

Exchange Report

Copenhagen Business School



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BBA in Global Business and Information Systems

Spring 2018

Exchange Monthly Activity Log

February

The highlight for the first month is exploring the city in the orientation program. Since the spring batch consist of only exchange student, it is not as popular as the fall program, still, getting to know some people before school starts is helpful for you to get familiar with Denmark. Under the influence of the Denmark's strong indoor culture (mostly due to the freezing weather) plus the love of beer, the students in the orientation events do host a lot of parties in different bars around the town. Don't be afraid to join a few, some of the places have great decoration and furniture. Even though there wasn't much nighttime activities, I did enjoy the comfortable 'hygge-ly' indoor atmosphere and having the time to make food with my best buddy- Alex!

The courses that I took include international marketing, negotiation (& conflict management), Integrated Danish and Business Data Analytics. The overall workload was not that high and most of the time is flexible.

I believe that it is the best time to travel around the northern European countries to check on the snowy Mother Nature and polar light. For me, I went to the Santa Clause Village and it was one of the best destination I have been! Sailing through the ice cracks and skiing all the way down from the top of a mountain were a few of those experience that will be remembered for life. A big plus side of Copenhagen is that the airport is very near city center (~30 mins metro ride).

March

March was mostly focused on catching up with studies and participating in the CBS case competition. The mode of teaching is completely different compared with UST. Since there is only one final exam in CBS, with no further assignment/mid-term etc. Therefore, a lot of the school work is self-initiated study with quite some reading to be finished before class. I'd say the importance of reading materials is higher in CBS than back in UST, so do spend some time to eat get a glimpse of the key ideas in the reading so that you do not have to catch up all at once later in the exam period!

One of the largest case competition in the Northern European countries is the CBS Open Case Competition. It was really of great scale with more than 150 teams coming from different countries participating in the 36 hour case comp. I quite regretted not having the opportunity to team with some of the CBS students, yet, it was very fulfilling to be able to know more about my strength and weaknesses through the experience. If I had a second chance, I will definitely try to partner with some CBS students for the competition.

I also had the chance to visit Italy and see all the religious sites. I would recommend Bologna, Verona on top of the most popular sites (Rome/Florence), Milan Cathedral is also a must-see, remember to do some research and go early in the morning! Be really careful when you are in major tourist sites... Lost my GoPro while leaving it unattended for just 5 mins. Getting a police is not as easy there due to

language barriers, so I would recommend having someone reliable to travel together so that you can look after one another.

April

I joined an alternative Copenhagen tour to know more about the 'hippies' street and red light district in the city. It was really an eye-opening experience to know about the people's pursuit for alternative lifestyle and the social impact of legalizing drug usage. I really believe that exchange is the time for us to look into how other political/social phenomenon shape peoples' behavior and the local cultural beliefs.

April is also the time to prepare for exams! Most of my written assignments were due in April (some even in March), so most of my time was spent in Copenhagen. Since the weather is getting warmer, there were more day time, more time for outdoor exploration! The Barken theme park is a must-go for theme park lovers (rides after rides without waiting). And the Tivoli park is recommended for photo lovers (or someone who is looking for a good Ins. shot around town). Some of my friends also went to the rural area to find the 'six hidden giants', it was very pleasant to walk around the region and go to places outside of the city.

May

May is where my summer holiday starts. I planned for 3 ten-day trips around Europe, visiting London, several cities in Germany, Spain, Portugal and some cities in Eastern Europe. I really recommend you to plan early to get the best flight deals online (it will just skyrocket if you don't make the purchase in the first few search...) I really recommend going to cities that is less well-know (well-know =too many tourists). Then you can get to feel the authenticity and avoid walking from shopping area to another shopping area. Food in Eastern Europe cities (Austria, Czech, Hungary) is really good, do spend time grinding through the information about the local food place.

There is just too much to share for all the different places, I would just provide some useful links and sites to check out on the travelling information. Hope that would help with planning for the best route around Europe.

General Exchange Information

1) Visa Procedures

I got my Visa in Guangzhou only to find that Denmark opened its Shenzhen Visa office last year. The office of the Shenzhen Office is: Room 11, 25/F, Jintian Rd, GangXia, Futian Qu, Shenzhen Shi, Guangdong Sheng, China, 518000 (Tel: +86-755-83229026). It was a smooth process, as long as you have your ST1 form & acceptance letter (from the email) and follow the instruction on the ST1 form.

2) Orientation Activities

You will have an exchange buddy when you first arrive Copenhagen. My buddy was super nice who picked me up at the airport late night at 12. He also passed me the orientation package which consists of some basic information about the school and a free local sim card (refer to communication on how to activate it!).

The school will have a week of orientation activities in the week before school starts. It consists of two parts, mandatory orientation events that consist of seminars on the academic, activities and basic information. Together with a complimentary orientation event held by a student committee, which consists of some cultural events in the afternoon.

For me, I bought the student-held orientation activity package for a total of ~650kr. It is a bit expensive, but I'd say it is the best way to meet with some of the exchange students. The best events in the package are the folk dance event and a night cruise around the harbor. Yet, you can still participate in the buddy dinner,

3) International Services & Activities

The International office was very helpful during the entire process. I heard that there are cases of people who applied to the same accommodation directly by writing them an email before the online system opens. They reply email really quick so don't be afraid to contact them through email.

4) Accommodations

Accommodation was one of the largest things that bothered me when I was still preparing for the exchange. To start with, the schools' housing system was not so flexible, housing prices for dormitory can vary from 3000kr/ month to 7500kr/ month. Among the school's residence, Tietgen, Nimbus were two of the best accommodations with great facilities. You get to be

5) Courses Registration

The course registration system is quite different compared to UST, but don't worry too much about it. You will first pick from a website to indicate your preference. They stated that the maximum number you can pick was 4, but if you want to (need to) pick more, you can just send the international office an email to register for more. Just remember, if you need anything, just ask the international office.

6) Teaching & Assessment Methods

Most of the assessment was just written product at the end of the semester. I have one course which has a group written project together with an individual oral exam, and the Danish course is a 20 minute oral examination. For those with individual oral exam, the grades will be out at the end of the exam. While for those with just the written product, time might vary a lot.

7) Sports & Recreation Facilities

I did not explore the sports and recreation facilities... I think there is a sports center nearby? Most of my friends just get membership at Fitness World.

8) Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)

You can open a bank account at the Nordea Bank right next to the school. I went to other bank branches and somehow they do not allow me to open an account as a student. Denmark (Europe) is very convenient with card payment, so the debit card is quite useful on a day to day basis. You can also do P2P transfer with Mobile pay app.

9) Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

I did not participate in social clubs but I heard that the choir is very opening to foreign students. As for networking opportunities. There is a lot of on-going events on Facebook, I would recommend trying to ask for some student event posting group online as there is not much information around the campus. There is also a large career events in the

10) Health & Safety

You will register a yellow medical card when you are applying for the resident card. Then you can contact the registered medical practitioner when you have a medical problem. I did not have the experience but some of my friends said it was quite hard to get a face-to-face appointment if it is just a cold or minor problems. Still, seeing a doctor is free in Denmark(not a dentist).

11) Food

There is not that much variety when it comes to dining out. Plus, the price is way higher than dining out in Hong Kong. The food price in the supermarket is more or less the same. For me, most of the time, I'll just cook with some of my friends at their dormitory. You can get cheap food from all around the world together with some great friendship!

12) Transportation

Denmark's public transport is a bit complicated. You should check out the rejsekort website to get to know more about the "zone system". Once you have an rejsekort, it will be easier to get to everywhere, just remember to check-in and check-out whenever you get on/off any transportation.

13) Climate

February-March: outdoor is quite cold and windy, get your gloves ready! It can get to -4°C to -6°C for some day, but the fully-covered in-door heating system whenever you go into a building will keep you warm enough 24/7. The daytime is short, from 830am-5pm or even shorter. So there is not much activities outside, just enjoy the warm 'hygge' indoor environment.

April- May: more day time (5 am- 8 pm) and you can stop wearing heavy coat when you are outside. It's the best time in the year to go outside and explore around the city.

14) Communication

In the welcoming package provided by the school, there is a sim-card provided. Then you can just follow the instruction on the package on how to activate it and recharge it monthly. I purchased the cheapest 99kr monthly data package for 35GB of data (basically unlimited) (Looks like now you can get 60GB for the same price...). It also included some international call time so you can also make calls back to HK. For roaming around Europe, you have to activate the roaming service with 50~kr online and you get 4GB of data around Europe. (Remember to disable the auto top-up after activating roaming)

Items to Bring

<input type="checkbox"/>	ST1 form from school email	<input type="checkbox"/>	Passport
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sweater	<input type="checkbox"/>	Big coat
<input type="checkbox"/>	Blankets	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bed Sheets
<input type="checkbox"/>	Phone Charger	<input type="checkbox"/>	Laptop
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sweater	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hand Cream
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cash	<input type="checkbox"/>	Medicine
<input type="checkbox"/>	Non-slippery shoes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Warm gloves
<input type="checkbox"/>	Warm hat	<input type="checkbox"/>	Slippers

Useful Links and Contacts

<https://www.rejsekort.dk/>

Rejsekort- all you need to know for transportation

www.lebara.dk/

Lebara- mobile network service provider

Useful apps

MobilePay

Nordea Mobile Bank

Rejseplanen

DOT Mobilpendlerkort- Monthly travel card app (good for those who have to take metro/bus to school everyday, saved a lot of money for me)

DBA- Buying a bike (second-hand goods trading platform)