

Exchange Report

Copenhagen Business School



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Year 3 (GBUS and ISOM)

Fall 2018

MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG

AUGUST

I was so excited to finally arrive at Copenhagen in the second last week of August. My friend's buddy came and picked us up from the airport and took us to our dormitory. I was amazed at how fast it took to travel from the airport to our dormitory by metro, less than 30 minutes! The highlight for this month would be getting to know my roommate better and also the orientation activities that the CBS Exchange Team had organized for us. Some of the events include comedy night, sightseeing day, canal tour, folk dancing night and of course the partying every night during the orientation week! While having fun and making new friends, I was also preparing myself for the long stay in Copenhagen such as registering for CPR, renting bikes, buying supplies etc.



SEPTEMBER

Classes finally started in September and I was really looking forward to that. I took 4 courses in total, and my favourite class was Danish as it was a new language for me and I was excited to communicate with the locals in Danish (not that it is necessary as Danish locals' English is actually really good!) I also got a chance to visit the different campuses of CBS and my favourite campus is definitely the one in Dalgas Have as it is a building that is separated into a blue part and a pink part and the architecture is just so pretty. Apart from going to classes, I also explored around Copenhagen, such as going to Norreport for shopping, chilling at parks, and eating at different restaurants.



October was the month where I started my crazy travelling. My first trip was in the first week of October where I went to Munich, Germany for the Oktoberfest. Oktoberfest is a beer festival where Germans and people from all over the world have a great time together. We had a lot of fun wearing the traditional German costumes, eating delicious German food and meeting new people. There were no classes the week after I came back from Munich so I headed off again and went to Budapest and Vienna. Budapest is a gorgeous city with beautiful architecture and the view at night with the Danube River was just spectacular. We ate a lot and went to the Roman baths which was fun. For Vienna, we went to art museums and of course, an opera! The travelling didn't stop there, in the last week of October, I went to Oslo in Norway for the weekend and to be honest it was kind of underwhelming and there was not much to do, so if you are planning to visit Norway, go further up north like Bergen for the breath-taking natural scenery and northern lights! It was also Halloween and there were lots of parties around Copenhagen so my friends and I dressed up and went to a few of the Halloween parties and had a blast! I don't usually celebrate Halloween in Hong Kong so this was an interesting and fun experience for me.



NOVEMBER

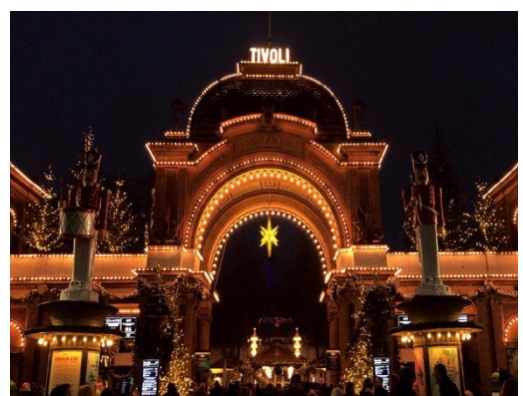
For the first week of November, I went to Milan in Italy for the weekend. We ate pasta and gelato every day and went sightseeing for bit. My highlight for this trip was definitely trying cannoli for the first time and loving it! After Milan, I went to Berlin in Germany and I can say Berlin is such a hippy and cool place which is so different from most European cities. There were graffiti and artworks everywhere and the vibe was so energetic and fun. We took lots of pictures at the Berlin Wall, went to my first Christmas market of 2018 and ate a lot again. We also visited the Sachsenhausen concentration camp which was a heavy and sad day for us but we have learnt a lot from our guide about the holocaust and it was eye-opening. I took a break from travelling as it was my Danish oral exam in the third week of November so I stayed at my dormitory and studied very hard and finally passed my exam! I also visited the Christmas markets in Copenhagen and tried my first glogg which is basically mulled wine and it was so good! For thanksgiving week, I made a long trip and flew to New York to visit my friend who was on exchange at Cornell. It was my first time going to New York and I was so excited. We

visited all the famous landmarks like Central Park, the Natural History Museum, went crazy at Black Friday sales, watched a Broadway show, etc. I also got to visit Cornell which is a beautiful place and one of the their libraries looks like one in a Harry Potter movie!

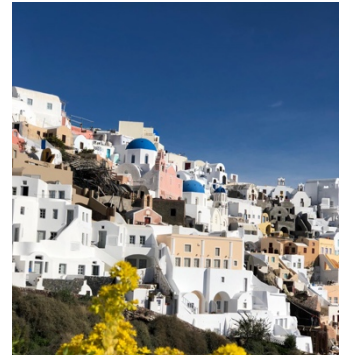


DECEMBER

After a great amount of travelling, it was time for me to settle down and start to get serious about studying for my assignments. My remaining three courses all required me to hand in home written assignments with one needing me to take an oral exam after submitting the written product. I worked very hard in completing my assignments while also trying to cherish my last month with my roommate who has become one of the closest friends on exchange by going out with her once in a while. Christmas was such a great time to be in Copenhagen as all the streets were lit up with lights and Christmas trees were everywhere, with the classic European architecture, it was just so beautiful and filled with Christmas spirit. As a Christmas lover, my favourite thing to do was riding my bike along the lit up streets while listening to Christmas songs. After long hours of hard work, I finally completed all my assignments! However, that also marked the end of my exchange and I had to leave my dormitory and say goodbye to all my friends that I made on exchange. I was so sad to leave as I had so much fun on this exchange and I will cherish the memories I made in Copenhagen forever. After saying bye, I continued to travel around Europe for Christmas and New Years! We went to Barcelona in Spain for Christmas, Nice in France and then Paris for the New Years.



You may be wondering why I am still writing about January when I had already said my goodbyes before Christmas in Copenhagen, the reason is I actually still had an oral exam to take for my only quarter 2 course that I had and it was in mid-January. Therefore, after travelling to more places in Europe including Venice and Florence in Italy and Athens and Santorini in Greece, I came back to Copenhagen and stayed for a week to study and take my exam. The exam went well and I officially left Copenhagen and flew back to Hong Kong.



GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

VISA PROCEDURES

If you have duo nationality with Hong Kong and British passport like me (or any other EU passports), it is better for you to use your EU passport as there is no need to apply for a visa before entering Denmark. When you arrived Denmark, you will need to apply for a residence permit. It is free of charge to do so and to apply for the permit you will need to visit State Administration Office. They have special opening hours for students so please check CBS emails often to get updates of the opening days and hours. You will need to bring your OD1 form, original and copy of your passport and CBS acceptance letter. Remember to go there earlier as the line outside the office will be long and you may need to wait for an hour or more to get it done. Also, remember to apply for the residence permit as soon as you arrived Denmark as you will need your residence permit to apply for your CPR number, which will be needed for opening bank accounts, seeing a doctor etc., and medical card.

After receiving your residence permit, you will need to head to municipality office for your CPR registration. Just remember to bring your filled in entry form (which will be sent to you in CBS emails), your residence permit and passport to the office. Apart from getting your CPR number, you will also be paired up with a doctor and be given a yellow medical card which you will need to present in the case of seeing a doctor in Copenhagen.

ORIENTATION ACTIVITIES

Before your arrive Copenhagen, you will be paired up with a local CBS student as your exchange buddy. He/she will pick you up at the airport when you arrive and hand you an orientation package will all the useful information regarding CBS as well as living in

Copenhagen in general. Along with the brochures and documents, there will also be a free local sim card.

There are 3 parts of orientations organized by CBS. The first 2 parts are optional and you will have to pay for those activities. The first part is Danish Crash Course Week where you will spend one week learning Danish with other exchange students, as I had not arrived Copenhagen at that time, I didn't join. The second part is Introduction Week where there are a series of activities held throughout the week for all exchange students. It consists of a comedy night, a sight-seeing day around Copenhagen, folk dancing night, canal tour, movie night and a welcoming dinner. There are also night clubbing and parties every night of the week with free entry. Although the package costs around 650dkk and is a bit expensive, I think it is worth it as it is the best chance for you to meet new friends. The last part is the compulsory orientation talks where they will talk about course registration, living tips etc.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

The CBS International Office handles all enquiries from exchange students. You can contact them through email, in which they give very quick and useful replies, or go directly to their office. They are all very friendly and helpful so just ask them for help when you are in doubt!

ACCOMODATIONS

If you want to stay in student dormitories arranged by CBS, (in which I highly recommend you to do so as it is relatively cheaper and you can meet more friends there), remember to enter the system for accommodation registration as soon as the registration opens in order to grab the best dormitories and rooms possible. Different dormitories have different sizes rooms and also some may have shared kitchens instead of en-suite kitchens, so remember to do your research to find the best dormitories and types of rooms you want. Location-wise, I would say most dorms are pretty close to CBS campus but I would not recommend the one in Nørrebro as that area is relatively unsafe when compared to other areas.

For me, I was allocated to a double large room at Kathrine Kollegiet with en-suite toilet and kitchen. The location is great with the metro/train station just a 10-minute walk away and three supermarkets nearby with the closest one being only a 5-minute walk away. The area is also very safe even during the night and it is only a 10-minute bike ride to the Dalgas Have campus and a 15-minute bike ride to the SP campus.

COURSE REGISTRATION

Before you register your courses on the CBS course registration system, visit the CBS website to go through the list of courses offered in the coming semester so you can check for credit transfer on the UST credit transfer database. During the course registration, you will register your course preference along with a backup course in case the course is full. The timetable of

most courses will only be out after the course registration and clashes of courses are allowed, but it is recommended that you should choose another course if there are more than seven clashes of the same course.

One important thing to keep in mind is that some courses are offered on a quarter 1 or quarter 2 basis while others are offered on a semester basis. Be aware that quarter 2 courses usually have examinations way later than the quarter 1 and semester courses, for me the exam was in mid-January, so do make sure you will be able to stay that long for the exam or arrange a Skype exam back in Hong Kong with the UST office as soon as you know the exam dates.

TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

Most courses don't have attendance and your final grade is only based on your final exam without any midterms or assignments in between. Some courses may only require you to hand in a take-home written product at the end of the semester, like what I had for 2 of my courses. Some courses may have an oral exam like what I had for my Danish class, and the grade will be given to you by the examiners right after the exam. Some courses may require a group written product to be handed in first, followed by an individual oral exam, which I had for one of my courses and the grade will also be given right after the oral exam.

SPORTS AND RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

There are no large sports or recreational facilities within the CBS campus so my friends just joined gym membership at private gym centres. However, different CBS clubs offer classes on a weekly basis such as yoga class and dance class. Some are free of charge and some costs around 10dkk per class. Go try them out because they are fun! Just follow their Facebook pages and you will get updates on the class schedules.

FINANCE AND BANKING

Denmark is a cashless city so you don't really need to bring much cash in Danish krone, just bring visa cards is fine, but you may want to bring some Euro cash for travelling. Opening a bank account in Denmark is very expensive so most of us who are only staying for one semester didn't open a bank account. If you want to withdraw cash, there are Euronet ATMs all around Copenhagen and also in some other European cities where they accept UnionPay cards to withdraw cash with a fee of 20dkk per withdrawal.

SOCIAL CLUBS AND NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

If you are going to CBS during the fall semester, then there will be a student society day where all the student clubs and societies will set up counters to recruit members. However, for most career-oriented clubs like consulting or finance clubs, they usually don't recruit exchange students who are only staying for one semester. But recreational clubs like yoga and dance clubs welcome exchange students to join to have fun together! For networking activities,

there are events held either by CBS or by other companies in Copenhagen throughout the months, you can check these events out by going on their Facebook pages.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

It is free to see a doctor with the yellow medical card, so just contact the doctor on your card when you encounter any medical problems. Tap water is absolutely safe to drink in Denmark, it may taste weird at first, but you will get used to it eventually.

For safety, personally, I think Denmark is one of the safest European cities even at night, but still keep an eye out for your belongings and stay with your friends if you are going out late at night. For travel insurance, although UST has bought insurance for your stay in Denmark, you may want to buy travel insurance on your own for trips outside of Denmark just in case.

FOOD

Dining out in Copenhagen is pretty expensive, on average it costs around 120-150dkk per meal. There is not much Danish local foods, the most iconic dishes would be open sandwiches and Danish pastries. Therefore, I mostly cook my own meals at my dormitory which costs way less, on average around 20-50dkk per meal. You can get cheap ingredients from supermarkets like Lidl or Netto. There are also canteens in CBS selling beverages, salads, sandwiches and also hot food in a buffet setting. The food there is way cheaper than in restaurants, costing around 40-60dkk per meal but to be honest the food isn't as tasty as you would want them to be.

TRANSPORTATION

Copenhagen is the best city for biking with bike lanes all over the city, so if you know how to bike, renting a bike would be your best transportation option to go around the city. Most exchange students rent their bikes from the same company called Swapfiets, which offer the first month for free and then a monthly charge of 120dkk. I also used Swapfiets and I would say it is a bargain and the bikes are easy to ride on. Apart from biking, the metro network in Copenhagen is also well-connected and runs 24 hours every day. It is way cheaper to get a travel card called rejskort card which functions the same as an octopus card as it charges half price when compared with getting a one-trip ticket. You can buy and top up your card at 711 in metro stations. However, it is still pretty expensive to travel by metro with a one-way trip costing around 12-16dkk so I would recommend biking as often as possible!

CLIMATE

In summer, the weather is nice and cool with temperature at around 15-20 degrees and occasional rains. The duration of daylight is very long with the sun setting at around 8pm. In winter however, it gets really cold especially starting from November with the temperature getting as low as 0 degrees. It can also get very windy and it may get harder to ride a bike so

be prepared to wear hats and gloves to bike or simply opt for the metro during the cold months. The duration of daylight also gets significantly shorter with the sun setting at 3pm in December. However, all indoor places are heated so just wear a sweater underneath a really thick winter coat will be fine.

COMMUNICATION

You will receive a free local sim card from the CBS orientation package when you first arrive. Simply go to the sim card website to activate it and recharge it monthly. I bought the 99dkk plan for a monthly data of 60gb which I think is a great bargain. For daily communication, most Danish speaks really good English but official documents like government letters may sometimes be only in Danish which may be a bit of a hassle. But overall, communication is not a problem at all for me when living in Copenhagen.

ITEMS TO BRING

- Passport
- Credit/Debit cards
- Danish Krone and Euro cash
- Adaptors (2 round pins)
- Cabin-size luggage (for travelling to other European countries on budget airlines)
- Personal medicine
- Calculators (for classes and probably aptitude tests for internship applications)
- Formal outfit (for formal dinners or Skype internship interviews)

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS

CBS Exchange Student Information Page

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

CBS Course Catalogue

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

CBS Accommodation

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

Phone Sim Card

<https://mobile.lebara.com/dk/da/>