

Exchange Report

*Copenhagen Business School
Denmark (Fall 2018)*

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Monthly Journal

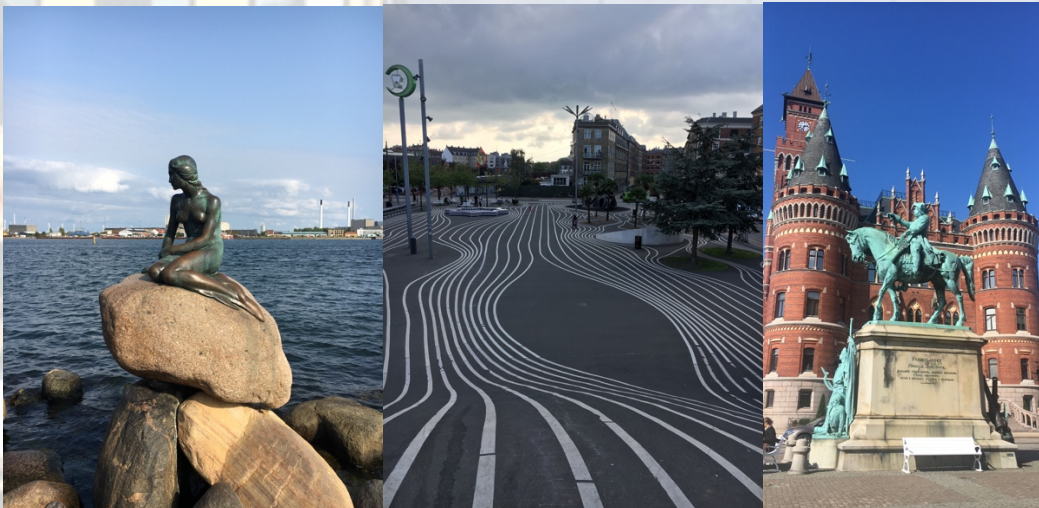
August 2018

27th -1st Sep– Arrived Copenhagen which I missed the crash course week social package (20th – 24th) but I joined the introduction week social package (27th Aug – 1st Sep). All these activities were organized by the CBS Exchange Crew. For the introduction week social package, there were events including stand-up comedy, Danish folk dancing, canal tour, buddy party, movie night and the welcome dinner as well. Although these packages are not free of charge, I would still recommend you join these activities to meet some new friends, know more about the Danish culture and have some FUN!



September

3rd – Start of the semester. The course schedule in Copenhagen Business School is quite different from UST. Some courses would only be carried out in half semester and I took a course called Entrepreneurial Finance which started at the second half semester. Each course only has around 1 to 2 classes each week, so I have an open schedule to explore the city after classes. I went to the tourist attractions like Nyhavn, Superkilen and the Little Mermaid. One of the weekends I went to Sweden and accidentally saw the Queen Margarete of Denmark when we were about to take the ship to Sweden.

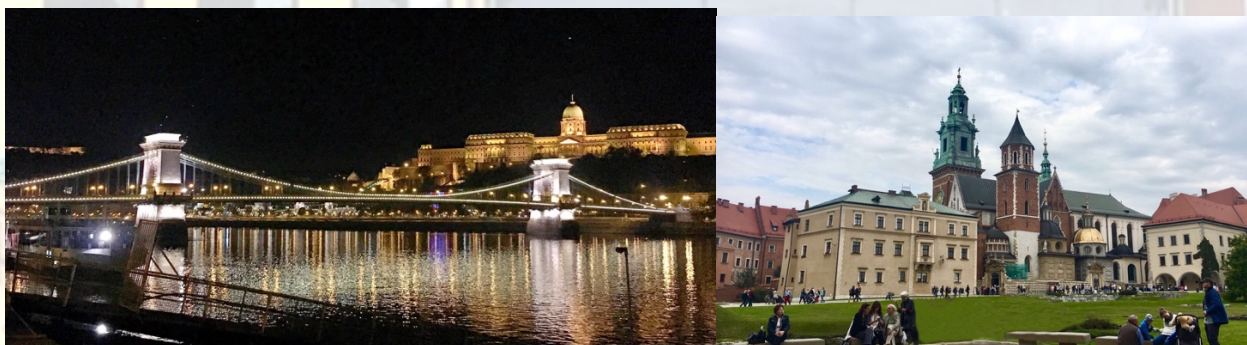


October

Apart from study, I spent most of my time in travelling in this month. First, I went to Germany which is quite near to Copenhagen. I started my trip from Berlin to Frankfurt, then to Mannheim and visited Munich at last. After visiting many cities in Germany, they gave me different feelings. Berlin is a city full of history. Some tourist attractions just like the Berlin Wall Memorial, Topography of Terror and Checkpoint Charlie also reminded me the sad stories behind this place. Frankfurt is a bit similar to Hong Kong which is the financial centre of Germany. In Munich, the beauty of this place cannot use word to describe and gave me a cheerful feeling. I also went to Oktoberfest which was a beer festival in Munich. It was kind of fun that you would see people wearing costume to join the carnival.



After that, I went to Krakow, a city in Poland, and I love this city so much, especially their old town area. This town has many stories behind it which are quite interesting to hear about that. If you are going to Krakow, you can join the free walking tour. I think this is the best way to truly know about the place you travel. The second reason I love this place is that the food is super yummy and cheap. Such a low price can already satisfy my appetite. Then I went to Budapest in Hungary directly from Krakow. I especially enjoyed the views along the river and the sauna.



CBS has a study week for us to revise and take a rest. During that week, I went to Amsterdam in Holland and Brussel in Belgium. Amsterdam is also a good place to visit. Remember to go and have a look of the windmill there! Brussel is definitely a paradise for a chocolate-love like me. Although their chocolate is quite expensive, it is also exciting to just have a look of their chocolate.



My last destination in October is Norway. It is a trip full of surprises. I went to Bergen, Oslo. The first thing I love about Norway is the Norway in a Nutshell. I spent one day for this and kept on taking train, bus and ferry. The views are just fabulous and unforgettable. After that, I also went to Lofoten. I was so lucky that there was someone know how to drive. Otherwise, it was not able to reach those picturesque places. I was so lucky to see the aurora in this trip. I would never forget how exciting I was when I saw the aurora.



On 31th October, I also went to Tivoli to enjoy the Halloween atmosphere there!



November

This month I did not go to trip at all. I spent my time to study and did exercise instead. As I knew that I won't have much time to work out when I go back to Hong Kong, exchange is the best time for me to turn it into a habit. So I went to gym every day. Other time I would go and explore Denmark.

December

Exam month. I had three examinations and so I spent most of my time to study. After the exam, I continued with my trip and went to Prague and Vienna.



January 2019

Almost time to leave Copenhagen. Before that, I went to Venice and Switzerland. On 11th Jan, I left Copenhagen and went to Rome to spend my last day in Europe!



General Exchange Information

1. Visa Procedures

For the visa application to Denmark, it is better to apply earlier as it takes time to process your application and send the visa to your home. In case, there are some accident in between. You still have time to contact with the Visa Application Centre before your departure. So I would advise you to apply earlier. If you have read the exchange report of the previous exchange student in CBS, you may see that the nearest office for visa application to Denmark is Guangzhou. The good news is you can go to Shenzhen for visa application right now. But make sure to read carefully the instruction in their website. You need to pay part of the visa before you go to their office then you can go directly to their office during their office hour without any prior booking. Also, double check the documents that they required before heading to their office.

2. Orientation Activities

There are some compulsory talks before the start of the semester. They would provide general information about the campus, the examination grading scale and the Danish culture too.

CBS also has an exchange crew to organize the orientation activities for the students. However, you would need to buy the social package in order to participate in their activities, including Danish folk dance, stand-up comedy and movie night etc.

3. International Services and Activities

Contact with CBS International Office if you encounter any problem regarding your exchange. For the accommodation issues, you should contact CBS Housing Department instead. International Office would also recruit Exchange Crew Team to organize activities for you. You can join their orientation package and the trip to other cities too. Refer to their emails, you will find all the information including date, time and price of various events.

4. Accommodation

Copenhagen Business School have several dormitories for you to choose. But they have limited number which mean you may not be able to live in the hall if you are unlucky. For me, I was allocated to a big and single room which was a bit too pricy for me. So I decided to reject it and chose to rent an apartment with another student from UST. If you were not able to get a dorm, the private housing officer from CBS would help you to find an accommodation by adding you in a Facebook group. They would post different housing options to the group then you can choose among the choices.

My accommodation was not found through their Facebook page. It was an apartment lend by a student from CBS who was going to exchange in that period, and she was

introduced by a past CBS exchange student in UST. My friend and I shared the monthly rent and each of us paid 2750 DKK/month which was pretty cheap when comparing to the dormitory fee of CBS. However, you may have more social life and know more people if you live in dormitory as there are some activities to participate. So I would also recommend you to live in the dormitory to know more friends during your exchange.

5. Course Registration

CBS allows exchange students to take 4 courses during the semester, but you can still apply credit overload after getting the approval from HKUST and CBS. Each course counts as 7.5 ECTS which means exchange student have to take 30 ECT in total. Here are the courses that I took during my exchange:

BHAAV6009U Economic Growth and Decline of Firms, Industries and Nations

BASPO1002U Asian Economic Organization and Competitiveness

BHAAV1016U Quantitative Methods

6. Teaching and Assessment Methods

The courses I took in CBS are Economics and Finance, and I think their teaching methods are quite similar to HKUST. They would teach new content and add a session for doing exercise in each lecture. The most impressive one is a course called “Quantitative Method” as I was able to apply the knowledge I learnt during the lecture by running a software called Stata. It is much more practical than just learning the knowledge from book.

The assessment methods are quite different form HKUST. Four of my courses also have different methods for examination. However, all of them were also carried out digitally and the final grade were only based on one task.

“Asian Economic Organization and Competitiveness” only required me to set up my own research topic, then I needed to carry out the research on my own. So the final grade is only depended on my research paper.

For “Quantitative Method”, it had two parts of assessment. The first part is finished at home by using the software Stata to run the program and find the data. It was carried out two days before the sit-in exam. After that, you needed to bring the result of the data to the sit-in exam and answer the remaining questions.

The examination of “Entrepreneurial Finance” allowed us to use all the textbook, notes and the internet to search for the answer. However, it was pretty difficult when comparing to the closed-book exam and marks would be deducted if you answered wrongly for the multiple choices.

“Economic Growth and Decline of Firms, Industries and Nations” was similar to the assessment method of HKUST which also had “true or false” session and long questions.

7. Finance and Banking

The cost of living in Copenhagen is relatively high, so I would prefer cooking by myself instead of dining out. However, they also have several supermarkets which have different price level. If you want to save money, I would recommend you shop in “Netto” and “Fakta”. Here I can share a list showing the price level of the grocery stores which was prepared by the Exchange Crew team in CBS.



Some exchange student would open a bank account in Nordea and it is free of charge. For me, I did not open a local bank account. I withdrew Danish Krone from the ATM once and use credit card afterward. Withdrawing money from the ATM from the bank account from Hong Kong would charge you fee and different banks have different handling fee and its own limit. So better check before you use this service. As ATM with Unionpay logo is not easy to find in the Scandinavian countries, for your reference, I found an ATM near to central station which allowed you to withdraw money by Unionpay. You can go and have a look but remember to enable the oversea withdrawal in your local bank account beforehand.

8. Social Clubs and Recreational Facilities

There are many clubs in CBS which allow students to choose based on their own preference. The club promotion day would be organized at the end of September for the first semester. Before that, they would include a booklet showing all the clubs in the welcome package. You can have a look and mark down the clubs that you are interested, so you can go to their counter directly during that day. If you want to join the club, you only need to follow their Facebook page and they would post some activities on it. Some activities may not be free of charge, so you can consider about the price and also the time of the activities before signing up.

For the sport-lovers, CBS do not provide gym room to students free of charge. If you want to join the gym in school, you need to register and pay for it. For me, I did not live near to school and so I joined a plan outside called “Fitness World” and their facilities are well-equipped. You can find their gym rooms in many locations and they charge differently based on the locations. The gym room near to my home is quite far away from the city center, so it is cheaper, and I paid 79 DKK per month only. If you want to join, remember to bring your CPR number for registration and cancel the plan one month before you leave Copenhagen.

9. Health and Safety

Visit the doctor in Copenhagen required the CPR number, so you should register for the CPR number earlier if possible. It is also safe to drink the tap water directly so people would get the water directly in the washroom. When you drink the water, you may see a thin layer of white substances. No need to worry as they are just calcium. If you boil the water, it would become more obvious. But it is safe to drink the calcium-rich water from the tap.

10. Food

Go and try some Danish food as they are quite different from the Asian food. The most famous one should be open sandwich. It is a slice of sandwich with different ingredient on top of it. I tried the one and it costed me around 100 DKK which is pretty expensive. The whole thing is cold for surprise, but it is still worth trying!

They also have a kind of bread called xxx. It is sour in taste and full of fiber which is good for health. You can buy it in the supermarket and it is quite easy to identify as you can smell the taste of sour from the bread. For me, I am not used to their taste at first, so I prefer the white bread more.

11. Transportation

For the flight information, I bought the discount ticket from Cathay Pacific which is a cooperation between CX and HKUST. I chose to take the flight from Hong Kong to Copenhagen directly and return to Hong Kong from Rome. You can change the date of flight for free, but the departure place cannot be altered.

The transportation in Copenhagen is quite expensive. For me, I chose to bike. Copenhagen is known as city of cyclist, you can see bikes everywhere and the path for cycling is well-constructed. So it is safe to ride in the city and it is definitely the best way to experience their culture and sightseeing for sure. I rent a bike from a company called Swapfiets. They provide student discount for the exchange students which I only needed to pay for 150dkk per month. It is much cheaper than taking the public transport and much healthier for sure!

If you want to take the bus and metro in this city, I would recommend you to buy a transport card called Rejsekort. It is similar to Octopus card in Hong Kong but you need to ensure there is a minimal 70 DKK in the card. Otherwise, you need to top up the card to use it again. You can buy and top up the card in specific shops or convenient stores. You can search for the shops which have these services in their website. It is much cheaper to take the transport by using this card than buying paper tickets. The transportation in Copenhagen is charged based on different zones. So you do not need to check out when you change the transport. Just like if you need to first take the bus then the metro to reach your destination, you do not need to check out in the bus. You only need to check in again in the metro station and check out afterward. But remember to check out once

you reach your destination. Otherwise, it will deduct more from your card directly. You may also consider buying the monthly ticket for all the transportation if you need to take the transportation frequently.

12. Climate

The climate in Copenhagen is always windy and cold during the winter time so it is better to prepare more thick clothes. Rainy days are also common in Copenhagen, and half of the year is raining. But most rainy days are in September to December which is different from Hong Kong. If you want to bike, it is better to bring a waterproof jacket with hat. You can also see Danish people love to wear that instead of holding an umbrella. Although snowing is not too frequent in Copenhagen, there are still chances to snow during December.

The weather is quite dry here and I was not used to it at the beginning. So I got sore throat for around two weeks and needed to keep taking throat lozenge. If you worry about that, you can prepare one pack before going to Copenhagen.

13. Item to Bring

- Passport/ID
- Danish Krone and Euro
- Visa
- Camera
- Charger
- Suits
- Sunglasses
- Swimming suits

14. Useful Links and Contacts

- School website: <https://www.cbs.dk/en>
- Exchange Program: <https://www.cbs.dk/en/international-opportunities/international-students/guestexchange-student>
- Place to visit in Copenhagen: <https://www.visitcopenhagen.com/copenhagen-tourist>