similar to the Octopus card in Hong Kong, you can top up the card and take buses or trains. Using Rejserkort to take public transport is cheaper than buying a ticket per ride. (e.g. a 18dkk ride by Rejserkort costs 24dkk by ticket) No check in/out gates, so please be honest. But even if you are honest enough, please remember to tap the card when you check in/out, because you will be fined 750dkk if you forget to do so.

## Climate

My exchange spans from January to June. From January to April, the weather is cold and it snows sometimes. So do bring a coat. From April to June, the weather turns warmer. A windbreaker should be enough for most of the time. You can even wear a t-shirt or shorts.

## Communication

You will get a free SIM card from the CBS welcoming package. But all you get is a phone number only. You still need to top up your card and pay monthly for the data plan. The data plan in Copenhagen is really affordable. During my exchange, a 99dkk monthly plan can get me 10 hrs of call + 60GB of 4G data with 4GB inclusive for roaming in EU countries. Great for travellers!

## Cautionary Measures

CBS might not provide enough dorm spaces for exchange students, especially during the fall semester. In normal circumstances, CBS would help you to find landlords for private housing, but only if CBS could not provide you with dorms. In all other cases, you have to bear the risks if you try to find out private housing yourself. Be careful of scams and pay more attention when you have to pay deposits.

## III. Items to Bring

Apart from those basic stuffs (e.g. clothes, coat, shoes):

**Adapters**                      2 round pins (recommend universal adaptors with USB ports)

**Cabin-size luggage/ backpack**    Taking on cabin for budget airlines

<b>Ethernet Adapter</b>	Some halls may have no WiFi but only Ethernet connection (Routers are prohibited)
<b>Medicine</b>	Cheaper and more convenient than getting it in Copenhagen
<b>Small lock</b>	For lockers in hostels when you are travelling
<b>Swiss army knife</b>	Small knife for opening letters, screws or scissors
<b>Calculators</b>	Financial/scientific calculators for courses/exams
<b>An extra mobile phone</b>	In case your phone is stolen or broken (The same phones are sold more expensive there than in Hong Kong)
<b>Formal outfit</b>	For formal dinner, networking or case competition presentation
<b>Instant noodles</b>	Quick food while you are still settling down at the beginning

## IV. Useful Links and Websites

### CBS Exchange

All information about exchanging at CBS, including course catalog, visa permit and housing arrangement: <https://www.cbs.dk/en/international-opportunities/international-students/guestexchange-student>

### Booking.com

Book hostels for your travelling around Europe: <https://www.booking.com/>

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If you want more information about my exchange in Denmark, feel free to get my contact from SBM Exchange Team by emailing at [bmugexch@ust.hk](mailto:bmugexch@ust.hk)