

Exchange Report

Copenhagen Business School



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2019 Spring

BBA in Finance and Operations Management

PART I Monthly Log

January

My friends and I have arrived Denmark before the school dormitory was available. Therefore, we booked a room in a hostel in Central Station and had a short visit in Copenhagen. We also met our buddies and had a gathering together. Our buddies were so nice that they took us from the airport to the hostel and answered all our questions. They even brought us to a leisure place to play table tennis together!



February

As my classes started around mid-Feb, my friends and I scheduled a trip to Germany. This was the first place that I went in my Europe travel plan. There were lots of churches and museum, more importantly, lots of cuisines! After having a great time in Germany, I returned to Denmark to attend my lectures. All the professors were fun and interactive. I was involved in many valuable discussions in-class. I also chatted with some foreign students to understand more about their cultures.



March

I went to my dream country Iceland. Although the weather was cold, the scenery was amazing there. I agreed with one of my travel buddies that Iceland is a place that included all the special spots in the world like aurora, blue lagoon, waterfall etc. That was the best place I have been to so far. After my Iceland trip, I had to start preparing my exams as they started in early-Apr.



April

It was quite an intense month to me. All the final examinations were held. There were even three exams in two days! I studied overnight and still found difficulty in managing. I had my last exam in late-April. The course concept was quite abstract that I spent my whole April studying and attending lectures.

May

I got all my exams done. I could finally enjoy my travel without any burden. I went to Vienna and the scenery was super nice. I felt like I got rid of the crowded town and enjoyed the silence. I also went to London to enjoy many Asian cuisines, which really recalled my memory of having food at home. The funniest trip I had in May was in Poland. Although it rained heavily when I arrived, I had the chance to try what a miner did. It was a fresh and new experience to me. What's more important was all stuff in Poland were cheap with good quality. I definitely suggest you guys to visit Poland.



June

I had to say goodbye to Denmark, giving an end to my half-year exchange journey. I spent a few days to farewell with my friends and revisit some famous spots in Denmark. I really didn't want to leave from this amazing country but I had to. The exchange is definitely a great chance to enjoy life!



Part II General Information

Visa Procedures

Students going on an exchange to Denmark are required to apply for residence permit. As there is no Denmark Embassy in Hong Kong, you are required to go to embassy in China to complete the application procedures. The nearest one is in Shenzhen. Clear guidance will be provided that time what to bring to complete the application. Apart from that, you are also required to apply visa online. This one is rather easy that you just have to type your personal information and pay online.

Orientation Activities

There is a welcome package available for the orientation activities. You can buy the package to have several welcoming activities in the first few weeks. You can join the dinner and dance with many exchange students. As I did not buy the package, I didn't know much about it. On the other hand, you can choose to have a buddy before you go to CBS. The buddy will give you a welcome pack(not the welcome package), containing all the information about CBS, tenant contract and things to notice. As I knew, four pairs of buddies will form a small group. They will just hold some activities to let you get used to Denmark(4 CBS buddies & 4 exchange students). If you feel

more comfortable in a small group, joining the buddy's activities should be a better choice.

CBS also provides some free orientation activities. First, you will be asked to go into a lecture hall to listen how the students explain different things in CBS to you like campus location and facilities. After that activity, CBS will hold some other talks like course registration tutorial to let students to be familiar with CBS academic policy. Therefore, if you just want to know about CBS and academic life, the activities provided by CBS will do. If you want to make more friends and experience culture in Denmark, you can consider to join the buddy group and buy the welcome package.

International Services & Activities

Whenever I encountered any problems, the International Office would always be able to help. You can ask them any problems and they will refer you to the right place to answer your questions.

Accommodations

Unlike HKUST, CBS does not have its own dormitory for students and it has agreements with tenants to offer students living places at a discount price near the campus. There are a few dormitories that students can choose from. Pay attention to the facilities that are available in each dormitory and the distance from the campus. Some are quite far away from the campus. The allocation of the dormitory is on a first-come first-served basis. The housing department will send you an email in advance to inform you the details on different dormitories and the time for registration. What to prepare are to make your choice based on the information provided, and be ready to get into the online portal in time. The staff mentioned the dormitories were usually unable to fit the needs of all the students so it is better to reserve time to register. Otherwise, you may have to rent a place on your own and bear a higher cost.

Course Registration

In Europe, it is a requirement for college students to study 30 ECTs, 7.5ECTs for a course. You may also apply for credit overload to 37.5 ECTs if you have valid reasons. To prepare for course registration, you should first check UST equivalency base and CBS undergraduate course available for exchange students through. Through matching the courses, you can identify which courses offered in CBS will be available for credit transfer in UST. It is usual that you can just find a few courses possible for transfer, which makes you hard to graduate in the fourth year. The second step is to look into different courses in CBS to find similarities with UST courses. You will find

the similarities in course title, course description and course syllabus. After you find a few similar courses, you can submit your request to credit transfer department, with UST and CBS course syllabus attached, to see if you can also transfer these credits. Be careful that you should do it early as it takes a month for the department to approve or decline. Take my case as an example, the registration starts in November for spring semester so you should hand in your request at the beginning of fall. After checking all the courses and the credit transfer availability, you should have a list of courses. CBS will send an email to remind students about the registration procedures. They will provide a table in the email. You have to fill in the course code and title manually. When it is the registration time, you need to send the email with the format they provided. The registration is according to a first-come first-served basis. It is seldom that you can register all the courses you want in the first round. They will just put you in the queue for courses that you cannot get in. Also, in the second round, you can change your choices to register in other courses. The registration way is the same through email.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

CBS is quite special regarding the grading policy. There is no mid-term exam or any assignments. Final exam is everything, 100% of your course grade. It should be good news to all of you as you have no burden to attend all the lectures. For final exam, you will sit in a large room with a computer in front of you. You have to use the computer to hand in your e-examination. Clear guidance will be provided by the invigilators so no worries. CBS values communications and interactions regarding teaching style. For the lectures I attended, the professors would always ask students questions and encouraged students to raise their concerns. They didn't mind you interrupting them but very willing to answer your questions. They would give you plenty of time for discussion and allow you to express your opinions. Generally, it is a very casual teaching style that allows you keep talking and you won't feel bored.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

Unfortunately, CBS does not have many sports facilities. What it only has is a very small gym that is mostly crowded in the SP campus. However, there are some large gyms nearby that you can pay for doing exercise. Besides, most people in Denmark ride bicycles. You can also rent a bicycle for fun!

Finance & Banking

I have exchanged for 4000DKK and 500 Euro when I was in Hong Kong. Indeed it is quite flexible for exchange. In Denmark, most people do not use cash and they just

pay by debit cards or credit cards. Most shops accept electronic payment so you don't have to bring so many DKK there. One point to be noted is that you should know your credit card PIN before you go. Some payments may require you to type the PIN code (like adding value). It depends on you to exchange how much but I would recommend you not to exchange too much. Even if you need DKK, you can also use the EuroNet ATM by inserting HK debit card. For the expense part, it is mainly from accommodation, travelling and daily expense. Accommodation is that part we cannot get rid of. However, if you really want to have an exchange trip that does not cost much, you can plan less travel and cook yourselves. This will definitely save you a lot of money.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

There are quite a lot of social clubs introduced during the orientation. Unfortunately I was not interested in those classes and didn't participate in. As heard from my friends, there are some classes you can choose from like yoga and dance.

Health & Safety

When I arrived Denmark, I was asked to register a yellow card within a few weeks. The yellow card enabled the holder to enjoy the healthcare service in Denmark. You don't have to pay if you visit the doctor in the public hospital. There is a hospital that just takes you 15 minutes to go from the campus. Regarding safety, Denmark is definitely a safe country. During my 5-month stay, I didn't see any criminals. However, it would be better to go back your dormitory before 12 am as there may be some people get drunk in the street at night.

Food

There are canteens in some of the campus. You can put all the food you want on the plate and then you will be charged according to the weight. You can also grab bread and a coffee to the class in the canteen. Food offered in canteen is not very expensive, which costs you 30 DKK-50 DKK a meal. However, if you plan to eat outside, the price is much higher. The price for fast-food restaurant is still acceptable but if you go to some high-class restaurant, it will cost you 200 or more DKK most of the time. If you dine out every day, it may be difficult for you to afford. To be honest, you don't have many choices to choose from in Denmark. Be wise for your pick. On the other hand, there are many types of food offered in Denmark. You can simply type what food you want to eat in Google Maps and you can easily find the restaurants nearby. At that time, I went to the Japanese restaurant quite often. The taste is quite good! Also, 'all you can eat' is a quite popular option in Europe that

restaurants offer. You can eat as much as you want at one price and you can enjoy the feeling of buffet.

Transportation

Transportation is very convenient in Denmark. Through taking the bus or the metro, you can go to everywhere in Copenhagen. What you need is a card for adding value, which is exactly the same as the Octopus in Hong Kong. I recommend you to make one when you arrive the airport. There will be a machine that allows you to buy a card and top up. You will need it throughout your exchange journey. Apart from taking metro or bus, there is also an option—ride bicycle yourself. Denmark is a bike-friendly country. There is always a road for bicycle next to the traffic road that you can ride your bicycle to everywhere. It just costs you 150 DKK- 200 DKK a month. Consider that taking a bus for round trip costs you 30 DKK already, riding bicycle is definitely a good choice for you to save money and do exercise.

Climate: Denmark is really cold and dry. When I arrived there, it was negative 5 degree Celsius. Although it was fifteen degree Celsius in May, there is always strong wind in Denmark.

PART III Items to bring

- Personal document(HKID, Passport, Residence Permit)
- Warm clothes
- Chargers and Adaptors
- Debit or Credit cards with Pay Wave
- A few DKK and Euros
- Medicine
- Backpack(not exceeding baggage size for travelling)

PART IV Useful links

Exchange course catalog:

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

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