



# Exchange Report

## Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

TSUI Leslie  
Year 3 – GBUS & IS  
Fall 2019

## Table of Contents

<b>Part I – Monthly Activity Log</b> .....	3
<b>Part II – General Exchange Information</b> .....	5
<b>Part III – Items to Bring</b> .....	8
<b>Part IV – Useful Links and Contacts</b> .....	8

## Part I – Monthly Activity Log

### August

I arrived in Copenhagen on 20<sup>th</sup> August. My first impression of Copenhagen was that people are in general very friendly and helpful. My buddy picked me up at the airport in the early morning and she had assisted me with checking in the dormitory and handing over my dormitory keys and contract. In the evening, I went to the Bowling night event organized by the CBS team, which is one of the events included in the Crash Course Week Social Package that cost DKK 425. I think it is a good kickstart for the exchange as you will meet some other exchange students. During the week, I spent most of the time with other exchange students to party and participate in the organized events, and also visit some tourist attractions like Christianshavn, Nyhavn, and the Little Mermaid. In the following week, I applied for the CPR and yellow card at the Frederiksberg Townhall, which is about 15 minutes away from Katherine Kollegiet by bike. They will send you the CPR and yellow card by mail within a week, which serves for the purpose as your Identity card and medical card respectively.

There will be an orientation week organized by CBS before the semester starts, and you will be assigned with different time slots for the information sessions and campus tours. The highlight of the week was the buddy party. I went to my buddy's apartment for dinner together with other exchange students and their buddies. After dinner, we all went to a party arranged by CBS. It was held in Chateau Motel which is one of the biggest and the most exciting night clubs that spread over multiple floors with different vibes and dancing floors, where we all got to meet more other local and exchange students studying in CBS.



### September

In the first week of September, I took a trip to Lund and spent a day walking around the city centre and Lund University. It is quite close to Copenhagen, which took an hour from Central Station by train. I recommend you take a day trip to this modern little city and you can even go to the IKEA in Malmo even you can manage the time.

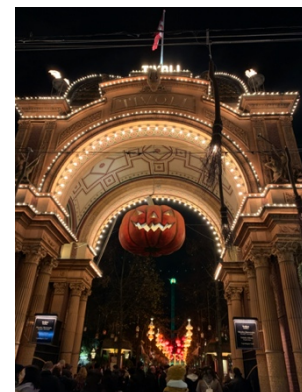
The semester officially began in September. Compared to HKUST, CBS has a different teaching style and course structure, wherein there are many in-class discussions and group works. Though the classes do not take attendance, I truly recommend you attend the classes to prepare for the midterms and finals. In general, I found the classes very interactive and

interesting, and some courses might require you to submit group assignments at the end of each lesson. Also, be prepared that there will be a lot of case studies and readings that will require a little more time put in before class.

## October

I quickly settled down and adapted to life in Copenhagen. In the first half of October, I went to visit some of the tourist attractions in Copenhagen after class since there were long days in summer. Overall, I would recommend you spend a few days visiting Nyhavn, Nørreport, Kongens Nytorv, Island Brygge, Christianshavn and Free Town in Christiania, as they are all very close to each other and within walking distance. In particular, I rented a boat with a group of friends in the Island Brygge. We really enjoyed it and it is a unique experience as we steer the boat ourselves. Besides, visiting the free town is very eye-opening, but please remember that taking photos is forbidden in some district inside the town. Besides, you can also rent a bike and explore Copenhagen on two wheels. I have rent a bike from Swapfiets with student discount (early-Sep), which costs me around DKK 100 a month. It is also the cheapest means of transportation for short distance.

In the second week of October, there was a holiday week called potato week. It is a traditional holiday where schools are off for a week so children could go back in time to harvest. Though it was a holiday, there were still some assigned online coursework and assignments. After submitting the coursework online, I took some days to explore around France and Spain. I also went to the UK for short travel during the weekend. If you also plan to travel around Europe, you should plan at least one month ahead as tickets are a lot cheaper (I bought a DKK 100 ticket for a round trip to London). That being said, I decided to stay in Copenhagen on 31<sup>st</sup> October, in which I have spent my Halloween in Tivoli which is the greatest theme park in Copenhagen.



## November

November was a rather hectic month as I was so swamped with midterms and exams. However, I found the examination format rather interesting. Some of them are sit-in exams and some took place online. In one of the courses, the oral exam is the one and only assessment. I was asked to prepare a presentation with any topics based on the course materials, then I had a discussion with the professor on the chosen topic followed by a bunch of follow-up questions. I personally think this is a very holistic way to examine a student's

understanding, and I was even asked to discuss some areas that are very technical. For most of the other courses I took, I had to complete essays and submit online within a period ranging from 24 hours to 72 hours. My schedule in November was packed with exams, though I did take some short trips to other countries in Europe.

### **December**

I had a joyful Christmas in Europe, especially in Copenhagen. Here in Copenhagen, all the streets are taken over by glistening Christmas decorations, and the Christmas markets are the best place to soak up the atmosphere. Christmas markets are everywhere in Europe, and there are several Christmas markets opened in Kongens Nytorv, which are opened from late November to mid-December. During the month, I spent a few weeks on trips to Manchester, Brussels, Basel, Grindelwald, Jungfrau, Innsbruck, Munich, Berlin etc. Travelling during the Christmas season is slightly more pricy than usual, and I would recommend taking overnight bus trips if you want to save transportation and accommodation costs.



## **Part II – General Exchange Information**

### **Visa Procedures**

As there is no Visa Application Centre in Hong Kong, I applied the visa in Shenzhen which is the nearest one. In mid-April, I received the ST-1 application form and acceptance letter from CBS by email. You will need both of these documents to apply for the residence permit and submit them in-person in Shenzhen. Before submitting an application, you must first create a case order ID and pay the Visa fee online. Then, you will receive the visa by post after 4 weeks. Upon arrival, you will also need to register a CPR number at the Citizen Service Centre. I suggest you book an appointment online before going to the centre.

### **Orientation Activities**

CBS offers different orientation activities, including Crash course week social package (19 Aug – 23 Aug), Introduction week social package (26 Aug – 31 Aug), Tour of Denmark and Berlin

Trip. Most of the exchange students will join these orientation activities, and you will be able to make a lot of new friends.

I joined the Crash course week social package which costs DKK 425, which is the earlier and cheaper one. There are different social activities included in this package, including Danish Hygge, Big bowl night, International buffet, Game night & Bar night and Friday fun night. I strongly recommend you join this package, as you could meet many exchange students there.

### **Accommodations**

In late-May, you will receive the email from CBS for applying for the housing. I chose Katherine Kollegiet (KK) as it is close to the campus (10 mins bike / 20 mins walking distance). In terms of the price, I think it's a bit higher than other options. Overall, it is a good place to stay since it is like a community with different organized events/parties where you can get to know many CBS exchange students (no local students at KK). In addition, you will have your own private kitchen in your room which is also one of the reasons I have chosen a single room in KK. If you want to save for accommodation, I recommend you share a room with your friends from private housing or live in other dormitories/double room. Since the housing allocation is first-come-first-served, make sure you log in the system earlier than the assigned timeslot. It will start sharply at the suggested time and be aware of the time differences as well.

### **Course registration**

Before the course registration starts in May, you should plan ahead for the courses you want to take during the exchange, and more importantly, you should make sure all the courses are approved on the course equivalent database and send the GR-22 form to HKUST's Credit Transfer Application Unit for mapping the courses. Remember to submit the GR-22 form as early as possible, as it is expected to take more than a month to receive a response from the staff and the course registration deadline is in late-April. That being said, you will receive an email for course registration in April, and you should indicate the priority of the courses and prepare with a list of back-up courses. You can only choose up to 4 courses each semester, but you can overload by submitting the request. Unlike HKUST, there will be some overlap and time clashes among courses, and you should be aware of that and attend whichever you feel that is more important.

### **Teaching & Assessment Method**

The teaching and assessment method of CBS is totally different from that of HKUST. There are less continuous assessments at CBS, but with more interactive discussions and case analysis. For instance, I have taken a course in which I have to work on a case report every week, and the professor had chosen one of the many cases submitted by different groups as the case for the final exam. Three out of four courses that I have taken required a written report only for both mid-term and final exam and one of them is conducted in an oral format. To conclude, I would say it might require less time for attending the classes but still you have to spend

some time to prepare for the exams, and it often requires you to interact and discuss with other students.

### **Sports & Recreation Facilities**

There are no sports facilities in CBS, but there are gyms located in Frederiksberg.

### **Finance and Banking (currency & expenses)**

You should bring along the foreign currency to Copenhagen, and only DKK is accepted. In case you have planned to travel to Europe, you should bring EUR/GBP/CHF accordingly. Personally, I used credit card most of the time as it's convenient in the way that every store have mobile payment terminals installed, though I was charged with foreign transaction fees. That being said, I didn't open a bank account in Copenhagen. Another reason is that it takes extremely long for the appointment, where you have to book the appointment for one month in advance.

### **Health and Safety**

You will receive a yellow card upon the registration of CPR at the office in Frederiksberg Townhall. I didn't use the medical services at all, but you can visit the clinic by holding the yellow card.

### **Food**

In general, the price for dining out in Europe is higher than that in Hong Kong. However, the food in grocery stores are cheap, mostly Netto, Lidl and Fotex, and others might be slightly expensive. I saved a lot by cooking at dormitory instead of dining out. There are Asian markets near CBS campus and also in Nørreport, but you can expect they are more expensive than Hong Kong. I recommend you bring some Asian food to Copenhagen if you can manage it.

### **Transportation**

The quickest route from the airport to Copenhagen centre or Katherine Kollegiet is via train or Metro. Most of them run 24 hours, and you need to get a card from 7-11 or machines in train/metro stations. You will get a cheaper fare using the Rejsekort card (~DKK 12 to DKK 20 per trip). I strongly recommend you rent a bike from Swapfiets if you travel in short distance frequently. I often bike from Katherine Kollegiet to CBS and the city centre (Kongens Nytorv/Nyhavn/ Nørreport), which takes about 15mins to 30mins.

### **Climate**

It is warm in August and September, and I wore short sleeves in the first few weeks. It began to get freezing cold towards mid-November. There are snow showers sometimes, but it never really snowed. From October onwards, days were short and the sunsets before 6 pm, even around 4 pm in November. It also rains a lot in December. Therefore, I recommend visiting all the tourist spots in August and September when the weather is still nice.

## Communication

You can get a Lebara SIM card from the CBS International Office or from the welcome package. You can top up the SIM card on Lebara's websites, which usually offer a package of 100GB + 100 hours (incl. 5GB in EU) that costs DKK 99, which is the best option if you will stay in Europe.

## Part III – Items to Bring

- ✓ Adaptor for Ethernet Cables (if needed, especially for MacBook)
- ✓ Adaptors and chargers
- ✓ Backpack/Bum bag
- ✓ Calculator
- ✓ Clothes (i.e. gloves, heattech, jackets, scarf etc.)
- ✓ Credit card
- ✓ Ethernet Cables (the WiFi is extremely slow in Katherine Kollegiet)
- ✓ Extension sockets
- ✓ First aid kit
- ✓ Foreign currency (i.e. Dkk, Euro)
- ✓ Hair dryer
- ✓ Headphones
- ✓ Laptop
- ✓ Medicine
- ✓ Nailcare
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Tissues
- ✓ Toothbrush, paste
- ✓ Umbrella
- ✓ USB
- ✓ Vitamins

## Part IV – Useful Links and Contacts

### Visa – Online Form

<https://www.nyidanmark.dk/en-GB/You-want-to-apply/Study/Higher-education>

### CPR Registration

<https://www.frederiksberg.dk/en/english>

### CBS Course Catalogs

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

### Swapfiets bike

<https://swapfiets.dk/en/offer/copenhagen>

### Lebara SIM

<https://mobile.lebara.com/dk/en>