

FALL 2018



# EXCHANGE REPORT

*COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL  
DENMARK*

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## A. Monthly Journal:

### August

I arrived Copenhagen on 24<sup>th</sup> August and was welcomed by a perfect sunny day and friendly Danes. In the first few days of my arrival, I spent a lot of time to get to know the area around my dorm.

I joined the introduction week social package that I met a lot of new exchange friends. There were also sightseeing tours bringing us around to see the best part of the city!



### September

After having a lot of fun in the introduction week, our school had officially started on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Some of my courses started pretty early at 8am, which were so different from that in HKUST. Their teaching style were similar to HKUST, but they required more take-home readings over the weekend.

On the same month, I joined the Denmark tour organized by CBS International Student Group. We went to other major cities and tourist spots in the country. My exchange friends and I enjoyed the trip a lot. I also went to Croatia and Sweden after the Denmark tour – what a fruitful month!

### October

Mid-October was the study break week to end Q1 of the semester. Since my exam took place in early November, I grasped this opportunity to travel around Europe. My friend and I went on a trip to Ireland, where we saw the beautiful Cliffs of Moher! My Irish friend on CBS exchange was home for a break by chance so he brought us around to experience Ireland in a local way.

As my Asian friends and I were craving for hotpot, we organized a hotpot gathering with the Asian community in CBS. It was quite interesting to meet Asians from all around the world.



## November

After studying hard for my 4-hour sit-in written exam in early November, my friends and I went to Iceland as a retreat. The highlight of the trip was the glacier hiking, which we saw the sunset on an ice mountain. I had my Danish oral exam in mid-November. Even though Danish is one of the most difficult languages in the world as the pronunciation is difficult and the grammar is different from English, it was fun learning it while you're in Denmark.



## December

The week before Christmas Eve, our dorm had a Christmas party and some gift exchange activities as our last dorm gathering to wrap up our exchange journey. Before leaving the beautiful city, I spent most of the time fare-welling my friends and walked around Copenhagen.

Although it's sad to say goodbye to this beautiful city and friends, I am so grateful with this experience, and I believe I will see you again, Copenhagen!

## Biggest Lesson Learnt:

After staying four months in Denmark, there are several main lessons I have learnt.

1. Every friendship requires both side to make effort to initiate and maintain, especially in a cross-cultural environment
2. Cherish every single moment you have as that may be your last time chilling in this coffee shop, seeing such a beautiful view, or talking to your good friend
3. There are more to see in the rest of the world



I am fortunate enough to explore the globe through HKUST academic exchange programme. Reflecting on my experience, this was in fact a great journey to develop myself personally and widen my horizon coming to Europe. I would definitely recommend everyone to go abroad for a semester.

## **B. General Exchange Information:**

### **Visa Procedure**

You will receive emails from CBS regarding visa application procedures. Since the nearest Danish embassy is in Guangzhou, you have to bring all the necessary documents, photos and printed forms & copies there. The application process will take up to 2 months, so apply as soon as you have received the information from CBS. For further information about visa application, feel free to check the official visa application website out: <http://www.denmarkvac.cn/contactus.html>

### **Orientation Activities**

CBS usually offers two types of social orientation activities before the start of the semester. The first package is the “Danish Crash Course Week”, which includes one-week Danish lessons and after-class social events. Since that was held the week before I arrived, I didn’t participate in any of these activities. The second package is “Introduction Week Social Package”, which I strongly encourage everyone to join as you can meet a lot of new friends there. This package costed me 575DKK and it included Danish traditional folk dance, canal tour, Danish movie night and welcoming dinner.

During my stay in Copenhagen, there were two tours arranged by CBS – Denmark and Berlin trip. CBS will send you an email regarding the tours before your arrival. I joined the Denmark tour to Aalborg and Aarhus - second and third largest cities in Denmark after Copenhagen. I experienced the simple side of the country, which have a stark contrast with the capital of hustle. Unfortunately, I was in Croatia that I could not join the Berlin trip but the feedbacks were good.

### **International Services & Activities**

The CBS International Office is very helpful and they will handle all the enquires from exchange students. They provided excellent support before and during the exchange. Make sure you do not miss any of the important emails from the international office. The office will also assign you with a local exchange buddy that help you with local integration by picking you up in the airport/somewhere in the city area and help you settle down.

### **Accommodations**

You will receive emails from CBS housing office about the student housing application procedure. I would suggest you set a reminder for the online application date since the competition for CBS dorm is very fierce. Even if you miss the application date, you can try to email CBS housing office to ask if there is any dorm vacancy left / private housing recommendation.

I lived in Svanevej, which is near Nørrebro train station and 10-mins bike away from CBS. What I liked the most about the dorm is the big common room, kitchen and rooftop, where a lot of meaningful conversation and fun gatherings took place. Yet, the area near Svanevej have a lot of new immigrants and some homeless people around. If you prioritize social life over the condition around the dorm, Svanevej will be your choice.

## Course Registration

CBS academic office will send you an email with detailed information regarding the course registration procedure. Check your email frequently and read the detailed instructions.

There are many courses for economics major students in HKUST. Students can normally take four courses a semester, but you can request for overload to take up to five classes. Unlike HKUST's class timetable, CBS allow students to have class schedule overlap.

## Teaching & Assessment Methods

Lecture teaching style is similar to that in HKUST. However, the assessment method in CBS is very different from HKUST that their final examination paper counts 100% of the total grade. Even if you fail, there will be re-take examination a few weeks after your first attempt. We observed that students in CBS are less stressed because of these policies.

## Sports & Recreation Facilities

CBS is a city-university that they only have a power-lifting room in the campus. Friends around normally purchased a monthly gym subscription at a private fitness centre with affordable price. I bought a student swimming pass, which costs 450 DKK for the pool 10 minutes away from my dorm.

For recreational activities, every Thursday there is a party in campus organized by a campus bar called "Nexus". At the start of the semester, there will be a huge party organized by Nexus, which I do strongly encourage you to go to experience the work hard play hard culture in Denmark.

## Finance & Banking

Danish Kroner (DKK) is the official currency in Denmark. You can open a bank account there and apply for a debit card for your day to day payment. The major banks in Denmark charge you a certain amount of fee to create a bank account. If you wish to have a bank account for free, try to explore the less popular options such as Arbejdernes Landsbank, Lan Spar and Spar Nord.

An alternative to withdraw cash is through Euronet ATM machines, which are highly available in the city area. You can withdraw money with your Hong Kong bank card that has a Union Pay logo. Do not forget to activate the overseas Union Pay cash withdrawal function before heading to Denmark.

## Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

There was a club promotion day in the first month of the semester where all the social clubs will set up a booth to recruit new members. I personally recommend you join AIESEC in CBS, an international youth-run organization developing leadership skills in young people through overseas internships and volunteering exchanges. For other clubs, there were a lot of Facebook events promotion. Choose events that you are interested in and sign up online - you might be meet some like-minded friends there that will make your exchange experience a blast!

In mid-October, there was a career day, which was similar to career mosaic in HKUST. Other than the career day, there were many recruitment talks organized by CBS career centre for you to network. Since some of the workshops were in Danish only, you have to double check before signing up.

## Health & Safety

Tap water in Denmark is safe to drink, so no worries! In case you are sick, bring along the health insurance card issued by the Denmark government that you will receive after your CPR number registration. You can also purchase a half-year travel insurance before your departure from Hong Kong to claim other medical expenses if see doctor when you are travelling in other countries.

Copenhagen is generally a very safe city. In fact, during my time on exchange, there were several shooting incidents in districts near my dorm. Some cars were burnt during that period as well. Other than that, I felt very safe staying in Copenhagen. Given that said, you should keep an eye on your personal belongings and stay alert with things happening around you.

## Food

There are not a lot of varieties in Danish cuisines. The most Danish dishes would be open sandwiches, draft beer and Danish pastry. Dining out is expensive in Denmark, and therefore most of the exchange students went for the more affordable options to cook by themselves, or eat in CBS canteen.

## Transportation

Biking culture is very popular in Copenhagen. You can either buy a second-hand bike upon arrival or rent your bike via Swapfiets, which provides maintenance service and free delivery. Buses and metro are very convenient within Copenhagen district as well. You can apply for a “Rejserkort” card, which is equivalent to Octopus card in Hong Kong. Furthermore, there are no check-in/ out gates in all the metro stations. Remember to tap the card when you are entering/ leaving the station as you will be fined for 750DKK if you forgot to tap when security guards check your card.

## Climate

During my four months stay in Copenhagen from August to December, the weather varied a lot, from the warm and beautiful weather every day in the summertime to the windy, rainy and cold winter. Prepare enough warm clothes if you do not get used to cold weather.

## Communication

You will receive a free SIM card from the CBS welcoming package that your buddy will give you on the day of your arrival. You need to top up your card monthly for the data plan. During my exchange, I spent 99 DKK per month for 10 hours of call + 60GB of 4G data with 4GB inclusive for roaming in EU countries – good deal!

### C. Items to Bring:

Apart from basic items such as clothes, shoes and cash, etc., following are the items that I would strongly suggest you to bring/ something I regret not bringing:

Items	Amount
Adapters	2 round pins
An extra phone	In case your phone is stolen or broken (tax makes everything expensive)
Calculators	Some CBS exams only allow financial calculators: HP10bII+ or Texas BA II Plus
Formal outfit	For formal dinner, networking or presentation
HEATTECH	Bring sufficient amount – it will be freezing in the winter!
ID photos	2-4 copies
Small lock	1 for locker in hostel when you are travelling
Snacks	In case you are craving for snacks from home!

### D. Useful Links and Contacts:

- **CBS Exchange:** All information about exchanging at CBS, including student housing, course registration can be found at this link - <https://www.cbs.dk/en/international-opportunities/international-students/guestexchange-student>
- **Emergency:** Call [+45 112](tel:+45112) in case of any emergency
- **Flixbus:** Explore Europe by bus - <https://global.flixbus.com/>
- **Hostel.com:** Staying in hostel is a good way to save money for your Europe trips. Hostel.com is a good option to find a right hostel to stay - <https://www.hostelworld.com/>
- **Skyscanner:** A good website to find cheap flight tickets - <https://www.skyscanner.com>

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*If you wish to learn more information about my exchange in CBS, feel free to get my contact from SBM Exchange Team by emailing at [bmugexch@ust.hk](mailto:bmugexch@ust.hk). Enjoy your exchange!*