

# COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL EXCHANGE REPORT

CHUNG HEI TUNG - 2019 SPRING

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## Monthly Activity Log

### January



Just like UST, CBS starts its semester in early February. I flew to Copenhagen on 25<sup>th</sup>, only two days before the start of the mandatory introduction week. I was picked up by my exchange buddy in the airport and received upon arrival, a welcome package prepared by CBS which comprised a free sim

card, keys to the dormitory and the rental contract. Since I'd had all the courses in the first quarter of the semester, my courses started a little bit earlier than the official commencement of the spring term – clashing right with the introduction week events and I just couldn't attend most of the talks and events. Luckily, we had a WhatsApp group gathering all (or maybe not) Hong Kong students that were also on spring term exchange in CBS. As we had different schedules, some were able to attend the talks and shared important information about the exchange.

### February

There were some campus tours included in the introduction week. Different from the centralized academic buildings of UST, the CBS campus is separated into several



teaching blocks scattering all around Frederiksberg. Teaching locations of classes differ – to be exact, classroom location of the same course can change from time to time. As I couldn't join the campus tours, locating the correct classroom was one of the most difficult tasks in the very beginning. It was pretty cold in Copenhagen and the earliest class could start at 8, getting up for classes and rushing into the CORRECT classroom was disastrous. Things become easier in mid-Feb, after I eventually got used to the life running around teaching blocks for different courses.

Before the workload became too heavy for me to slack, I paid a short visit to Iceland, a place that I've always longed for. Sometimes I would question myself



if going for an exchange is a good choice – obviously going to a Scandinavian country isn't very much affordable and there are only a few entertainment choices, mostly pub crawls and stuff. After my trip to Iceland, I could answer myself firmly that it's probably the best choice in my life. And it's

probably not Iceland that I was longing for, but a chance to see and experience the beauty of the world by myself.

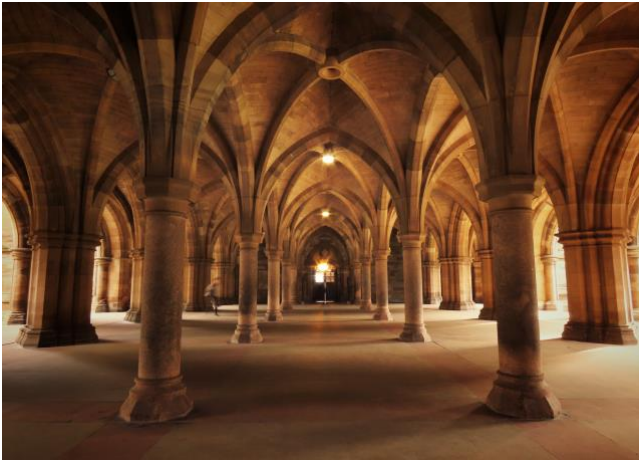
## March

This is the time when studying became harder and harder. As CBS attached much importance to reading and in-class discussion, I had to spend much time on readings every week in order to catch up with the progress. There were no midterm exams or assignments in CBS but only final exams. As it came to the second half of the quarter, pressure built up so I didn't travel a lot. All my

courses finished by late March. The last week was emptied for exam preparation.

## April

I finished all my exams by mid-April, much earlier than I expected when I bought the air tickets. One hour after submitting the last exam, I was in the



Copenhagen airport (only 15 minutes away from the exam hall so I don't think I was the only one carrying a suitcase to the exam hall), ready to go for a trip to Ireland. Travelling after the final exams was much more enjoyable than during the semester as I no longer need to squeeze everything

into a weekend. For the rest of the month, I went to Ireland and the UK. 20 days seemed pretty long for a two-country trip plus I didn't visit a lot of cities, but I full enjoyed myself and didn't rush for anything, which I think is only possible during an exchange or unemployment/retirement period.



## May

I went to Switzerland and the Balkans in May. Temperature varied a lot every single day. On one day I wore short sleeve T-shirt on the next day I had to take out my down jacket. It was quite interesting that I experienced four seasons within one month. During the whole Switzerland trip, it was either raining or snowing. When I went down to the Balkans, I got myself tanned within one day.



## June

Time to leave Copenhagen.



## **Visa Procedures**

As the exchange period is over 3 months, a residence permit is required. Upon receiving the official acceptance letter from CBS, students should prepare all the required documents as soon as possible for visa application. The nearest visa application center is in Shenzhen. The officially stated processing period should be within 2 months. I got my residence permit one month after submission of the documents. As for Hongkong passport holders, the staff will not collect your passport but only have a look. The residence permit is only a piece of paper and you'll need to present it for the passport control. After arriving Copenhagen, you'll need to make an appointment with the city hall to get the residence card.

<https://www.vfsglobal.cn/Denmark/China/Chinese/index.html>

information for the application and required documents can be found in the website.

## **Orientation Activities**

The last week of January will be the mandatory orientation week. There are talks about exams, dormitory and residence card application stuff. I strongly recommend joining the campus tour (if any) as I took very long time to locate the right building. There was a pub crawl night organized by the school where you can get to know other exchange students. Your exchange buddy will also organize a small-group pre-drink party before the pub crawl. Some courses may clash with the orientation activities so you may miss out some events though.

## **International Services and Activities**

There is an international office which will send emails to exchange students from time to time. Check out the emails for activities.

### **Accommodations**

You can either rent a private room or rooms provided by the school. You may be allocated rooms that are not on your preference but you can email the housing office with reasons. I stayed in Porcelaeshaven which is only a 12min walk away from the main building. Rent is also moderate even among all choices. (~4500dkk/month + service fee)

### **Course Registration**

Each student must take at least 4 courses. You will be asked to provide 4 course preferences together with an alternative for each preference so it's 8 courses together. I was allocated only 2 courses in the first round but the waitlist moved pretty fast so don't worry even if you are allocated less than 4 courses.

I took comparative political economy, political economy development, industrial analytical organization and behavioral finance. I squeezed all courses in the first quarter. It's manageable but not recommended.

### **Teaching & Assessment Methods**

There is no attendance requirement or midterm exam or assignment. The grade is relying solely on the final exams. Final exams can take the form of written exam, take-home assignment or oral exam. I only had written and take-home exam. Retake is possible but probably in late August. There are always in-class discussions on readings. Be prepared.

### **Sports & Recreation Facilities**

There is a gym in the main building but it's very small. You can apply for membership at FitnessWorld.

### **Finance & Banking**

Not a lot of branches accept request for opening account from exchange students. As the semester is only 5-month long, I recommend bring visa/master credit cards and ATM cards with cirrus/maestro/plus logo for cash withdrawal.

### **Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities**

Pub crawl is offered by Nexus Café every Thursday evening. The school also offers some sports class e.g. yoga class where you can make new friends.

### **Health & Safety**

You'll received a yellow card together with the residence card. With the yellow card, medical service is free. Information of the doctor is written on the card.

Copenhagen is a safe city. The only thing you have to worry about is probably bike theft.

### **Food**

Dining out is very expensive in Copenhagen so I cooked in the dormitory most of the time. There is a small china town near the central station where you can find sauce and veggies from hometown. To save more, you can go the rema1000/netto/lidl/aldi – the cheapest supermarkets. Selection of product is limited but should be good enough for such price.

### **Transportation**



You can buy second-hand bike on some facebook pages (ask your exchange buddy for details). It's probably the cheapest way to travel around the city as you can sell it at more or less the same price when you leave to city (according to my buddy). There is a rejsekort for public transportation. Price will be reduced by half with this card.

## **Climate**

It is very dry in Copenhagen but its not very cold. Temperature in February is around 0-5 degree Celsius. The cheapest heattech from uniqlo will do. Together with sweater and down jacket it's already pretty warm.

## **Communication**

A free sim card is included in the welcome pack. Data plan is also cheap. (99dkk for 100gb local data + 5 gb EU + 120 mins dial quota including hk)

## **Cautionary measures**

Always bring an umbrella – it rains pretty often in Copenhagen.

## **Items to Bring**

- Adaptor & charger
- ID & passport
- USB for written exam
- Warm clothes
- Notebook
- Medicine
- Credit cards and ATM cards
- Backpack

## Useful links and contacts

- Course Catalog

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

If more information is needed, get my contact from SBM Exchange Team by emailing at [bmugexch@ust.hk](mailto:bmugexch@ust.hk).