

Monthly Activity Log

August 2019

I arrived Copenhagen on the 23rd. My exchange buddy picked me up at the airport and brought me around the campus area at Frederiksberg. I joined the paid Welcoming Package on top of the orientation activities. The canal tour and the Danish Movie Night were definitely the highlights of all the events. During the orientation week, a lot of exchange students go partying every night in the clubs together under the coordination of the student organizing committee. Apart from the welcoming activities, I went to the Amager Strandpark Beach as it was still summer. It was totally worth it with the sunny weather as Copenhagen is always cloudy if not raining during winter time.



1 Amager Strandpark Beach

September 2019

School started and I travelled to other countries during my free time. I went to Malta, Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. The school offered a trip to Berlin which costed around 1700 HKD. It was amazing for me as the school arranged a coach for us and we went on a ferry with it. The walking tours at the city centre and the Former Concentration Camp were really informative. I am impressed by how German treat their own history. For example, the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe made the visitors feel the meaning of it implicitly, which triggered us to think about the history thoroughly and left us a remarkable experience. After all, Malta is my favourite as it is surrounded by the sea and it is always sunny. As I lost my phone on the first day of my exchange journey, I only have few photos from my friends until I bought a new phone in late September in Amsterdam.



2 Near Blue Grotto in Malta



3 Red Light District in Amsterdam (Do remember not to take photos right in front of the buildings)



4 Comics Museum in Brussels (worth going for Smurf fans)

October 2019

We had holidays in mid-October as it was the Potato Week. Traditionally, children in Denmark do not go to school during that week to help their families collect potatoes in their garden. Although this tradition has been fading, the professors are keeping this mid-term break. I spent this holiday with my friends in Austria and Czech Republic. I also spent my weekend

exploring Copenhagen and I went to Roskilde, which was a town by the coast with a stunning sunset.



5 The sky was pink during the sunset in Roskilde



6 Hallstatt in Austria is a must-go although it is pretty packed with tourists



7 Ice cave in Salzburg (The view from the mountain top wowed me more than the ice cave)



8 Charles Bridge in Prague (there were more swans than tourists)

November 2019

I had more classes in November as I was doing 3 semester-long courses and 2 quarter-2 courses. My professors assigned two mid-term take-home assignments and 1 mid-term project to me. Nonetheless, I had 21 days staying out of Denmark due to unexpected arrangements and spontaneous trips on top of what I had planned. Being the president, I represented Oikos Hong Kong to take part in Oikos FutureLab in Geneva together with 2 of my executive committee members. It was an event that gathered the representatives from chapters all around the globe to formulate solutions for a more sustainable future from the business perspective. I had a taste of insect products such as energy bar with insect powder and dried insects, which were unexpectedly tasty. During this trip, I received an invitation from a bank to do a group interview in London for a summer analyst position in Hong Kong in the week after. I also travelled to Ireland and Morocco this month. It was my first time being in Africa and I had a slight cultural shock. The hawkers in the market would spare no means to catch your attention. For instance, they would say “hello” in all Asian languages when they saw me and my friends (who were from Singapore). There were some Moroccan scams and thefts to be aware of. After all, I found the way of how they do business interesting and enjoyed bargaining with the hawkers. Do remember only buy something half the price of what the hawkers quote.



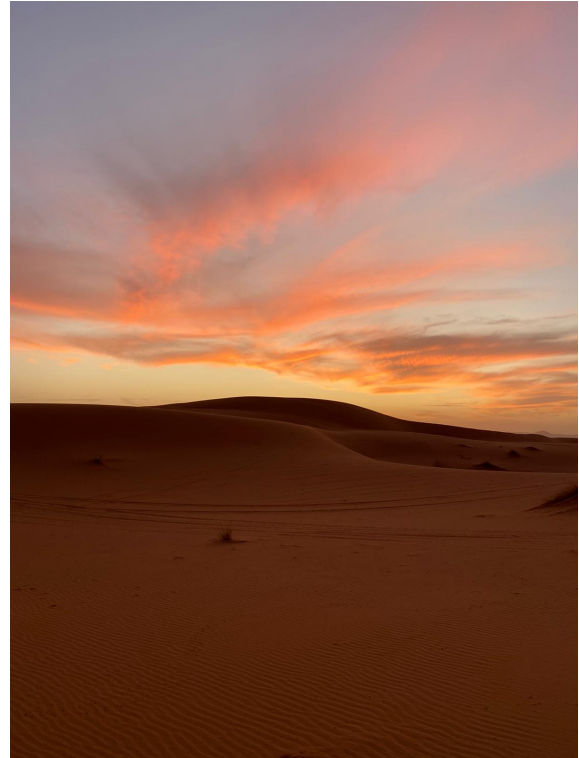
9 United Nations Office in Geneva



10 River Liffey in Dublin at night



11 Tower Bridge in London



12 Camel ride during sunrise in Sahara Desert

December 2019

This month started off with my trip to Italy and Venice was my favourite city followed by a take-home exam for my E-commerce course. I went to Helsinki in Finland before my next Risk Management take-home exam. After that, I did some short trips to the nearby cities in Sweden, Lund and Malmo, as well as other cities in Denmark such as Aarhus. The Lego House in Billund is definitely a highlight. If you wish to visit Legoland as well, avoid November to March as it is closed during this period. During Christmas, I stayed in Copenhagen as some of my friends visited me and we went to a famous amusement park called Tivoli Garden. The Christmas decorations and the fireworks were amazing.



13 Venice



14 Helsinki Chapel of Silence



15 Lego House



16 Tivoli Garden

January 2020

I went to London again for New Year Countdown. I also spent my time on my final project of the course about financial crises as well as preparing for my Entrepreneurial Finance Final exam. In order to watch the fireworks right next to Thames River, you have to get the ticket in late September online for 10 pounds.



17 London New Year Countdown Fireworks

Visa Procedures

A residence permit is required by CBS as the exchange period is longer than 3 months. The nearest visa application centre is located in Shenzhen. Before going there in person, you are required to submit a registration online first. Please check the latest exchange rate between Hong Kong Dollar and Danish Kroner to make sure your bank account has sufficient money to meet the visa requirement. You have to register for the residence card (CPR) when you arrive. The card makes life easier in European countries' immigration check. More details will be explained in email by the school.

<https://www.vfsglobal.cn/Denmark/China/>

Orientation Activities

The school offers free info sessions regarding exams, course registration, housing regulations, and campus walking tour for free other than the paid activities and parties mentioned above. Although they are said to be compulsory and have arranged you into different groups, they do not take attendance. As such, you can feel free to join the other group or request for being absent in these activities.

International Services & Activities

In case of any issues, you may visit the international office directly, email or call them. They are always happy to help. The school will also send you email for activities update.

Accommodations

The hall allocation is first come first served. You might want to fight for it just as what we usually do during course registration. I was lucky to get the school's housing. However, chill out in case you cannot get it as the school would help you with that. The price of the school housing varies depending on the type of room. Washing machines & dryers (pay as you use), kitchen with basic utensils as well as everything you need for bedding are included. Based on my observation, it is better not to stay in large shared rooms (10 single rooms sharing 1 big kitchen). I was quite satisfied with my double room in Kathrine Kollegiet as the whole hall was intended for exchange students except the cultural difference between me and my roommate. <https://www.cbs.dk/en/international-opportunities/international-students/guestexchange-student/accommodation>

Courses Registration

All courses are 7.5 ECTS no matter it contributes to 3 or 4 credits in UST. If you have some courses that you really want to do, reach out to SBM as well for the priority letter. You can choose up to 5 courses with the reference letter from SBM and put 1 back-up for each course correspondingly. You do not know the class schedule when you choose the course unlike UST. However, they allow a certain level of time clash. Do remember to check the course catalogue as some courses might only be available for a particular semester.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

Teaching is similar to UST except that they do not take attendance. To me, qualitative courses are better than quantitative courses. Professors are usually less responsive than those in UST. Assessments are done at the middle and at the end of the course, which the mid-course assignment is usually the pre-requisite of the final. For all the assessments, they might be MC sit-in, 48-72 hour take home, in-class presentation or presentation to the professors.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

The school canteen adopts a self-service approach and you are charged based on the weight of your food. I usually spend 40-60 Danish Krone per meal. There is a nice library at school. Do utilize the student information centre on the ground floor for printing. You may simply use their desktop for your Ryanair flight ticket. Nexus café is the school café and it will turn to a club every Thursday night.

Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)

I brought around 3000 Danish Krone together with a small amount of European currencies. Cards are preferred for most of the time. I spent around 70K HKD for my whole exchange journey.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

Orientation events were the best way to meet your first batch of friends there. For social clubs, CBS has something similar to Pro-p in UST but less crowded. I joined 180 Degree Consulting and partnered with 2 German and 1 Norwegian to work on a project from a social enterprise that tried to reconstruct the value chain in Denmark fishery. I enjoyed the networking events a lot such as the Christmas party and the post-workshop gatherings.



18 My client offered me free oysters as a reward for testing out their seafood pick-up point

Health & Safety

Denmark is very safe. I dropped my wallet but someone picked it up and emailed me and everything was still there. Also, we can visit doctors for free with the CPR. I visited the doctor for once due to food poisoning. Although the doctor is free, you have to pay for the pills in the pharmacy which is separated from the hospital. It costed me around 25 HKD for 3 days of medication.

Food

It was quite pricy to dine out (above 100 HKD per meal), so I do my meals at home most of the time. I usually go to the school canteen or café for lunch or coffee (Espresso House, Nexus Café, Mad & Caffè).

Transportation

I rented a bike from Swapfiet for around 180 HKD per month. For metro, it is cheaper per journey with an anonymous metro card (Rejsekort) and it is the cheapest if you get the one for students. One journey costs around 20 HKD depend on how many zones you are travelling across. You might also get the month ticket for 300 Danish Krone. I only take metro when I have to go to the airport.

Climate

Around 20 degree Celsius during summer and usually sunny. Cloudy and rainy during winter just as other European countries. The wind might get too strong that you have to pay 10x effort in biking. It is usually 0 to 10 degree Celcius in winter. As I have my radiator on at all

times during winter, I usually wear t-shirts and short at home. However, my feeling for the temperate might not be relatable to you as I am not really afraid of cold.

Communication

Most people speak fluent English, Hong Kong should learn from them. I got a data plan which is 99 Danish Krone for 99GB of which 5GB in other European countries, with unlimited calls in Denmark from Lebara. The school will give you a free SIM card and you can simply activate and manage your subscription plans online.

Cautionary measures

When you come across heavy rain and you are not in a hurry, it is better to wait for a while. It is usually fine to bike under the rain as long as it is not pouring down. However, a rain jacket is recommended (the one that looks like garbage bag will do).

Also, the electronic gadgets are in general more expensive, make sure you get what you need or else you might consider asking your friends to get from Sham Shui Po and mail them to you.

Items to bring

Adaptor, charger, HKID passport, USB for written exam, down jacket, laptop, credit card, ATM cards, padlocks, suitcase are essentials. Grocery stores are readily accessible and you might get Chinese groceries from Asian markets when you get homesick.

Useful Links and Contacts

CBS Exchange Info Page

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

CBS Course Catalogue

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

Frederiksberg Municipality

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

If you would like to know more about my exchange experience, feel free to reach out to me by contacting SBM office.