

The background image is a vibrant photograph of a harbor in Copenhagen, Denmark. In the foreground, the white masts and rigging of a large sailboat are visible on the left. The water is a calm, light blue. In the background, a row of colorful, multi-story buildings with red-tiled roofs lines the waterfront. Two more sailboats with tall masts are docked or moving through the harbor. The sky is a clear, bright blue with a few wispy clouds.

Exchange Report

Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

FALL 2018-2019

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BBA Information Systems and Marketing

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Part I -- Monthly Log

August 2018



I arrived in Copenhagen on 25th August and my exchange buddy from CBS picked me up at the Copenhagen Airport. She then brought me to my rented apartment and showed me some good places to visit in Copenhagen. The orientation week began on 27th, I participated in the exchange student social program and had a lot of fun visiting the city center, watching Danish folk dance show and having a dinner party with all other exchange students. I also met my buddy group and had a great time with them learning their culture.

September 2018



The semester started on the first week of September and I attended my classes. The teaching approach was so different, which also two-third of the lesson was group discussion and presentation. I enjoyed the atmosphere in the lesson a lot as everyone seemed to be very relaxed to express their opinions freely. On the days without classes, I had a short trip to Italy before the weather got colder. I visited Florence, La Spezia and Venice. The weather there was so nice and sunny, I had a great time embracing the beautiful sceneries.

October 2018

During this month, I traveled to other European countries nearby with my new friends. In mid-October, there was a one week break in between the quarter 1 and 2 of the semester that there were no classes at all. We took this time to travel to Amsterdam and Brussels to enjoy ourselves. The windmill villages in Amsterdam was so amazing that we took so many photos there. After the one-week trip, I returned to Copenhagen to prepare for my exam. As one of my courses ended at quarter 1, my exam was held right after the break. It was a 24-hour home assignment which I got the question from the online digital exam system and was required to submit my 8-12 pages essay within a 24-hour limit. It was quite tough and demanding, but I still enjoyed it as I have never experienced this form of exam before.



November 2018



As it is near to the end of semester, the courses were getting more intense, so I spent most of the time this month to catch up with my studies and did not go travelling as much. The weather got colder and colder this month, so we thought it might be a good idea to have some Asian gathering and have a hotpot together. It was a great time spending with other Asian exchange students sharing similar culture.

December 2018

It comes to the end of the semester and I took an oral exam this month. It was an oral defense on my written project report. I have never had this form of exam format, so I was quite nervous when I entered the examination room, facing two examiners all alone. Yet, as I was well prepared for the possible questions they might ask, I manage to answer confidently. After all the exams, it's time to have a longer trip to travel around Europe with my friends. We visited Norway, Sweden and Finland in the end of December and had a white Christmas together.



January 2019

After traveling around Europe, I returned to Copenhagen to rest a bit and to prepare for returning to Hong Kong. I spent the last few days to explore the city for the last time and returned to Hong Kong in mid-January.

Part II -- General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

As there is no Danish Consulate located in Hong Kong, so it is a must to complete the visa application in Mainland China (the nearest one is located in Shen Zhen). There are a few steps for a visa application, firstly you have to file an application through the Danish Registry website, then you can head to the nearest Consulate to submit your biometrics. In both procedures, you are required to pay a fee which in total it is around HKD4000. The details and required documents will be listed in the email from CBS, so make sure to check carefully what the requirements are and prepare in advance so that you won't have to miss anything. I would recommend applying for the visa as soon as possible, i.e. when you receive the acceptance letter from CBS, as it takes a long time for processing during peak season. If you apply early enough, it only takes a week or two until you receive the visa.

Orientation Activities

CBS offers 1 week of compulsory activities that all exchange students must attend, they are day-time activities including briefing session, campus tour and city tour. You may as well consider purchasing the Exchange Social Package, which is for the night-time activities. I would highly recommend this package as it gathers almost all of the exchange students and provide some very Danish activities. However, it is quite pricey (around 600DKK) so you may have to consider if you are interested or not,

International Services & Activities

CBS offers an Exchange Buddy Program to exchange students, which you will be paired up with a student who signed up voluntarily. Your buddy will contact you prior to your arrival and they will usually guide you or even pick you up. They will also arrange buddy dinners with your 'buddy group' which you will have the opportunity to socialize and meet more exchange students and their buddies. The International Office of CBS will be in charge of any exchange matters and you will receive emails from them often. Besides, there is a group of student coordinators which organize social activities for exchange students, they are always friendly and willing to help.

Accommodations

The application for accommodation is done via an online system on a first-come-first-served basis. There will not be email notification in advance to remind you the time to start the application so you should pay attention to these details yourself. You should be reminded that there are inadequate number of rooms available to cater all the exchange students, so you should be click into the application link immediately once you receive the email. If you are unable to get the accommodation offered by CBS like me, you can either apply for Private Housing through CBS which some local

landlords offer a room in their place to you (also applicable to those who would like to immerse into local culture by staying in a local family!); or you can search for a place to rent through social media platforms (like some Facebook groups) or online rental platforms. However, if you would like to search for housing through social media platforms, be alert to spams and always seek for assistance from the SBM office if needed.

Courses Registration

CBS requires student to select 4 courses (7.5 ECTS each) for each semester, but if you think necessary, you can always apply overload for one more course by providing proof from HKUST. A key thing to note is that you will have to choose the courses before knowing the schedule, so it is very likely to have clashes between courses. In addition, you will not be notified for a clash, as it is allowed in the system of CBS. Therefore, once the schedule is released, you should check immediately if there are clashes (It is suggested by CBS not to have clashes more than four times for a course for one semester) so you can swap to other courses as soon as possible. In my case, I have almost all of the classes clashed between two courses, so I ended up swapping to another course that I had fewer clashes with other courses.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

Class sizes can vary in CBS, there are classes with 40 people and also lectures with over 250 people. Generally, the classes at CBS is usually more interactive which half of the class time is used for discussion and students would present their ideas right away after a short discussion. It provides a lot of opportunities for students to actively involved and apply the theories and concepts in their presentations. As for the exams, there are usually three types including take-home assignment, sit-in exams and oral exams. For take-home assignment, students are usually given a time frame to complete a report and submit online. As for the sit-in exams, it is taken in a digital exam format which the exam hall is not located in the campus but a separate exam hall far away from the city center so beware of it. Another popular exam method is oral, which is unique for CBS. Students will be assessed by orally answering questions from the examiners or to defend their written products with 20 minutes, grades will be given right after the exam. Oral exams are quite challenging and makes you nervous, but it is also a very unique and exciting experience at CBS.

Sports and Recreation Facilities

There is no school gym at CBS, but students usually sign up for gym memberships at nearby facilities. There are a lot of options nearby and around the city center, so it would not be difficult to look for one if you would like to sign up for that. There are also many coffee shops and restaurants near the

campus for recreation facilities. Besides, if you look for parties, there is a night party at CBS main campus every Thursday night for students to enjoy and relax.

Finance & Banking

Denmark is regarded as a cashless country, so most people would use credit cards or debit cards for expenses, but credit card usually charges certain percentage of service charges. Therefore, I would recommend applying for a debit card and bring it with you. You may also consider registering for a bank account in the local Bank after receiving your CPR number, but you may have to wait for a long time until your bank account is activated, so I didn't have a bank account for myself during the exchange. Instead, I used my Union Pay to withdraw cash from my Hong Kong bank account. The ATMs that support Union Pay is not difficult to find at the city center. Another thing to note is that, the price level in Denmark is quite high and dining out is quite pricey, so beware to monitor your expenses and cooking surely will save you a lot of costs.

Social Clubs & Networking Activities

There are many clubs you can join at CBS for a small membership fee, such as wine tasting, dancing, cultural clubs. There's a fair held on the main campus introducing all the activities available during the start of the semester. They will give up free food and souvenirs and promote their activities on that day.

Health & Safety

Denmark is generally a very safe place to live and study, but still there could be crimes and thefts. All students who register for their CPR number are offered health insurance with a yellow card delivered to you upon your successful registration. Regardless of where you are in Europe, you should always be alert and take care of your personal belongings well.

Food

There are indeed a lot of restaurant options in Copenhagen, no matter the local Danish food or food from other regions. However, eating out could be quite pricey when comparing to Hong Kong. Still, if you are craving for Asian food, there are also plenty of options like Chinese, Thai, Japanese, Vietnamese and Korean food, etc. Instead of dining out, cooking is also a good option to save money as there are a lot of discounted supermarkets in Copenhagen. The most common ones are Netto, Rema1000, Fakta and Fortex. You can always hunt for bargains to keep your expenses low.

Transportation

The public transportation system is quite similar to Hong Kong which people mostly use a rejsekort (like an Octopus card) on bus, train and metro. You can get one of these cards from the 7-11 located at train/metro stations or at the DSB counter at central station. With the rejsekort, you will probably get a half-price for each journey on the public transport. In Copenhagen, the systems charge you by 'zones' instead of 'number of stops', for example the city center is zone 1 & 2, and the airport is zone 4. The price of a single journey is the same within the same zone. A thing to note with the rejsekort card is that, it requires a minimum deposit of 70dkk in the card, so if you have less than 70dkk in the card, you are unable to tap it successfully on the transport. Other than public transport, if you are a good biker, you are also highly recommended to rent a bike or get a second-hand bike. CBS may introduce to you some bike rental programs so you can get discounts renting a bike. It would be a great way to experience the lifestyle of local Danish by biking around the city as Copenhagen is a well-developed biking city.

Climate

The weather in August and September is quite nice with sun sometimes, but it gets colder real soon with very strong wind. During the later months of the year, Copenhagen is quite windy (sometimes it feels like having a typhoon) and rainy with the sun setting very early at around 4pm. The temperature in November and December is usually below 10 degree Celsius. Therefore, if you are not used to the cold weather, bring more thicker clothes and heat packs to stay warm. Besides, wearing gloves is also high recommended for those who plans to ride as your fingers would be freezing without gloves.

Communication

Upon arrival, your exchange buddy should give you a welcome pack given by CBS. There is a free sim card from Lebara provided in the pack with a very small balance, enough for you to immediately visit the Lebara's website to top-up. I would highly recommend a prepaid monthly 60GB plan plus 5GB EU data package offered by Lebara. It provides data even during travelling to other countries. There are also other packages available so you can compare and choose the best that fits you. Still, I would say that the prepaid packages are more economic than topping up each time.

Cautionary Measures

Copenhagen is a fascinating place to stay and explore the local culture, so just make sure to stay safe and enjoy your time there. Though Denmark is one of the safest countries in Europe, you should still be aware of your own safety at all time. Besides, Copenhagen is a busy biking city so make sure to pay attention to road safety rules especially if you have to bike.

Part III – Items to bring

- ✓ Visa
- ✓ ID/Passport
- ✓ Passport photo
- ✓ Student ID card
- ✓ Enough thick clothes
- ✓ Cash/Credit card/Debit card
- ✓ Laptop and Charger
- ✓ Adapter
- ✓ Rice cooker
- ✓ Suits
- ✓ Camera
- ✓ Medicine
- ✓ Padlock (for those who may need to lock their belongings in hostel)

Part IV – Useful Links and Contacts

1. Course Catalog

<https://www.cbs.dk/en/internationalopportunities/internationalstudents/guestexchange-student/undergraduate-courses>

2. CBS Exchange Program Website

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

3. Transportation

- i. <https://www.visitcopenhagen.com/copenhagen/transportation/tickets-prices>
- ii. <https://www.visitcopenhagen.com/copenhagen/public-transport>

4. Information about visa application and progress-checking

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

5. Information about residence permit application

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