



Exchange Report | 2019 Fall Copenhagen Business School

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Monthly Activity Log



August

I arrived at Copenhagen on 25th August. So when you first arrive, your exchange buddy should pick you up at the airport and bring you to your dormitory. He's the one who'll hand over your land contract and dormitory keys, so be sure to let him know about your flight details. My buddy drove me around the city and showed me what are some attractions I could visit during my stay in Copenhagen. Danish people are in general really friendly and approachable, so don't be shy and feel free to ask your buddy anything before or during your stay. Don't forget to apply for CPR and your yellow card, as that's what proves your temporary citizenship in Copenhagen.



The semester starts in the beginning of September, but you will be asked to arrive a week early for orientation. Day times are information sessions on exams, housing and academic matters; while night times are some city tours, parties and Folk dancing. You'll need to pay for some of the night activities, but it's definitely a good kickstart to get to know some other people.

September

Copenhagen is a lot warmer with more sunshines in Aug and Sept, so be sure to travel around the city and take some good pictures. I went to some of the famous attractions after class – Nyhavn, Nørreport, Christianshavn, Island Brygge. If you don't have plans on a warm Saturday afternoon, I highly recommend picnicking and sunbathing at Island Brygge. You'll see lots of Danish locals sunbathing, swimming, playing waterslides and even beach volleyball. I rented a boat for a short boat trip along Island brygge another afternoon, and it was definitely a way to get to know the city.



The semester is broken into 2 phrases, so classes are either during the first half, second half or the entire semester. For me, I was lucky enough to have myself enrolled in mostly second half classes and some online courses, so I had more free time to travel in the first half of the semester. Classes were less demanding in September, so I travelled to Prague, Budapest, Slovakia, Vienna, Hallstatt with some other exchange students.

October

I'd say the teaching method in CBS and UST is vastly different. In CBS, they require a lot of case readings before class but most of them are not mandatory. For the courses I took, there were lots of free discussions and Q&A sessions during class, and we were also required to prepare group presentations for a student-led lecture. If you want a quiet place to sit and do your readings, you should definitely check out the CBS Library. They have a 4-story nicely renovated library in the main building, and that's where most CBS students study during the day.



By this time, a lot of my HK exchange friends have already started their semesters in their own universities. I was lucky enough to get a cheap air ticket to London to visit my friend at City University of London. I also went to Pisa, Florence, Cinque Terre, Milan and Rome in Italy. You should always keep an eye on Ryanair and EasyJet's website for discount price tickets, so basically you can find tickets pricing as low as HKD\$75 if you book 3 weeks early. I'd say there aren't a lot of places for shopping in Copenhagen, so you should definitely do some shopping in London as it was a real bargain considering the 15% tax refund. ASOS and Zalando are also 2 good websites for online shopping if you want to shop in Copenhagen.

November

Midterms and exams started to kick in during November. But you can really tell the difference in examination format from the ones in Hong Kong. In CBS, most of the exams are essays and they are mostly conducted online. For most of the exams, the professor would release the exam topic online, and you would submit your essay through the online portal. These exams last from 24 hours to as long as 1 month depending on the courses. One of the courses requires oral exam, I had to prepare a 5 minute presentation and the examiner would take turns asking me questions based on in-class theories and cases. It was really eye-opening as you get to listen to personalized feedback based on your own case presentation. But there's not much to worry, since the professors are mostly very easy going and they welcome intellectual discussions based on the course theories.



Every year during November, schools are off for a week for what's called a "potato holiday". In the past, kids would go back to their hometown and harvest potatoes with their families. It was perfect timing for travel so I went to Madrid, Toledo and Paris during the holiday. But bear in mind that, most professors still assign online coursework or online mid-terms during or right after the holiday. So be sure to complete your schoolwork before you go on travelling.

December

Most courses have come to an end in early December, and most exams are held during the first and second week of Dec. Apart from online exams, some exams are held in the CBS Examination hall in Amager Strandvej. These exams are also held digitally, so you would receive your exam

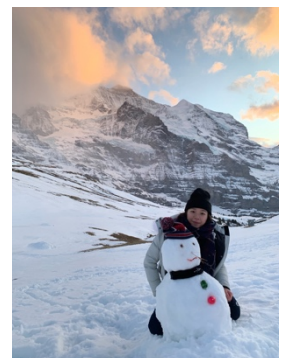


topic/questions online, and you'll be required to complete your work with computers at the exam hall. Speaking of exam formats, in CBS they require critical thinking and you can't memorize the answers



beforehand. One tip I have is to list out the summary for each reading, highlighting the arguments and counterarguments for all the in-class discussions earlier, this way it would be a lot easier to map out your thoughts with limited time.

After the hectic days of exam, it's finally time to relax and go on a Christmas vacation. I first went to Brussels, then all the way to Basel, Grindelwald and Jungfrau in Switzerland, then Innsbruck in Austria, and finally ending the trip with Berlin, Nuremberg, Hamburg and Munich in Germany. One of the highlights were all the Christmas markets in Germany and Switzerland, you can really feel the Christmas vibes together with all the good food and Christmas souvenirs. Among all these cities I've been too, I'd say Innsbruck is also one of my top recommendations. You get to hike up to Nordkette mountain for all the astonishing glacier views, skiing and snowboarding. It is a lot cheaper than Matterhorn and Jungfrau, but the view is as gorgeous as it can be. I also recommend overnight bus trips if you're travelling on a budget,



January

I took a second-half semester course, so I had to stay slightly longer for the exam. I didn't do any travel because I spent most of the time studying. But if



you're spending your new year in Copenhagen, I highly recommend watching fireworks at Copenhagen City Hall. Everyone would bring their own fireworks and it goes literally non-stop throughout the night. Loud but exciting.



But bear in mind if you're staying in CBS school dormitories, you're probably only entitled to a stay until 31st Dec. But you can either pay daily rents to extend your stay, or travel round to save the rental costs. You're also required to clean up the room yourself if you don't want to pay extra for the cleaning service.

Part 2 - General Exchange Information

Visa procedures

I got my ST1 visa application form and CBS acceptance email through my CBS email in around early April. Be sure to check for any mistakes before handing in your application because I found a couple on mine. The visa takes around 1 month to process, so to play safe, you should apply for your visa around 1.5-2 months before your departure. You'll have to go all the way to Shenzhen for the some of the visa procedures, make sure you have all your documents/photos and application fee with you so you don't have to go back and forth.

Orientation Activities

CBS holds an orientation week for exchange students before the semester starts. Morning activities including campus tour, housing and exam sessions are free or charge, these are mostly informative sessions; you'll have to pay for the night activities such as folk-dancing, parties and drinks. There's also an opening party in CBS on the first week of the semester. Overall the orientation is very good opportunity to get yourself familiar with the people and the place.

Accommodations

You'll get a link for housing registration in late May, and you can rank your choices according to location, room size and double/single room in your application. The school housing is pretty competitive, so make sure you click on the registration link on time (just like how you register for courses in UST). I stayed at Katherine Kollegiet, it's a dormitory that's slightly more expensive but with more vacancies for exchange students, I would recommend Katherine Kollegiet as one of your top 3 choices to play safe. But other dormitories like Tietgen Kollegiet and CBS Nimbuspark are more diverse since they include students from different universities. The architecture is also very pretty, and the hall fees are cheaper. So you might want to include one of these dormitories as your top choice. Some students who didn't get housing allocation from CBS were lucky enough to get private housing through CBS. While the others had to look for houses themselves on channels like Facebook Groups. If you're looking for your housing yourself, please check with the owner if the apartment provides CPR beforehand. You'll need a legal address with CPR to apply for your visa, but apparently there are some restrictions on CPRs on rental houses.

Course registration

In May, You would receive an email regarding course registration. You may want to crosscheck with the course equivalent database to make sure your credits are transferrable beforehand. You're also required to provide a list of back up courses in cases you are not allocated to your first choice. The results are released in June, and they would release quotas for second-round application at the same time. Bear in mind that the

second-round applications are on first come first served basis, so you'll have to send your application email in time to secure a seat in your favourable course.

Teaching & Assessment Method

Speaking of teaching and assessment, CBS integrates a vast amount of digital tools in the courses. In terms of teaching, online videos, powerpoints and case packs are used in most courses. In some of my courses, you only have to attend half of the classes physically, while the rest are held online. While most of the exams are also held digitally, you'll either have to visit the CBS examination centre to complete the exam using their computers, or hand in your work online with your own laptop.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

CBS doesn't provide free gym facilities. I'm not particularly into sports so I didn't really dig into memberships and sport classes, but there are some gym with trial discounts around the campus – ie 49KR for 3 months, but I guess these promotions are mostly temporary. You might want to keep an eye for discounts at larger gyms like Crossfit Copenhagen and SATS.

Health and Safety

They'll send you a yellow card by post after you have applied for your CPR, which entitles you to free medical services. Unlike HK, you can only go to one specific clinic you are assigned to. You have to call in at 8am-9am in the morning to register and talk to the doctor about your situation first, then the doctor will let you know your appointment time. You'll have to visit your local pharmacy for medicine afterwards.

Food

It's pretty expensive dining out so I mostly cook by myself. You can always find cheap groceries at Lidl and Fakta, sometimes at Fotex if there's discount, while Rema 1000 and Irma are some high-class and expensive supermarkets.

You can pay a visit to the asain food store – sari sari mart, near CBS if you want to search for some Asian food.

Transportation

Trains and metro lines are pretty comprehensive, and most of them run 24 hours, so you shouldn't worry much about transportation. I recommend getting a Rejsekort card from any 7-11 or machines in metro stations, it serves the same function as octopus cards and you'll get cheaper fares with Rejsekort card. I also rented a bike from Swapfiet at 150 dkk/month since metros are pretty pricy, you can also consider getting a second-hand bike from online platforms.

Climate

The weather is very nice with lots of sunshine in August and September. But it started to get really chilly in Oct to Jan, there were occasional snowflakes falling but it never really snowed even though the weather went below 0 degrees. Don't stuff yourself with layers of heat-tech underwear because indoors can get very warm with heaters.

Finance and Banking

Copenhagen is a very digitalized city and basically all shops take credit/debit cards. I didn't apply for a bank account and I was mostly using my HK credit card on my phone to pay. You might want to compare the rates and rewards for different credit cards, since some of the banks charge pretty high transaction fees.

Part 3 - Items to bring

- Clothing
- Medicine
- Laptop
- Charger and adaptors
- Extension sockets
- Calculator
- A travel bag – for short trips
- A fanny pack or bum bag – for your valuables when travelling

Part 4 - Useful links

Information on housing accommodation

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

Online registration for Visa

<https://www.nyidanmark.dk/en-GB/Applying/Short%20stay%20visa>

CBS International Office

<https://www.cbs.dk/en/about-cbs/organisation/administrative-units/cbs-international-office>

CBS Course Catalogue

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