

Exchange Report

2018-19 Spring

Copenhagen Business School

JULY 29

Lam Yat Hei

BBA Information Systems and Operational Management

CBS  **COPENHAGEN
BUSINESS SCHOOL**
HANDELSHØJSKOLEN

Table of Contents

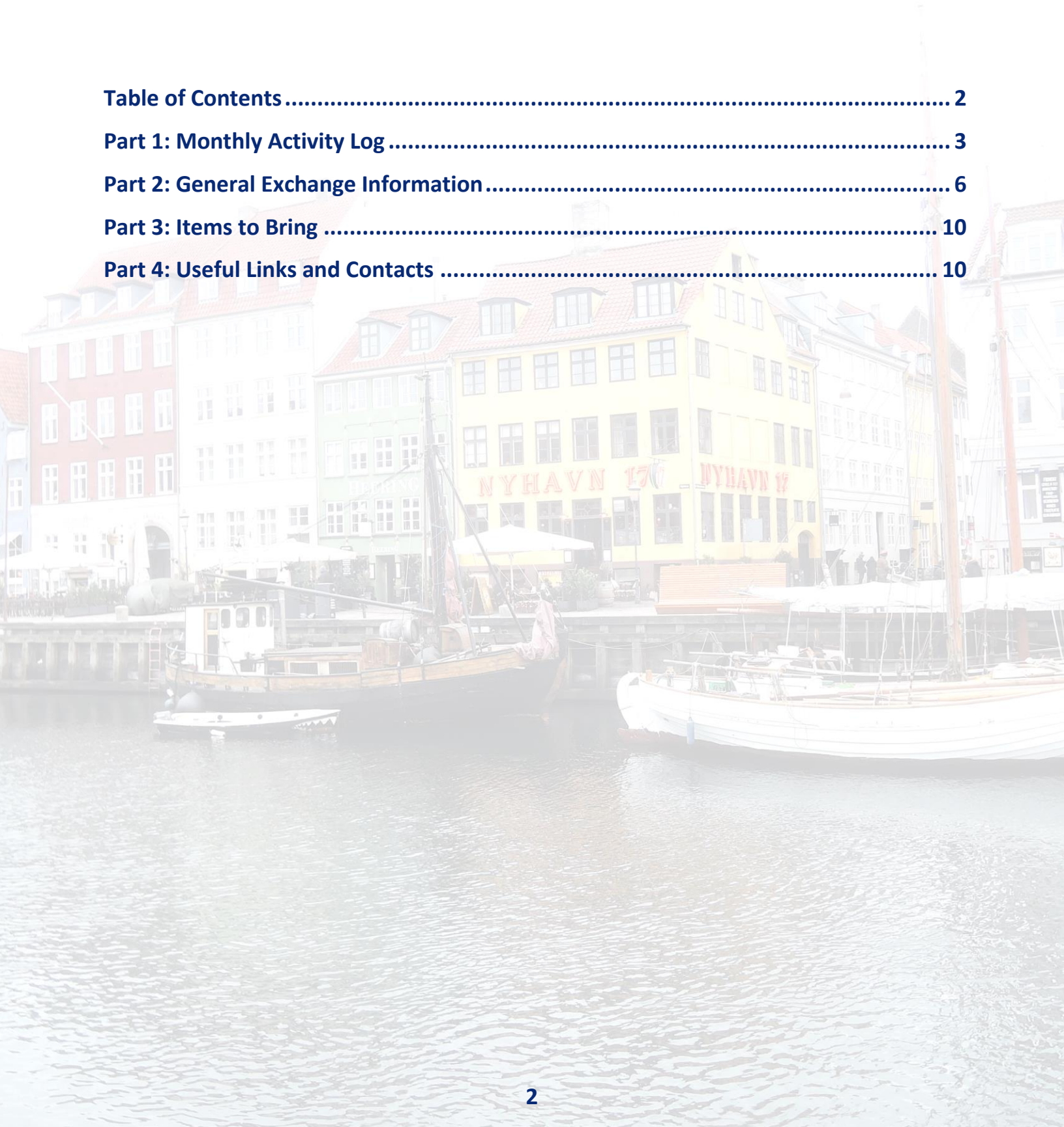
Table of Contents 2

Part 1: Monthly Activity Log 3

Part 2: General Exchange Information 6

Part 3: Items to Bring 10

Part 4: Useful Links and Contacts 10



Part 1: Monthly Activity Log

January 2019

I studied at CBS with two of my friends. My friends and I arrived at Copenhagen a few days before check-in date of student residence. My buddy picked me up at the airport and brought us to the hostel we booked. On the check-in date, we moved our luggage to our dorm, Porcelænsøen and got ourselves settle down. My friends and I visited some famous tourist attractions in Copenhagen like Nyhavn, the Little Mermaid and the Round Tower. In late January, I joined the compulsory introductory week and got some knowledge about CBS facilities and examination.



Scenery from top of Round Tower is cool



The Little Mermaid is a bit under my expectation

February 2019

Classes began in February and I experienced the difference between CBS and UST. In CBS, one lecture lasted for two to three hours but the lecture was more interactive. The instructors encouraged discussion and there were some non-graded in-class quizzes for students. I met some Danish local students in the class and they are friendly and welcoming. In February, I had my first cross-border trip in exchange. I went to several cities in Germany with my friends for sightseeing.



Berlin's Bugermeister, one of the best burgers I have ever eaten



The Berlin Wall

March 2019

Classes continued in March, but I managed to get some time to go for a short trip. I went to one of the most beautiful countries, Iceland. Although the trip was very expensive, Iceland is definitely a country exchange students should not miss out.



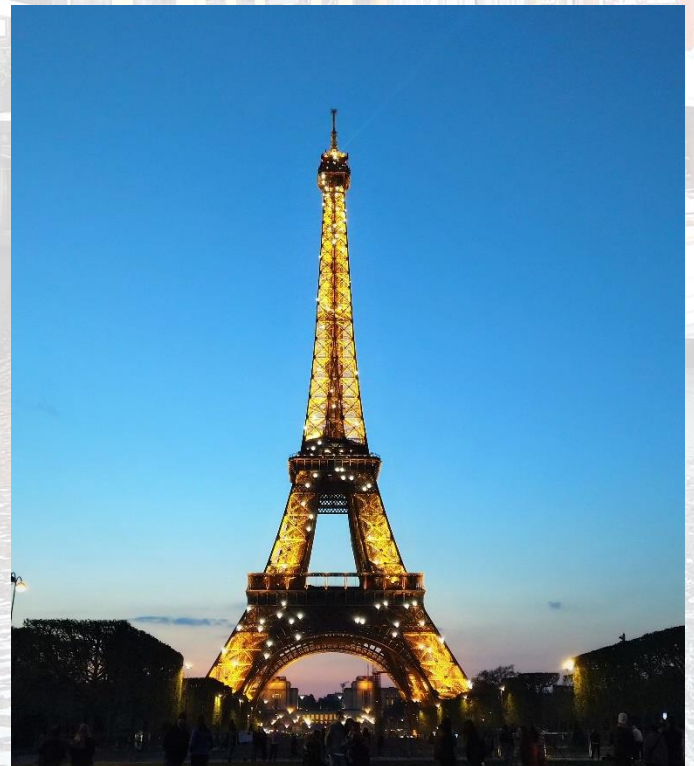
Icelandic natural scenery was the most magnificent among my exchange trips

April – May 2019

I took two Quarter 3 courses which lasted for the first half of the spring semester. Therefore, my exams start early in the first week of April. One was an oral exam based on a group written product while another one was an individual written product. After the exams, it came to the Easter holiday and I got much time to travel around. I went to Belgium, Netherland, Paris and Prague with friends. After relaxation, I returned to Denmark for my third exam. It was the first time I took an exam in the CBS examination hall and it was far away from campus.



Windmill in Netherlands



The Eiffel Tower in Paris

June 2019

In June, many exchange students had already completed all their exams and returned to their countries. Since I had enrolled a Quarter 4 course, I had to stay at Copenhagen in the early June and prepared for my last examination in CBS. I finished my revision earlier than I expected, thus I had some extra time visiting Copenhagen again. I joined the boat tour in Nyhavn and it was indeed a good way to relax my mind. Time flew when you were having fun. It came to the end of my exchange study. I really missed the time in Copenhagen and the trips to other European countries. It was a valuable memory that I would never forget.



Nyhavn - a must-go place in Denmark



CBS Examination Hall

Part 2: General Exchange Information

- **Visa Procedures**

For students who stay in Denmark for more than three months, a residence permit is needed. The application of residence permit starts from paying the Danish government agency around 2400 HKD for creating a case order ID. Students who exchange to Denmark have to apply for the residence permit in person at the Shenzhen joint visa application center, with the processing fee of 1800 RMB. The processing time of residence permit is approximately one month, thus it is suggested to start the visa procedure two months prior to your departure.

This is Denmark visa website: <http://www.vfsglobal.cn/Denmark/China/>

This is Denmark MFA website : <http://um.dk/en>

this is basic documents' you need to prepare:

- 1、 one white photo
- 2、 your application form
- 3、 case order id payment receipt
- 4、 letter of your acceptance
- 5、 financial certificate
- 6、 about 1800 rmb (cash)
- 7、 your passport all pages copies include cover page

Figure 1 Required Document of Applying for Residence Permit from staff at Shenzhen joint visa application center

- **Orientation Activities**

Orientation activities spread over the beginning of the semester. Before the semester started, there was a crash course week social package. After the semester started, there was an introduction week social package. These social packages provided a good opportunity for exchange students to meet new friends through some events, though they were optional and quite costly. I only joined the free compulsory introduction week upon the beginning of the semester which provided students with essential information about CBS and Denmark.

- **International Services and Activities**

Just like UST, CBS has a buddy programme for exchange students. You can sign up for the buddy programme and CBS will assign a buddy to you. Buddies will usually come for airport pickup and pass you the welcome folder (include some brochures and SIM card!), key and housing contract (if you live in the student residence). You can first ask your buddy for help if you have any problems in Denmark.

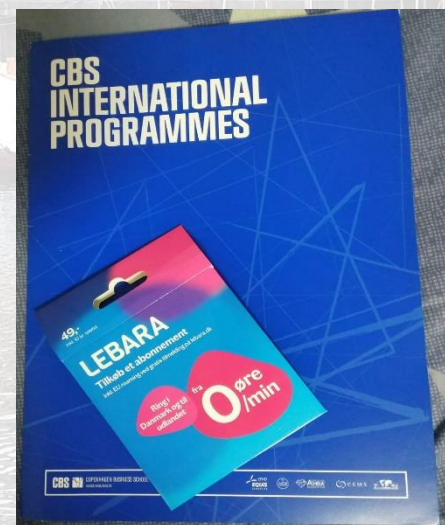


Figure 2 Welcome folder with free sim card

- **Accommodations**

There are eight student residences in CBS. They are, however, insufficient to guarantee each exchange student can get a student residence. Some student residences are not near the campus and some are expensive. Therefore, many students are competing for a good dormitory. The accommodation is allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. After the housing application platform is opened to students, you may have to rush into the platform to choose your preferred student residence and room size. An alternative for accommodation is private housing which the price can be similar, but it is relatively risky and troublesome to find suitable housing and deal with the contracts.

I lived in Porcelænshaven which is relatively inexpensive and near to the main campus. Even I live in a small room (14m²), the size is actually a large room in Hong Kong.



Figure 3 My dorm in Denmark

- **Course Registration**

Before course registration, it is important to check whether the courses can transfer to UST by visiting the credit transfer database (https://crtran.ust.hk/credit_instit?orgID=B0070). The database includes successfully mapped courses which can be transferred to UST. If there is no mapping record for the course but you find the course syllabus is similar to any of one UST courses, you can apply for course mapping before going for exchange. The result helps you decide whether the course can credit transfer and whether you should take the course. The processing time of course mapping is around 1 month.

In CBS, you can only enroll up to 30 ECTS (4 courses) unless you are permitted for course overload. At the first round course registration, you can indicate your course enrollment preference on the online system. If you cannot enroll first preference courses, CBS will try to enroll you to second preference courses. If you are unsatisfied with the result of the first-round course registration, you can send email to get into the course waiting list on a specified date and waiting list will be in a first-come, first-served basis. You will be informed the details via you CBS email before the course registration.

- **Teaching & Assessment Methods**

The teaching methods are in fact quite similar to UST. The main difference is that CBS tends to be a bit more interactive. Classes in CBS usually have more discussion and some non-graded in-class quizzes. In CBS, one lecture lasts for 2 to 3 hours, which can be exhausted.

Assessment methods are completely different. The final grade of a course solely comes from your final product which can be oral examination, written products (essays) or written examinations. Attendance is not required. It provides much freedom to CBS students, though many CBS students are self-disciplined and seldom skip classes.

- **Sports & Recreation Facilities**

The school gym is small, therefore I heard that some students would buy the membership in the nearby fitness centre.

- **Finance & Banking**

You can open a bank account in Denmark and remit money from banks in Hong Kong. Some peers said opening account in Nordea Bank was free for students. However, the staff in Nordea Bank told me that even I was an exchange student there was still a fee of opening a bank account. The policy seemed to be unclear. So, I did not apply for a Danish bank account. During my exchange, I withdrew cash using UnionPay debit card. In Denmark, I can withdraw cash via the EuroNet ATMs with around HKD40 service charge per withdrawal.

- **Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities**

In CBS, I seldom heard about social clubs. To meet new friends, you can join some activities in your dormitory, or you can join some events held by school or other CBS students which are posted on Facebook.

- **Health and Safety**

For healthcare, you will get a yellow card after receiving your CPR number. It is the Danish health card. With the yellow card, you can see the doctor for free. In Denmark and other Nordic countries, it is relatively safe compared to other European countries. Just like Hong Kong, the criminal rate is low there. Even at night, I feel safe to travel around.

- **Food**

In Denmark, dining at restaurants is expensive. Lunch is around 50-100DKK while dinner is much more expensive. Cheaper options for dining out are usually restaurants offering pizzas, kabab, and other Middle Eastern Food like durum and pita bread.

For lunch, you can eat in the school canteens which provide a variety of food every day. It is charged by the weight of the food you take. For your reference, I usually pay DKK 40-55 for lunch. Be aware that canteens in different campus



Figure 4 Lunch at CBS canteen

building may have different opening hours and are usually closed before 7pm on weekdays and whole day on weekends. You may check on the canteen website.

The cheapest option is cooking. For people do not know how to cook, it is better to learn before going to Denmark. Luckily, my friends living in the same dormitory know how to cook ;). The ingredients can be cheaper than Hong Kong in some supermarkets when they are on sale. Cheap supermarkets near my dorm are Fotex, Netto and REMA 1000. Noted that most of the supermarkets are closed on public holidays.



Figure 5 Spaghetti can be very cheap when supermarkets offer a discount

- **Transportation**

Transportation in Copenhagen is quite convenient compared to other European countries. There are metros, bus and trains covering most of the regions in Copenhagen. You can save much fare by using a Rejsekort anonymous (Danish travel card). Generally, one short journey within Copenhagen is around 12-20 DKK. If you have to travel around in Copenhagen, it is recommended to buy or rent a bicycle and cycle everywhere which is extremely common in Denmark.

- **Climate**

In January and February, it is freezing and windy in Copenhagen and the daytime is very short (around 8am to 4pm). It is better to stay indoors. From late March, it becomes warmer and the average temperature is around 10 degree Celsius. The daytime becomes longer and longer. In early June, the daytime is around 5am to 8pm and the maximum temperature can be 28 degree Celsius. It was very hot since my dorm did not have any fans and air conditioning.

- **Communication**

Upon my arrival, CBS gave me a Lebara's SIM card along with the welcome package through my buddy. Every month, I bought a monthly plan for 99 DKK which included 100GB data (5GB data in EU) and 100 international hours for phone calls. It is really a good deal as you need some data when you travel to other countries and you need to receive phone calls from Hong Kong when there are any phone interviews.

- **Cautionary measures**

Although Denmark is a safe country, you are still advised to purchase insurance. You can claim for any losses if there are any accidents in Denmark and other European countries.

Part 3: Items to Bring

Identity documents and their copies	Raincoat
Residence permit and one set of copy	Slippers
Passport photos	USB (for written exams)
Adaptor	Stationary
Cash (DKK, EUR)	Laptop and charger
Credit card	Backpack (for trips)
Debit card (UnionPay)	Camera and memory card
Medicine	Portable charger
Personal care products	Sunglasses
Warm clothes, down jacket, scarf, gloves	One set of formal clothing (for video interviews)
Hair dryer	

Part 4: Useful Links and Contacts

CBS Accommodation (Contains price, information and FAQ of student residences)

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

HKUST Credit Transfer Database

https://crtran.ust.hk/credit_instit?orgID=B0070

CBS Course Catalog (contains syllabus and application procedures)

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

CBS Canteen (contains opening hour of every canteen in campus and menu of the week)

<https://www.spisestuerne.dk/>

If more information is needed, feel free to get my contact from SBM Exchange Team by emailing at bmugexch@ust.hk.