

Exchange Report

Copenhagen Business School



Part 1: Monthly Activity Log

January

I arrived Copenhagen on 18 January. Thanks to my very friendly and helpful exchange buddy assigned by CBS, I quickly checked in and settled in my dorm. Since the semester began in late January, I got some time to explore the city a bit. In the first week of my arrival, I went to different museums in Copenhagen, like the Labour museum and Rosenberg Castle. I also tried out different cafes and visited the food market located in Nørreport, the centre of the city. Before semester begins, I also went to Athens and Santorini in Greece for a short trip. After I came back from the trip, the exchange orientation program began, which also marks the beginning of the semesters.



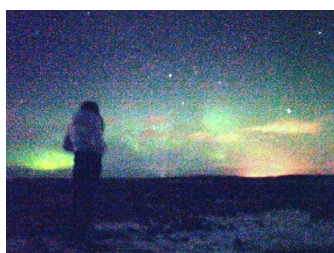
February

The semester begins in 28 January with an one-week add-drop period. I took 5 courses initially – Pricing Management, Negotiation skills and Conflict Management Drivers of success and complexity, The Corporation in Society: Managing Beyond Markets, Business and Data Analytics, and Theories of Contemporary Society. However, I found that the workload is a bit heavy and I'd rather spent more time exploring the continent, I dropped Theories of Contemporary Society and ended up taking 30 ECTS.

February is also an important time for Chinese students because it is the Chinese New Year! I celebrated the festival with different Chinese students coming from Hong Kong and US by having a reunion meal with them in a Chinese Restaurant in the city centre. We ordered a lot of dimsum and we really had a great time.

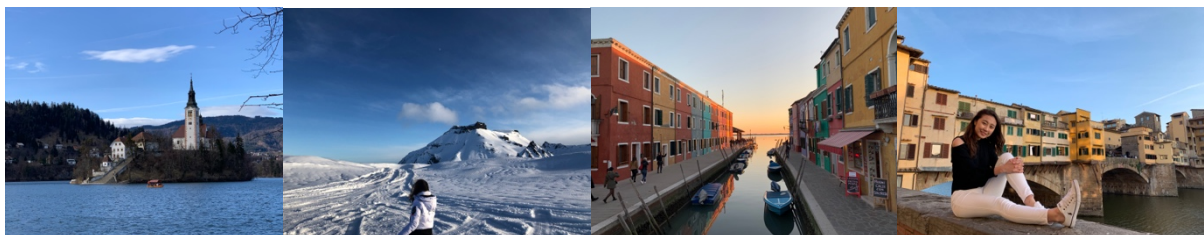


During my stay in Copenhagen, I also joined the CBS dance club which they provide free dancing classes for beginners like me! It is a great chance to exercise a bit and have fun with your friends.



After settling down and confirming my timetable and exam schedule, I started planning different trips. In the first half of February, I went on a short trip to Iceland. Iceland is really one of my favourite countries in Europe which I was amazed by the stunning natural scenes, such as ice caves, black sand beach. I was also lucky enough to see the Northern Light there!

Later, I also went to Italy, Vatican and Slovenia for another long trip. I visited six cities in Italy and got to see the difference between different cities. I also enjoyed the food there.

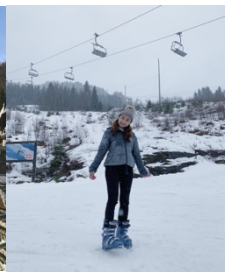


March

In the beginning of March, I went to Paris for a few days and visited a lot of famous tourist spots. After I came back from my trips, my family came to visit me and we explored Copenhagen together. I went to different renowned attractions such as the little mermaid, the Round Tower, the Copenhagen Zoo, the Guinness World Records Museum. I also went on a day trip to Roskilde and Aalborg, two other cities in Denmark.



In the rest of the month, I travelled to different countries including Germany, Austria, Sweden and Norway. There weren't a lot to see in Oslo, but I did have a great time in Voss which I skied for the first time in my life. I went to Königssee, Germany and Hallstatt, Austria, which both cities have a really gorgeous scenery. I strongly recommend you to pay a visit to these two places!



April

This was a busy month since I got 3 exams in the first week of April. I didn't travel around that week because I was busy with my revision. Since I took two Q3 courses and two semester courses, my exam schedule was quite tight. Your life would be easier if you took some Q4 courses which the exam is held in June. I did my revision in both the CBS library and different cafes in the neighbourhood. I would suggest you to work in cafes during daytime since they are all very comfy. You may want to revise in the CBS library located in the main campus if you want to work till late night as it opens 24 hours!



After completing my exams, I went to Finland, Belgium, Poland and London. Finland is another fun country to visit since I got the chance to visit the Santa Claus Village! Apart from taking photos with the Santa, I also got on a husky ride and reindeer ride. The husky ride is exciting!



Poland is also a great country to visit. I went to both Warsaw and Krakow. If you are interested in going to the world's largest concentration camp and salt mine, you should definitely pay a visit to the country.

I came back to Copenhagen in late April to sit for another exam. After that, I went to the famous theme park in Denmark – Tivoli. You can also visit Bispebjerg Cemetery to join the Cherry Blossom Festival!

In the last week of April, I had gone to a short trip to the Netherlands because it was the King's Day – everyone was dressed in orange and celebrated the King's birthday on the street!



May

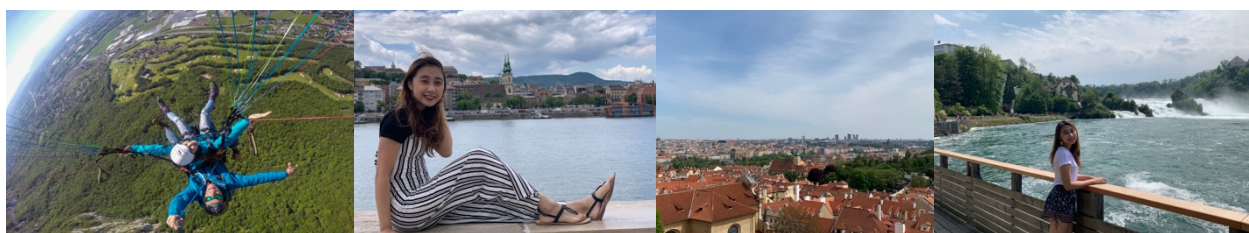
Since I only took Q3 and semester courses, the semester ended in April. I got a whole month to travel around Europe in May.

As the weather is getting hotter and hotter, I think it is time to visit countries in the southern side of Europe. So I decided to spend one week in Spain. I really had a lot of fun there especially in Barcelona where I got to see the famous architecture and eat a lot of very delicious Spanish food.



I also spent two weeks in Central Europe – Czechia, Hungary, Slovakia and Croatia. The old towns of these countries are worth going and the stuff are quite cheap. You can get very good food in a low price. I particularly recommend you to pay a visit to two Croatian cities – Plitvice and Dubrovnik. The former has a National Park made up of sixteen lakes and the latter has an old defence wall and a special old town, which is also the filming location of Game of Thrones.

Later, I also went on some short trips to The Baltic's Area -Latvia, Lithuania, Russia and Switzerland. I even tried paragliding across the French and Swiss border! These trips also marked the end of my exchange journey and I went back to Hong Kong in late May.



Part 2: General Exchange Information

Visa procedure

I am holding a Hong Kong passport and I applied the visa by visiting the embassy located in ShenZhen in person. The procedure is quite complicated as you first have to submit an application online providing some supporting documents. You are also required to settle half of the visa payment online. Other supporting documents have to be submitted in person in the embassy. After 4-6 weeks, the visa will be sent to your home by post. Upon arrival, you have to bring along your visa with you and apply for the CPR card in the municipality office.

Orientation Activities

I paid 750DKK for the orientation program which included a series of evening activities – Danish Dance Night, City canal tour, Comedian night and a welcome dinner. I really recommend you to join the program because it allows you to meet other exchange students and make new friends!

In the orientation week, CBS also arranged different activities for us. For example, campus tour, talks regarding school facilities, housing matters and academic requirements. Although the participation of these activities are optional, they provided a lot of useful information so that you can get a head start of the exchange.

Accommodation

CBS housing office will send out emails with detailed information regarding the procedure of dorm registration. In the application portal, you can indicate your preference in room size, kitchen and washroom. You will also be given a chance to rank the preference of different dorms.

During my exchange, I stayed in Porcelaenshaven (PH). I lived in a medium sized room with my own kitchen and a shared bathroom with my flatmate. Depending on the classroom venue, the nearest classroom is just one minute walk from my room. PH is very convenient as it only takes 10 minutes to walk to the main campus and 5 minutes to walk to the nearby Fasanvej metro station. There are also a lot of supermarkets in my neighbourhood and the post office is only 5-minute walk from my dorm. I really recommend you to apply for dorms with own kitchen as I was told by my exchange mates that shared kitchens are usually quite dirty and messy. There is also a canteen inside PH.

Course Registration

In September, CBS would release a list of courses online. You may want to apply for credit transfer after the course information has been released. In October, the course registration begins and students have to log in the registration system. In addition to the courses you want to enrol, you also have to prepare a list of back-up courses so that CBS can assign those courses to you if some of the courses are over-subscribed. In December, there will be a second-round course registration. Students are required to send an email to the CBS office, listing out the courses they wish to enrol. The result will be released in January.

Before the courses registration, CBS will send you the registration details and reminder through email. It would be great if you go through those emails in detail before the course registration.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching styles can be very different depending on the course and the professor. Some classes focus on case analysis and group discussion, other classes focus more on hands on experience such as software learning.

The workload of the courses are not heavy since none of the courses have quiz and midterm exams. Occasionally there will be some presentations and assignments, but all of these are not compulsory. Therefore, it also means that your final grade is completely depended on the final exams.

Different courses may have very different exam format, which the information could be found in the course catalogue. There are mainly 3 types of exam formats, sit-in exam, home assignment and oral exam. For the sit-in exams, you have to attend the exam in person and type your answers on the computer in the CBS exam hall. Some of the courses allow aids during exams while others are close-book exams. Oral exam was quite new to me as we do not have this kind of exam format in HKUST. Normally, the oral exam will take place after you have handed in a written assignment. During the oral

exam, two professors will first listen to your presentation about your assignment then they will examine you by asking follow-up questions.

Sports and Recreation

I am not sure about the gym facilities since I do not have the habit of doing exercise. However, I did join some student-initiated clubs such as the CBS yoga and CBS dance. These clubs provide free classes to students and you simply have to register online.

Finance and banking

I didn't open a bank account in Copenhagen because it is not compulsory. However, I did open an account in a virtual bank called Revolut. You simply have to download the app and top up the Revolut account with your Hong Kong bank account. When you arrive a country, you just have to exchange the local currency with HKD in the application. This is very convenient for travelling around Europe. I also suggest you to ask your Hong Kong bank for a PIN code before you leave as you sometimes need it for payment.

Health and safety

After you have applied for the citizenship, a CPR card and a hospital card would be sent to you by post. I did not experience any sickness during my exchange, so I am not very sure how does the card work. But I have heard from my friends that you should go to the assigned doctor as printed on the card if you are sick.

Comparing with other European countries, Copenhagen is a really safe place. I have never heard of any pickpocket cases during my exchange. However, some of my friends did have their bikes stolen.

Food

It is quite pricy to dine out in Denmark, so I usually cook for myself or with my dormmates. There are a lot of supermarkets in my neighbourhood so it is really convenient for me to buy the ingredients after class.

As an exchange student, you may also want to get some Chinese food or ingredients. You may go to the "Asian town" located near the Copenhagen Central Train Station. In the area, there are more than 10 Asian supermarkets where you can get Asian food and ingredients like instant noodles and soy sauce.

Transportation

Transportation is very convenient in Copenhagen as the bus and metro network is very comprehensive. The metro and some of the buses run 24-hour so you do not have to worry about the transport when you back home late or leave home early. It only takes me 25 minutes to reach the airport from my dorm.

When you arrive Copenhagen, you must buy a transport card called Rejsekort. It serves the same function as an Octopus card which you use it for both metro and buses. Every time when you get on and off the metro or bus, you have to tap the card. The fare is calculated based on the zones you are going to.

Climate

When I arrived, it was quite cold and it was snowing all the time. You must wear a down, gloves, a knitted hat and boots when you go out. Later, around mid-March, weather started to get warmer which a jacket could already keep you warm. In April and May, occasionally when the weather reaches 20 degrees Celsius, I even wore T-shirts. So I suggest you to bring both short and long sleeves clothes.

Communication

In the welcome package given by CBS, there is a sim card inside. The mobile service provider is Lebara and you have to top up the sim card in order to use it. The sim card is quite good because Lebara provides services in EU area as well so you do not have to worry about the data usage when travelling around EU. But you should keep in mind that Lebara does not cover service in non-EU countries like Switzerland and Russia.

As for the day-to-day communication, Danish is the most common language used. However, most of the people can speak fluent English. All classes are conducted in English.

Part 3: Items to bring

- Personal ID and passport sized photos
- Gloves, boots, knitted hats (IMPORTANT!!)
- Cash (I brought Danish Kroner and Euro with me)
- Credit and Debit cards
- Adaptors
- Medicine
- Electronic devices (Laptops, Tablets)
- Stationary (it is quite pricy to buy stationary in Copenhagen)
- USB for exams with aids
- Cabin-size luggage for travelling
- Winter and summer clothes
- Waist pack (for travelling to countries with high pickpocketing risk)

Part 4: Useful Links

CBS International Office: <https://www.cbs.dk/en/about-cbs/organisation/administrative-units/cbs-international-office>

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>

Frederiksberg Municipality: <https://www.frederiksberg.dk/en/english>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark: <http://um.dk/en/travel-and-residence/danish-visa-rules/>

If you would like to know more about my exchange experience, feel free to reach out to me by contacting SBM office.