

# Exchange Report

Copenhagen Business School

Denmark

Spring 2019



LEUNG O Yin (Max)

BBA (IS & MARK)



# Monthly Activity Log

## January

I arrived at Copenhagen on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. I pre-contacted my exchange buddy so she could come and pick me up from the airport. She was extremely amiable and caring. Besides helping me to settle down on the first day, she also helped a lot with my other inquiries as well as organized mini-orientation activities for me to meet other exchange and local students. For the remaining days of the month I travelled around Copenhagen and visited the famous tourist sites such as Nyhavn, Luoisiana Art Museum and more.



## February

School finally started on 1st February. It could take a while to get used to the school life in CBS, partially because the campuses are separated so far away from each other. The Hong Kong exchange students gathered to celebrate Chinese New Year, and we even had a traditional home-cooked Chinese dinner together! In this month I travelled to Oslo to try out skiing as well as to London to visit some old friends.



## March

While most classes were introductory in February, the content started to get intense in March. I have four home-written assignments planned for my four classes, so I had to study ahead to make sure I am on track with the course progress. At the start of March I took a day trip with a friend to the North of Copenhagen to visit two beautiful castles: Kronborg and Frederiksberg Castle. I finally rented a bike this month as well. Riding around the streets of Copenhagen, making two-hour trips a day and exploring various spots of the city was certainly a loving memory for me. Besides visiting different spots in Copenhagen, I also went to Edinburgh, Noch Less and Glasgow.



## April

At the start of April my four exams came to haunt me, and so come all the pressure as well. The unfortunate thing about CBS home-written assignments is that they might only give you 48 hours to finish them. For example, my Theories of Contemporary Society course released the topic for our essay 48 hours before the deadline, so you'd have to be familiar with every lecture before the exam.

After the exam, I took a trip to Berlin and enjoyed the special delicacies there. For the remainder of the month, I mainly biked around Copenhagen, and visited an animal shelter called Dyrevaernet often.

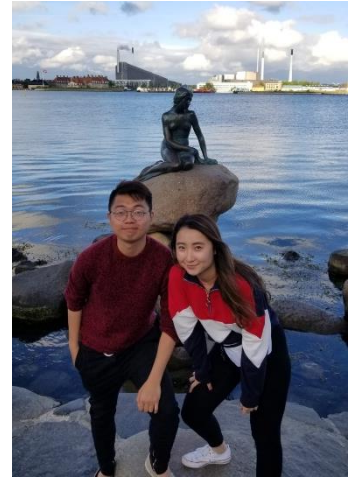




## May

Since I've finished up all my exams, I had fun with tons of trips in May. At the start of May I visited Brussels in Belgium and Amsterdam in Netherlands. Remember to try out the fries and hot chocolate in Brussels!

Amsterdam was by far my favorite European city. The city was filled with amazing vibes with a fascinating cultural history, and there were also gorgeous views in the city outbound areas.



Afterwards I took two more solo-trips through Europe.

The first was to Gothenburg and Malmo in Sweden. In Gothenburg, I enjoyed myself thoroughly and even attended Lukas Graham's concert! The second trip was to Cologne. It does feel like I haven't enjoyed Berlin enough, so a few extra days in Germany was refreshing as well.



## June

In June my parents came to visit me and we went on a two-week trip together around Europe. We first followed through the Norway in a nutshell trip, which leads us around the country and got to admire some breathtaking views. Our trip at Norway ended at Bergen and we travelled back to Copenhagen to make a proper farewell to the city. Before travelling back to Hong Kong, we make a short stop at Helsinki and Tallinn. After that I ended my exchange journey and flew back to Hong Kong.



## General Exchange Information:

### Visa Procedures

The Visa application procedure could be quite troublesome compared to other universities as there are no Danish Consulate located at Hong Kong. The nearest and most convenient one would have to be at Shen Zhen. Before going to the consulate, you first must submit an online application on the consulate's official website (attached at Useful Links section). After that, you can follow the email instructions and head to the consulate to submit your biometrics. The biometrics procedure takes less than half an hour usually. The Visa will be mailed to you in around a month, so make sure you go through with the procedures as early as possible. The entire process takes around \$4,000 HKD. The email from CBS is a huge help so make sure you follow the guidelines.

### Orientation Activities

CBS will organize an Orientation Week at the start of each semester. The week-long event includes activities such as comedy night, boat tours, formal dinner and more. It is a great opportunity to meet local as well as exchange students from other countries. Even though it is a great social opportunity, it does cost quite a bit.

### International Services & Activities

The international office of CBS is located next to the Porcelaenshaven campus. The staff can help you with a range of issues, including housing policies, credit transfers, course progresses and more. Any inquiries before you go to exchange are also welcomed. In addition, the International Office would assign an exchange buddy to you which can help pick you up from the airport and introduce you to the local Danish culture.

### Accommodations

The application for accommodations is quite complicated. CBS will first email you the procedures you have to follow and the link to their own online application website. The competition for CBS dorms is fierce and you have to

be right on time to get the dorm you prefer. If you missed the deadline you might have to find a private house in the city area.

I lived in Porcelaenshaven which is one of the most convenient dorms around. Most of the campuses are within walking distances from the dorm, and it only takes a 10-minute bike ride to get to the city center. There are however less dorm activities to participate in.

## **Courses Registration**

The course registration process is relatively simple. Following the procedures provided by the CBS email should be sufficient. If you couldn't get the courses you prefer in the first try, you get to fill out a form to submit to the international office to explain why you desperately need to get into a certain course. Upon approval you get to remove the original courses assigned to you. Students usually take four courses per semester, but you are allowed to request for a credit overload and take five if you want to. The four courses I took were Business and Data Analytics (BINMO2012U), Sales and Pricing Methods (BHAAV1811U), Principles of International Marketing (BINBO1160U) and Theories of Contemporary Societies II (BSOCO1026U).

## **Teaching & Assessment Methods**

Unlike in HKUST, all courses in CBS are 100% exam based, meaning your exam result counts 100% towards your semester grade. The exams could be home-written assignments, presentations, written-exams or all of the above, depending on the course you're taking. No attendance is taken. If you fail your exam, you get to have two chances to re-take the exams for each course. Most classes are really interactive, and the professors generally encourage to have a fair and equal conversation with students. They welcome feedbacks and often require suggestions from students to see how they can improve the lecture. Some lectures even invite external speakers regularly and give inspiring talks about the industry.

## **Sports and Recreation Facilities**

Among all the campuses, CBS only has one simple gym facility with simple equipment. A good idea would be to purchase a gym subscription at a nearby gym. From my personal experience, Urban Gym has a better price as well as

location compared to Fitness World, at only DKK150 per month.

## **Finance & Banking (including currency/expenses)**

The official currency of Denmark is the Danish Kroner (DKK). The exchange rate is roughly 1 DKK : 1.2HKD. You cannot exchange for DKK in Hong Kong, so a good method is to bring along some Euro currencies to Denmark and do the exchange there. Upon arrival, you can choose to open a bank account in one of the local banks. Most local banks charge a certain amount for that. Another method is to draw cash from the Euronet ATM machines. Most restaurants and supermarkets accept card payments, so there is generally less need for cash.

## **Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities**

CBS offers a wide range of social clubs to both local and international students. Various clubs will regularly organize networking events at the SP campus, where they offer free beer, chances to get to know more about the club and a good opportunity to meet new people. Food and souvenir would also be offered so make sure you don't miss out on these events.

## **Health & Safety**

Upon arrival, there will be certain registration steps you have to follow in order to get your Denmark ID card and your own CPR number. After that, you'll receive a yellow card that covers up all of Denmark's medical services in public hospitals, except for dental services.

Copenhagen is one of the safest city in the world. Even at night there are very little crowd on the streets even in the city center. However, please still stay aware of theft and other possible crime around you as there is always a chance for crime to happen. My bike got stolen mid-semester since someone cut up the lock. Be sure to check if you locked your bike or not every time you park it.

## Food

Despite being one of the most unique dishes in Europe, Danish food could be quite expensive, especially if you're eating outside. The price level in Copenhagen is considered one of the most expensive in Europe as well. The most common option for me and my friends at home is to buy ingredients from the local supermarkets and cook the meals ourselves. The more well-known supermarkets are Føtex, Netto, Rema 1000 and Fakta. A self-cooked meal could usually only cost 50-80 DKK per person.

## Transportation

The metro system in Copenhagen is easy and simple to comprehend. You can purchase a rejsekort, the octopus card in Denmark, to access all the main transportation tools in Copenhagen, such as buses, metro, trains and more. The rejsekort can be purchased at each metro station. During the first month at Copenhagen and while you're still at the settling period, it is a good idea to travel around using this method.

However, known as the "City of Bikes", experience biking in Copenhagen is a must-do in my opinion. There are plenty of bike rental options around the city, but one of the most affordable bike renting company with quality bikes is called Swapfiets. While other bike shops usually rent out bikes for at least 700DKK per month, Swapfiets offers a package that only costs you 150DKK per month. The procedure is simple as well. Owning a bike would allow you to access all points in Copenhagen easily, and in a much more economically-efficient manner compared to taking public transport. I personally recommend renting a bike in Copenhagen, and it should be considered a crucial part of your exchange experience here.

## Climate

Copenhagen has one of the most comfortable weather in all of Europe. January and February obvious should be the coldest of them all, ranging from -5-5 degrees Celsius. As we approached Spring, the temperature started to rise to around 10-15 degrees Celsius. The weather would not reach more than 20 degrees Celsius until May or June. It might be quite difficult to get used to it at the start, so please do remember to bring more clothes and jackets with



you. Once you get used to it, you'll start to enjoy the windy yet cozy weather.

## Communication

A SIM card is attached to the welcoming package your exchange buddy gives you when you arrive. The SIM card belongs to the biggest internet service provider in Copenhagen, Lebara. It offers an excellent package with 60GB data in Denmark and 5GB across Europe for each month. The cost is only 99DKK. You need to activate the automatic top-up in the official website. There are several other packages which all are quite affordable, so choose the one that suits you best.

## Cautionary Measures

I insist to say that Copenhagen is one of the safest cities in Europe and perhaps the world. Safety is generally not an issue. If there is one thing to be aware of, it should be the cycling rules on the streets. There are bike paths everywhere in Copenhagen, even in the more remote areas. However, there is a system for people to indicate which way you're turning or when you're stopping while cycling. There could be a lot of people cycling in a small bike path, so make sure you learn the rules before heading out to bike with others. Other than that, just make sure you have a wonderful time there and enjoy a wonderful semester.

## Items to Bring

### Things that I brought:

Visa	Passport
Credit/Debit Card	Laptop
Charger	Adaptor
Euro Cash	Hong Kong snacks
Rice Cooker	

### Things I regret not bringing:

More Hong Kong snacks!!! (You'll miss the food in Hong Kong, guaranteed)

Camera

Small locks (For lockers in hostels)

Calculators

## Useful Links and Contacts

### CBS Exchange 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>

### Visa Application

<https://www.vfsglobal.cn/Denmark/China/>