



BI

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BI

OSLO EUROPEAN  
GREEN CAPITAL 2019



Spring 2019  
BI Norwegian Business School  
Exchange report

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Finance & IS

# 1. Monthly Activity Log

## January

Surprisingly, as the Cathay Pacific program does not include direct flight from HK to Oslo hence my exchange mates and I started our journey from Amsterdam. We stayed 3 days and we head to Oslo for BI's orientation week. We borrowed some skates and skied at Songsvann Lake. We adapted Scandinavian lifestyle swiftly, winter was not as terrifying as we expected. At the end of January we even traveled to Copenhagen by Flixbus.

## February

We kicked off February with our visit to Berlin for five days. I decided to join Athletica (Gym chain store for students in Oslo). In addition, we are glad to celebrate Chinese New Year in this wonderful city. At the end of February, we traveled to Finland. Some outstanding experiences would be our visit to the Santa Claus Village, husky ride and reindeer ride.

## March

Finally, we explored another city in Norway apart from Oslo. By joining a student society in BI, BI Outdoor, we got the chance to Gaustatoppen. It is claimed to be the most beautiful mountain in Norway. I could never forget the view from the summit, starring down the hills covered with snow. It felt like I was standing on a level as the horizon. Despite that, me and some of my mates spent a few days in London and Iceland, which then became my favorite country. For Game of Thrones lovers, you should not miss this place as most of the filming took place in Iceland. We are lucky to watch a football match in Ullevall stadium, this is also the first time I watch a live match.

## April





After catching up the tight study progress, we planned a ten-days trip to Poland, Czech and Hungary. It was fun but at the same time, tiring. Before we get any recover time, we joined the second event held by BI Outdoor. This time, we paid visit to one of the most famous tourist attractions in Norway, Preikestolen. The pulpit rock allows us to gain an impressive 604 meters view over the Lysefjord. Preikestolen has been named one of the world's most spectacular viewing points by both CNN Go and Lonely Planet. It might be a challenging hike but trust me, the hard work does pay off. Back to reality, we encountered the first two finals and a report deadline.

May

In May, me and a friend went for a long trip to Italy, exploring various cities such as Venice, Rome, Florence etc. Afterwards, we return Oslo for a big day. 17<sup>th</sup> May is known to be the constitutional day of Norway, Norwegians would dress up and celebrate. On that day, you could get to see the parade, full of children in marching bands. If you are lucky enough you could even spot some royal members waving at you.

June

Me and one of my exchange mates went back to Hong Kong in early June, stopped over in London for a few days. Before that, we decided to capture more in Oslo by trying out different restaurants and revisit some attractions (e.g. Songsvann lake and Opera house). We also hiked and bought some souvenirs.



## 2. General Information

### Visa Procedures

You could apply your student permit from Norwegian Consulate, also you are advised to do it as soon as possible since the process takes time. For more detailed information, you could look up the official website or enquire the staff at Norwegian Consulate, HK directly by <[hong-kong@norwayconsulate.com](mailto:hong-kong@norwayconsulate.com)>. They would be pleased to reply to you with a detailed Student Visa Guide (Appendix 1) regarding your passport type. One thing to bare in mind is that cash is expected to be the means of payment for the visa application and the staffs from the consulate strictly follow to the photo requirements. In order to save time, you have ensure all requirements are met.

### Orientation Activities

Starting with the Information Meeting on Monday 7 January, the first week is all about getting to know your fellow students, BI and your surroundings. The events organized for international students include a party night with other exchange students, ice-skating, skiing events and language courses.

### International Services and Activities

During weekends, BI would held some events such as sight-seeing. The BI-nner is a monthly dinner held on campus, students are most welcome to join and meet friends. All activity information including the registration methods would be sent to your email or could be seen on BI Student Portal.

### Accommodations

You are required to choose one agent out of 3 which are SiO, BSN and Diakonhjemmet. SiO is the cheapest ones with monthly rent range from 3398 NOK (housing rent may vary across blocks and floors) to 6000NOK. One of the most popular dormitory locations of SiO is the Kringsja Student Village. I personally lived that and shared a flat with a foreign student. The distance between BI Kringsja is within a 20-minute journey by metro. BSN is mainly for BI students, it is closest to the school but the most expensive one. If you are on budget, SiO would be a better choice.

## Course Registration

You can register your courses in December. As each course normally takes up 7.5ECT and BI set up quota for students' ECT, hence you could only pick at most 4 courses. Luckily the applications are normally successful.

## Teaching & Assessment Methods

### *FIN3616 Financial Decision Making with Excel (Equivalent to FINA 4000 Level Elective)*

During the course students will learn how to use this powerful program to apply a series of financial models which the students will likely have encountered in their previous courses. For each concept applied the course will provide a brief overview of the relevant theory or model but focus mostly on the practical side of the implementation. It will explain how these models can be implemented in Excel using its built-in functions, matrix calculation, and programming language (VBA). The course will also highlight which real-world financial data is the appropriate input for those models. It will point out different modeling options and discuss advantages and limitations of those approaches. The content of the course will employ theories that have been taught in previous classes. In various areas, the course will delve deeper and provide students with state of the art models that go beyond what was covered in previous courses. Thus, a good understanding of the material covered in the previous finance courses is required to fully benefit from this course. 30% of the course grade is evaluated on group assignments(vba-related). The remaining 70% is counted towards your final exam that is paper-based.

### *FIN3617 Behavioural Finance (Equivalent to FINA 4000 Level Elective)*

The objective of this course is to give students an understanding of investor and managerial behavior and its impact on financial market outcomes. The participants should be able to identify most common obstacles to making rational decisions, to debias their own decisions, and to understand the risks and opportunities associated with biased decisions. The course spans all major fields of finance, including household finance, asset pricing, and corporate finance. The course is graded 10% on class participation, 10% on individual assignments, 20% on group case assignments and 60% on final exam.

### *ELE3710 Business & Professional Ethics*

The course emphasizes work with cases and it reflects that the subject business and professional ethics should be a field of good listening, reflection and discussion. For a first impression, watch perhaps a popular presentation of what the field is about or search on your own for online presentations of business ethics and/or of corporate responsibility. The course based 60% on a group(3) essay , 25% on presentation and 15% on participation.

### *EXC2901 Norwegian Culture and History*

In this course you will learn about Norwegian Culture from 1814 to 21th century, in social , economic and political aspects. Norwegian culture means culture in a traditional sense, with in-depth studies of selected topics such as literature, music, architecture and visual art. The course even includes a field trip to the Folk museum. There might be a few small presentations to do and the professors encourage active learning. The course based 100 % on a final written exam with four essay questions.

### Sports & Recreation Facilities

There are gym facilities in BI and other SiO based residential areas, name Atheltica. As membership fee is required, exchange students are advised to join the 6 months or 3 months plan. Of-course, hiking or skiing are always wonderful options in Oslo. You could search hiking trails on line.

### Finance & Banking

Credit cards are widely accepted in Scandinavia countries. For back up, cash, I registered PLUS ATM card from HSBC for cash withdrawal (includes HK20).

I brought a Standard Chartered credit card, some Nok and Euro. Euro is important if you planned to travel around European cities since some shops/restaurants only accept cash. Otherwise, you could mostly pay in credit cards.

### Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

At around one to two weeks after the semester begins, there will be an orientation week held by different student organizations. You could get a brochure from SBIO and pick any student society that you are interested. Personally I joined BI outdoor and they held two hiking as well as welcoming evets.

Towards the end of every month, BI organizes a free dinner called “BInner” for students to get to know each other.

### Health & Safety

For healthcare, SiO has an online system for making appointments with doctors. I am not sure about the policy and fees. Scandinavia countries are claimed to be safer than European countries. I felt that daily environment in Oslo is safe while Europe is comparatively risky. I also bought an insurance before traveling.

### Food

Norway is claimed to be have a crazily high cost of living. Therefore, dining out or buying products in Norway is quite expensive. In fact, cooking on your own could save you a lot of money – supermarkets’ prices are generally high hence we would go to Grønland, there is an immigrant store that sells fruits, vegetables and different food ingredients (except meat) at

reasonable prices. For meat and other daily necessities, you could buy them at KIWI/REMA/COOP. At BI, there is also a canteen selling hot food and salads, but pricy.

## Transportation

Ruter is the public transport authority for Norway. Students are encouraged to purchase the monthly transportation ticket (415 krone for a month), it covers all the public transportation (T-bane=metro, bus, tram, train, ferry) within Zone1 in Oslo. Ruter card is available in convenient stores, stations and the Ruter app. Do not forget to activate the card before using it since it will count as invalid. You are not required to check in and out however they would held random checking, you will be charged with ~980Nok if your card is found to be invalid/missing tickets. You could always rely on the Ruter app for planning your transport (of course google map is never a bad choice).

For transportation between city centre and airport, you have two choices which are NBS(105Nok) and flytoget(98Nok) . If you hold a Ruter card you will get a discount for the NBS ticket you buy.

## Climate

It is snowy and windy in Oslo. The lowest temperature could reach ~-20°C. The daytime is short and the sunset is around 3-4pm. It is crucial to bring and wear some water-proof clothing and shoes with you, scarf and gloves are important too. Please also note that it is very slippery in the winter especially when snow are melting. For majority of places, heater are provided (even in your dorm) hence you should bring warm coat but less warm clothes.

In May to July, the temperature starts to get warmer in the summer. The highest temperature can hit 37°C and the daytime can last until 10 pm. Even though there are heaters anywhere, it is less common to see air conditioners or even fans.

## Communication

Majority of Norwegians speak fluent English hence verbal communication is not a big problem while products in stores are mostly in Norwegian, you might need some time to adapt. (google translate is helpful in this case). In addition Norwegians are kind and friendly, they would always love to reach a helping hand.

## Cautionary Measures

In general Norway is safe place but you should still beware of your personal belongings!

### 3.Items to Bring

- Passport
- ID card
- important documents (study permit, admission letter, a copy of insurance policy etc.)
- Debit/credit cards
- Cash (NOK and EURO)
- coat
- warm clothing (heat tech)
- gloves
- Hats
- Scarves
- Waterproof boots
- Waterproof backpack
- laptop + chargers
- international adapters
- WIFI Router
- Medicine
- Camera
- Skincare products

## 4. Useful Links

1. Norwegian Consulate: <http://www.norway.cn/embassy/hongkong/welcome/#.WloyPrZ968o>
2. Email for Consulate: [norwayhk@ncchk.org.hk](mailto:norwayhk@ncchk.org.hk)
3. BI website for international students <https://www.bi.edu/study-at-bi/student-life/>
4. BI student portal <https://at.bi.no/EN/>
5. Sio (Housing website): <https://www.sio.no/en/>