



# Exchange Report

*Spring 2018*

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**Copenhagen  
Business School**  
HANDELSHØJSKOLEN

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# Monthly Activity Log

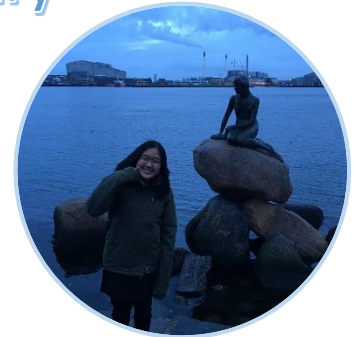


## January

After more than 10 hours, I and my schoolmates landed at the Copenhagen International Airport. We were exhausted, sleepy and yet excited. Our buddies picked us up in the airport with a warm smile and a Welcome Pack from CBS. This was my first time in Europe. An adventure filling with unexpected incidents and new people are about to begin.

## February

Since 2 of my courses are Q3 course and the rest of them are semester courses, all the courses had started in February. It was interesting to study outside Hong Kong as the vibes and people are very different here. In CBS, the earliest courses take place at 8 a.m. and I had one 8 a.m. course. Getting up in the early morning was painful, especially since it was freezing outside.



## March



The release of the exam timetable reminded me that it was time to prepare for my exams as most of my exams happened in April. One of my exams is an oral exam based on a group report, so I was busy with my group project. It was an interesting project in the sense that we had to find a local store, and then talk with the staff to identify a problem. After that we had to create a feasible solution with regards to the problem.

## April

All of my courses ended in April. I did 3 exams in April so most of the time this month was spent on revision. I wrote 2 essays for two courses, which really took me a lot of time to nail them. I revised with my friends for the oral exam as this was my first time encountering such kind of exam, so I was very nervous about. Also, I was told about my grade right after the oral exam. Luckily, I got a satisfied grade.



## May



I got some free time in May as I had 1 exam left. Therefore, I did a little bit of travelling in May. I went to France and some countries in Eastern Europe. These places were stunning, and I think that they were distinct from Northern Europe. During the trips, I met numerous awesome people from different background and countries. My trips offer me an excellent opportunity to experience cultural shocks.

# General Exchange Information

## Visa Procedures



Please be noted that visa application for Denmark is impossible in Hong Kong. In the past, people need to complete the process in Guangzhou. However, since mid-2017, students can visit the application center in Shenzhen instead. Please follow the instructions stated in CBS's emails that you are required to bring your ST1 application form and a preliminary acceptance letter from CBS. Also, apart from paying the online application fee, you need to pay another fee on the spot (a few thousand RMB), so it is advisable to bring enough RMB on the day. Then, The Danish Consulate General will issue an approval letter, in my case, within two weeks to the email address you provided.

After landing on Denmark, you have to obtain an official residence permit (pink card) and a Health Insurance card (yellow card) from either the International House Copenhagen or Frederiksberg Kommune, depending on your living location. It is the only way to get a CPR number. This number is essential for you to live in Denmark, say, for you to open a bank account in Denmark. When you leave Copenhagen, please do not forget to remove your residency before your departure.

## Orientation Activities



CBS offers a compulsory orientation program and an optional social program for exchange students. The former one is free of charge in which you will be introduced CBS, everything about exams and a guided tour to Copenhagen downtown. Although you need to pay for the latter one, the one-week evening activities will allow you to meet exchange students from different countries and backgrounds, be it undergraduate or master students. There will be a Danish crash course provided in a reasonable price.

CBS also organized a buddy program that every exchange student is paired up with a full-time CBS student, be it undergraduate, master, local or foreign students. Most of the buddies will pick you up from the airport and hand you over the welcome package in which general information of CBS and Denmark, a SIM card, and a dormitory key if you choose to stay in school's dormitory.

## Accommodations

You owe the choice to stay in an official dormitory or private housing. If you decided to go for the official one, it is advisable to enrol once you are allowed to enter the housing system. It is noteworthy that the official dormitory is not owned by CBS but it is shared among all university students in Copenhagen.

Therefore, in order to get allocated to the best while cheapest room, one should register as soon as possible, even a few-hours delay can cause you to get allocated to the worst room.

In the fall, there is always a lack of official rooms due to the tremendous amount of exchange students. Chances are, you are one of those unlucky ones. In this case, you should contact CBS's international student office first. There could be some rooms left, which they are previously reserved for postgraduates. If that doesn't work, you can search for private rooms. CBS provides a certified link for students to look for private rooms. I searched for my rooms on Facebook. Private housing could be much cheaper than official dormitory but there could be full of scams outside in the market. You could contact me for more experience and advice about renting a private room.



## Course registration

Scheduling an academic timetable is very flexible in CBS because course crash is not strictly prohibited. Instead, it is very common as the school releases the course timetable after everyone finishes their course registration. However, for the sake of an amazing study experience, severe course crash should be avoided. Please be noted you can possibly finish all the courses during the first quarter of the semester so you should pay attention to the course duration during course selection.



## Teaching & Assessment Methods

There are multiple assessment methods, including the typical essay assignment and sit-in exam. There is also a special kind of exam in which students are requested to defend their individual/ group products orally. This is the so-called oral exam, that the professors will ask a bunch of questions to students for 15 minutes. Grades are given and announced immediately at the end.



### Sports & Recreation Facilities



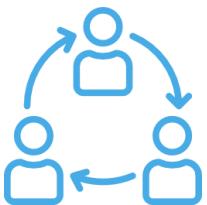
CBS has a very small gym underground, where you can find a climbing wall and a space for fitness classes. Friends of mine usually go to gyms outside because they possessed a greater variety of fitness equipment.

### Finance and Banking



Denmark is well-known as a cashless country that some stores even do not accept cash payments. Having a bank card in Denmark is convenient for bulky cash avoidant, money transfer from Hong Kong to Copenhagen, and transactions in other European countries. There are two main banks in Copenhagen: Danske and Nordea Bank. I was told that you can apply for Danske's bank card if you are on exchange in Copenhagen for one or more than one year. Hence, I applied for Nordea's bank card but it does not provide English mail and e-banking services but Danske Bank does.

### Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities



Unlike HKUST, in Spring, there is no any official recruitment of members in CBS. If you are interested in any social clubs, you can search for their Facebook page and look up for their recent activities. They usually welcome non-members. There is plenty of networking opportunities in CBS, you can even encounter representatives from HKUST case team during the CBS business case competition in Spring.



### International services and activity

It is highly recommended to join the CBS case competition if you want to meet people around the globe because this is a public competition. If you want something casual, you would be glad to participate in an array of activities organized by the student café.



### Health & Safety

Once you registered for your permanent residence successfully, you are granted one yellow card, which is the healthcare card. You can visit the doctor stated on the card for free, however, advance booking is still required. CBS will provide a booklet consisting of all the information that you have to know.



### Food

When it comes to famous Danish food, you might think of cookies. However, Danes are not that into Danish cookies. Instead, they are crazy about healthy food. When you go to a buffet restaurant, you can seldom see deep fried and oily food. Also, there are not a great variety of significant Danish dishes, but you can definitely find food from different countries.

Dining out is expensive in Denmark, so it is advisable to cook at home. If you miss Asian food, there are a selection of Asian restaurants and Asian markets.



### Climate

It is absolutely freezing in winter. Even though the temperature is not that low when compared to other Northern European countries but the strong wind might turn you into a popsicle. Due to the dry and cold climate, be aware of your skin condition. Do apply lip balm and moisturizing cream regularly. Snow can rarely be seen.

Weather becomes better in May, in which the temperature ranges from 9-15 degree Celsius.



## Transportation



Bicycles are the most widely used transportation vehicles in Copenhagen. Moreover, it is the cheapest way to commute. You would like to get a second-hand bicycle from some Facebook groups.

Nonetheless, riding a bicycle is quite painful in winter. A way to save money from taking the public transport is to get yourself a monthly pass or a transportation card, which is similar to our Octopus Card. It is noteworthy that the monthly pass can only be applied if you have a valid CPR.

## Communication



Although the mother tongue of Danes is Danish, an English speaker has no problem surviving in Denmark because everyone in Denmark speaks perfect English, even cashiers in supermarkets.

However, some websites and letters from certain institutions are only available in Danish so it is a good idea to make some Danish friends who can offer you a helping hand when you are in need.

# Items to bring

- ✓ Printed documents (Official acceptance letter from CBS, approval letter from the Consulate, Lease agreement etc.)
- ✓ Functional credit cards or bank cards
- ✓ A certain amount of Euro/ Danish Kroner
- ✓ Emergency medicine
- ✓ Personal items
- ✓ Sufficient amount of clothes for winter
- ✓ Lipstick and moisturizing cream for winter
- ✓ Camera
- ✓ Eco Bags (Similar to Hong Kong, plastic bags are charged in Copenhagen.)
- ✓ Some Asian food/ sauces (optional)

# Useful Links and Contacts

- 1) HKUST Business School - Exchange

<http://undergrad.bm.ust.hk/exchange/outbound-exchange/exchange-choices>

- 2) Copenhagen Business School -Exchange

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

- 3) Information about visa application and progress-checking

<http://www.vfsglobal.cn/denmark/China/index.html>

- 4) Information about residence permit application

<https://international.kk.dk/>

- 5) Nordea Bank

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