

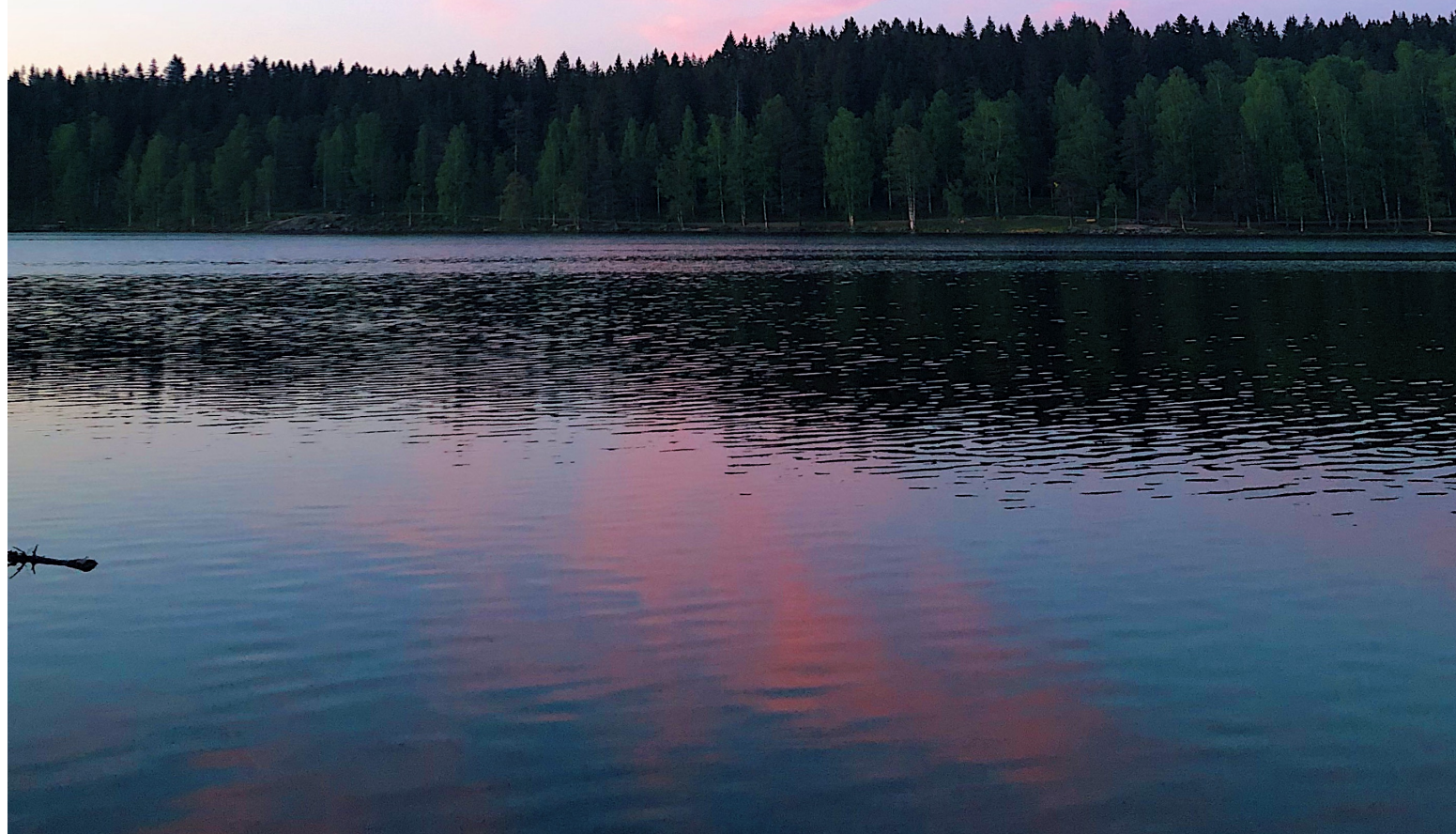
EXCHANGE REPORT

BI Norwegian Business School, Oslo

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Year 3

BBA in Finance and Information System



Monthly Activity Log

January

Before my arrival in Oslo on 5 Jan, I stopped over at Amsterdam for four days with other UST exchange students. It was very cold when we arrived Oslo and the daytime is short in winter that the sky turns dark at around 4:00 p.m.



Amsterdam



City Hall, Oslo

School started on 7 Jan and BI prepared numbers of orientation activities for international students, such as ice skating, Learning Norwegian, sightseeing and Night party. I had class on Monday to Thursday so we can travel to other places during weekends. I went to Copenhagen and Stockholm in January by overnight bus. Most of the metro station in Stockholm are decorated with artwork so we visited some of them.



Little Mermaid, Copenhagen



Solna Centrum, Stockholm

February

The workload in BI was not heavy that it allows us to keep travel around. I went to Berlin, Tallin and Finland. We travelled to Helsinki and Rovaneimi in Finland and they gave me a completely different experience as Helsinki is much modern while Rovaneimi is the Santa Claus Village. We had the husky ride and reindeer ride in the Santa Claus Village which is an unforgettable experience. We also spent one day in Tallin. It is near Helsinki that we can go there by taking a 2.5-hour cruise ship.



Brandenburgen Tor, Berlin



Santa Claus Village

March

I joined a trip held by BI-outdoor on early March. We travelled to Gaustatoppen which is the highest mountain in Norway. There is a railway inside the mountain that took us from the base horizontally to the top of the mountain. It is good to join the activities of BI-outdoor as it is quite difficult for us to go to those places by ourselves. I also travelled to London and Iceland this month. The weather in London was bad most of the time that it was super windy and raining all the time.



Gaustatoppen



Tower Bridge, London

The natural scenery in Iceland is very beautiful and unique. We travelled to several waterfalls, Blue Ice Cave as well as Blue Lagoons. On the last day of our Iceland trip, we joined the Aurora trip as the Aurora forecast was quite high. It was lucky that we are able to see the northern light and it was getting stronger and stronger. It was my first time to see it and it was really amazing. As there is one project deadline and one final exam on late March, I stayed in Oslo to prepare for it. We also watched a football match in Oslo that is Norway vs Sweden.



Skogafoss, Iceland



Norway vs Sweden

April

We were having a long Easter holiday on April followed by two final exams on late April. So I went for a 11-day trip on early April. I went to Poland, Czech Republic, Austria and Hungary. We travelled to different countries by taking bus. It only takes about three hours each trip. The price level in Poland is much cheaper than Oslo. We also went to Hallstatt that I highly recommend to visit. It is considered as one of the most beautiful towns in the world.



Warsaw Old Town



Hallstatt

During the Easter holiday, I travelled to Switzerland and Munich. I went up to the Jungfrauoch – Top of Europe. Zermatt is my favorite place in Switzerland. It is located under Matterhorn. The entire town is a combustion-engine car-free zone in order to prevent air pollution.



Budapest



Interlaken

May

I finished all my final exams on April so I travelled to Italy on early May. I went to Milan, Cinque Terre, Pisa, Pompeii, Rome during the trip. Italy is quite hot so I finally could wear short sleeves shirt during the trip. There were many tourists in Italy that we needed to queue for every tourist spots and sometimes it took more than one hour. I went on a two-day trip to Bergen. I followed the route of “Norway in Nutshell” and bought the ticket by myself as it would be much cheaper. We could enjoy the natural scenery of fjord and mountain during the train and cruise journey. On 17 May, it is the Norway National Day. Most of the Norwegian would wear Norwegian traditional clothing with National flag in hands. I also went in front of the Royal Palace to enjoy the celebration with my friends. I came back Hong Kong on 21 May.



Duomo di Milano, Milan



Cinque Terre, Italy

Visa Procedure

After you got the admission letter from BI, you could send your application for study permit in the website (<https://www.udi.no/en/>) and make an appointment with the Norwegian Consulate. You are required to prepare a list of document and photos and the visa costs around \$5300. After arriving Oslo, you have to apply for a Residence Card from the Police Office. (BI will arrange the appointment for exchange student)

Orientation Activities

During the first month, BI held a range of orientation activities for exchange students. Events include ice skating, learning Norwegian, party and sightseeing. They brought us to visit some of the main sites of Oslo, such as Vigelandsparken, Holmenkollen and the Opera House. It provides opportunities to make friends with other exchange students coming from different countries.

International Services & Activities

There are different Facebook group provided to the international students in Oslo, especially the BI exchange student group. They help provide you the details of different events organized in BI and some reminders for exchange students. Also, "BI-nner" would be held on every month. It is a free dinner provided by BI for international students. The registration is on a first-come-first-served basis.

Accommodations

There are three housing providers which is BSN, SiO and Diakonhjemmet. They offer different types and different prices of rooms. I lived in Sogn Student Village operated by SiO. I rented a single flat with shared bathroom and kitchen. It is quite convenient that there is supermarket (REMA1000) right next to the dorm. It also only one station next to BI.

On the first day of arrival, you need to pick your key at SiO Customer Service Centre in Blindern. You could choose your own room there. However, be careful of the opening time of the Centre as they only open for an hour a day on January.

Courses Registration

BI will send the course list and timetable through email at around one month before the start of semester. Each course constitutes to 7.5ECTS credits and the maximum semester workload is 30 ECTS credits. Therefore, I took four courses during the semester. You will be able to enroll to any course that you have chosen. Also, there is no add-drop period in BI, so make sure you enroll all courses before the deadline.

Teaching Assessment & Methods

I have taken four courses during the semester. Every lesson is a three-hour class with 15-minute break each hour. The final examination period is from late April to June. For some courses that need to use calculator during the exam, you are required to use the BI-certified HP calculator only.

1. ELE3710 – Business & Professional Ethics

[Equivalent to MGMT2130: Business Ethics and Social Responsibility]

The course is weighted on the project of a group of 3, including project submission (60%), presentation (25%) and individual presentation & discussion (15%). You may need to be well prepared on the lecture notes before the lesson as there are many discussions throughout the class. Also, Students are expected to show up for at least 80% of all class sessions. The group is allowed to pick any topics related to business ethics to work on.

2. EXC2901 – Norwegian Culture and History

[Equivalent to Common Core Course in Humanities]

This course gives the students an insight into Norwegian history, culture and society. General understanding of the history and current state of Norwegian business, with an emphasis on state ownership and the petroleum economy are learnt during the class. This course is weighted 100% on the final examination. There is a field trip to the museum during the semester.

3. FIN3616 – Financial Decision Making

[Equivalent to 4000Level Course in Finance]

The course explains how the models can be implemented in Excel using its built-in functions, matrix calculation, and programming language (VBA). The course includes a combination of lectures and computer workshops. It is weighted on the group assignment (30%) and final examination (70%). The homework is similar to the questions taught in labs so it is not difficult.

4. FIN3617 – Behavioral Finance

[Equivalent to 4000 Level Course in Finance]

The objective of this course is to give students an understanding of investor and managerial behavior and its impact on financial market outcomes. It is weighted on individual assignment (10%), group assignment (20%), class participation (10%) and final examination (60%). The course ended on Feb and the examination held on late March.

Sports and Recreation Activities

There is a gym room in BI. Some of the student village also have gym room. They are operated by SiO and you could use it by joining the gym membership program. For recreation activities, Sognsvann Lake would be a good suggestion to visit. It is beautiful and you can ski during winter and jog along the lake.

Finance Banking

I mainly use Citi Debit cards for transaction during exchange. I also brought some EURO and NOK for travel. The currency used in Norway is NOK and its exchange rate to HKD is around 1:1. It is very convenient to use cards in Norway while remember to bring EURO if you are going to travel to other countries as some of the shops may accept cash only.

Health and Safety

The fresh air in Oslo make me feel well throughout the exchange periods. You should also bring some medicines personally. Remember to bring them when you go travel. Norway is safe with very low crime rate comparing to other European countries.

Food

Dinning out in Oslo is a costly option. Therefore, cooking by yourselves would be the most economical choice. REMA1000 and KIWI are the supermarkets that sold things a little bit cheaper than other supermarkets. You could also go the shop in Gronland. They have more choice of food and most of them are cheaper. There is also Asian food market in Gronland.

Transportation

A travel card which call ruter card can be brought in the convenient store. It is better to top up the card monthly for 30 days with student ticket by 450NOK. It covers all transportation in Oslo, including metro (T-bane), trams and buses. Remember to top up the card monthly as there would be random inspections anywhere and anytime. You would need to pay if you were caught using invalid ticket.

Climate

It is cold in Oslo during January to March. Temperature would go below 0 Degree Celsius and keep on snowing. You should wear heattech to keep warm. The floor is slippery so be careful when you are walking on the melting ice. The climate is very dry in winter, so it is better to bring some skin-care products and cream to moisturize your body.

Communication

Most of the Norwegian can speak both English and Norwegian. Their English level is good therefore, there is no communication problem in Norway

Items to bring

- Travel documents (Residence card, Passport, HKID card, study permit letter)
- BI Admission letter
- ATM card and cash (NOK and EUR)
- Wi-Fi router
- Adaptors
- Laptop
- Medicine
- Slippers
- Scarf, gloves, hats
- Boots

Useful links and Contacts

BI: <https://www.bi.edu/>

BI its learning: <https://bi.itslearning.com/>

Study permit: <https://www.udi.no/en/>

Housing: <https://www.bi.edu/study-at-bi/housing/>