

Exchange Report

Copenhagen Business School



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Part 1: Monthly Activity Log

August

I arrived Copenhagen on 19 August. Similar to HKUST, CBS also arranges a buddy who would fetch us upon airport arrival. He also helped with the settling of SIM card, and dormitory check-in. Thanks a lot! Fall semester starts in September, so we had 1.5 weeks to sightsee around Copenhagen.

Before the compulsory orientation, there is also a social week which allows exchange students who arrive earlier to mingle around. It is a good time for us to get to know international friends through different networking activities. After that, there is a compulsory orientation, which details examination, class arrangement, and the information system adopted by CBS.

I travelled to Sweden for a bit in this month. Of course, I also visited around Copenhagen, including Christiania, Labour museum and Rosenberg Castle, etc. The coffee culture here in Copenhagen is very famous too. I did try out a lot of café here!

September

The semester begins in 1 September and there is an one-week add-drop period. I took 5 courses in total – International Business Environment, Negotiations, Global Strategic Management, Innovation Management, and Sustainable Development Management (all of them are management courses). You have to apply for over-loading before choosing 5 courses (37.5 ECTS). Yet, I think it is manageable to take over-load here.

The first week is the add-drop period, where you get to understand the overviews of the classes. It is essential to attend to them to get basic understanding of the class.

I have done several trips here in Europe in September. The first one I went was visiting Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria (Vienna and Hallstatt), and Slovakia. The Middle-Europe culture is definitely very different from the Northern Europe. Not only is it much cheaper than the Northern Europe, the beautiful scenery is always good to spend more time at.

Apart from that, I also went to Belgium (Brussels and Gent) and France for another trip where we met other Global Business Students who study there. It is a romantic place where a lot of stunning sceneries can be seen. As I am a fan of volleyball, I watched the semi-final of Championship.

October

In October, I discovered a volleyball club in Copenhagen which is offers 4 training sessions. This allows me to pick up my volleyball skills.

Of course, I did travel a lot during October. My first trip is to the United Kingdom (Scotland, London) and Ireland to meet some of my friends. It is indeed very different to see how British enjoy their life than other European citizens.

After that, I got an oral examination in Copenhagen for International Business Environment. I talked about the financial position of Hong Kong recently and got a full mark with that!

Afterwards I went to Berlin for a trip to understand more about the history of Germany. I went on tours about Berlin Wall which broadens my horizons about what was happening in World War 2.

November

In November, I spent most of my time travelling. I went to Portugal (Porto and Lisbon) and Spain (Madrid and Barcelona) for my first trip. During the trip I attended a conference by AIESEC in Portugal. 40 international delegates get together to discuss about leadership and understand more about self-awareness inside a leader. It is indeed a fascinating experience for me!

Besides, I also went on another trip to Turkey, Romania, and Greece. The Mediterranean region is definitely very different from that in Northern Europe. The historical part of the land is surely worth travelling!

I attended one tournaments here in Copenhagen with my volleyball team Remix. With 7 members with different nationalities, we played together and even captured the second in the competition.

December

There is a study period of 2 weeks from late-November to early December. During that, I went to Switzerland (Jungfrau and Zurich), Italy (Milan, Bergamo, and Crema), Poland (Krakow), and Sweden (Stockholm). These trips indeed gave me more understanding about different cultures and watch all the beautiful scenery in Europe. The concentration camp in Krakow also gave me more historical background about World War 2.

In December, I spent some of my time preparing for my examinations as 4 of them are in mid-December. 2 of them are take home assignments which allow me to work with my teammates about the structure, content of the assignment. 2 of them are sit-in exams which I could bring certain materials in the examination hall to work on the essay.

I made use of the last 2 weeks in Europe and go on some trips to Oslo, Amsterdam, Tallin and Riga. I also went to Iceland.

I joined another volleyball tournament in Copenhagen. The tournament is the SBVK tournament, one of the highest level sports league. I was awarded the Best Player during the game.



Part 2: General Exchange Information

Visa procedure

I am holding a Hong Kong passport and I applied the visa by visiting the embassy located in Shenzhen in person. First of all, you need to submit an application online with some supporting document in order to get the case number (you also have to pay once in this part). Afterwards, when you visit the embassy, you need to submit some document in person, as well as paying other visa payment. After 4-6 weeks, the visa will be sent to your home by post. Upon arrival, you have to bring along your visa in arrival. Afterwards, you also have to apply for the CPR card in the municipality office.

Orientation Activities

There are several orientation activities. The first type is a compulsory one (which is free). It includes different talks about the university examination and teaching methods, campus tour, and some social activities.

The second type has to be paid by yourself. I paid 775DKK for the social week evening orientation program which included a series of evening activities – Folk Dance, City canal tour, Comedian night and a welcome dinner. This is organized by Exchange Coordinators (students), which is quite fun. You get to know more people from exchange too. In the orientation week, CBS also arranged different activities for us. Afterwards, there is introduction week orientation which I didn't attend. I think that just apply for one of them is enough. Every night, there are parties which you can attend (so much fun and free drinks!).

International Services and Activities

CBS offers a good buddy programme for all exchange students. They will help you in the airport pick-up (but do have prior communications about the time of your arrival flight). Also, there are buddy dinner and party night so that you could get to know people in Denmark. It is a good chance for you to mingle with different people. There is a welcoming pack with Sim card and some orientation materials.

Accommodation

CBS housing office will send out emails with detailed information regarding the procedure of dorm registration. It is convenient for exchange student (and they will help you even if you cannot get one). In the application portal, you indicate your preference in room size, kitchen and washroom. You will also be given a chance to rank the preference of different dorms. During my exchange, I stayed in Svanevej. I lived in a medium sized shared room with my own kitchen and a bathroom.

In Svanevej, there is a big common room which allows exchange students to play snooker, PS4, read books, host parties inside. The kitchen facilities are great too!

Svanevej has a newly established metro (M3) and train station (F-line) 5-minute walk from it, it is pretty convenient with public transport like bus too. However, the environment is very mixed and it is depicted as one of the most dangerous in Copenhagen. The race and culture mix is very diverse, with many middle eastern people. It might not be very ideal to go back to dormitory late at night.

Course Registration

In February to March, CBS would release a list of courses online. You should look up to HKUST Credit Transfer Database to know which courses offered you could take in CBS.

You may want to apply for credit transfer and credit mapping after the course information has been released. You may also apply for overloading by submitting an endorsement form by HKUST SBM. In April, the course registration begins and students have to log in the registration system. In addition to the 4-5 courses you want to enrol, you also have to prepare a list of back-up courses so that CBS can assign those courses to you if some of the courses are oversubscribed. The result will be released in May. It is interesting to note that in CBS, it is possible to have some courses overlapping with each other during the course time. You may need to note that to avoid too many time clashes (it is suggested not to have more than 4 clashes). CBS timetable also allows you to see the timetable of every week, since every week has different timetable.

Teaching and Assessment Method

In CBS, the way students learn and teachers deliver vary a lot. Most of them has in-class lecture, tutorial (they call it exercise), and projects. For the classes I enrolled, most of them are in-class lecture. During the lecture, professors will discuss cases and conduct different discussions. There are also some guest lectures where industry expert were invited. Usually a class consists of classes delivered by 3-4 professors. One of the class I took, Innovation Management, has 4 classes conducted in online format. It is worth to note that even though some classes have projects, none of them have quiz and mid-term examinations which counted in the final grade. There might be in-class presentation but that are not mandatory and the grade usually only depend on final exams. You may find the necessary information in the course catalogue online.

In CBS there are different examination formats, including sit-in exam, home assignment, and oral exam. For the sit-in exams, you have to attend them in person and type your answers on the computer in the CBS exam hall. It is usually in essay format in 4 hours. Some of the courses allow aids during exams while some are close-book exams. Oral exam was definitely something new for HKUST students. During the oral exam, two professors will first listen to your presentation about your assignment or a topic you prepare, and then they will examine you by asking follow-up questions about the whole syllabus of the course. Take-home assignment allows you to have 1-7 days for you to complete at home and submit online.

Sports and Recreation

There are different sports teams and clubs for all levels of players in CBS. You can register in the first week of school where clubs conduct recruitment. There are also student initiated clubs like Yoga and Dance. You can register online and pay 10DKK for it.

You may also find different clubs outside CBS in Copenhagen. Most of them require an initial membership fee and you can join their training.

Finance and banking

I didn't open a bank account in Copenhagen. The bank account opening process is pretty time-consuming (it takes up to 2 months to open an account). If you are just there for 4 months, I would not recommend it. In Denmark, mobile payment, credit card (pay-wave), and cash are usually available in all stores. I would suggest you exchange some currencies (DKK) in Hong Kong first and then also bring some Euro so that you can use when you are traveling. I also suggest you to ask your Hong Kong bank for a PIN code before you leave as you sometimes need it for payment.

Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities

There are many student societies in CBS. However, I did not join any of them because I could not commit with the travel schedule. Yet, my friends have mentioned to me that these opportunities are precious and useful for knowing local. There are business-related clubs like 180 Degree Consulting, and also other social clubs like AIESEC.

Health and safety

After you have applied for the citizenship (remember to do it within 7 days after you arrived), a CPR card and a hospital card would be sent to you by post. I visited the doctor once during my exchange. You should dial a call to your assigned doctor to make an appointment first. Usually they can arrange a slot within the day. It is very convenient to see the doctor by then. Afterwards, you need to go to the pharmacy to buy the medicine prescribed to you. Everything is done online so it is easy. As for safety issues, Copenhagen is the most safe city in Europe, you could almost go there freely. Even I am living in the “most dangerous” region of the city, I could still manage to keep myself safe.

Food

It is quite pricy to dine out in Denmark, about 100DKK-200DKK for a normal meal. Most of the time, I would cook something simple in the dormitory. There are a lot of supermarkets in Denmark so it is really convenient to buy the ingredients. In my neighbourhood, there are all sorts of markets, ranging from Asian, African, to Middle-Eastern. As an exchange student, you may also want to get some Chinese food or ingredients. You may go to the “Asian town” located near the Copenhagen Central Train Station. In the area, there are more than 10 Asian supermarkets where you can get Asian food and ingredients like instant noodles and soy sauce.

Transportation

Transportation is very convenient in Copenhagen as the bus and metro network is very comprehensive. Recently, the M3 line was established, making it even more convenient to go around Copenhagen. The metro and some of the buses run 24-hour so you do not have to worry about the transport when you back home late or leave home early. It only takes me 40 minutes to reach the airport from my dorm. When you arrive Copenhagen, you must buy a transport card called Rejsekort. Taxi is not recommended as it is very expensive. Uber does not exist in Copenhagen. Most people will rent a bike as the bicycle line infrastructure is very well done.

Climate

When I arrived in August, the weather is superb and it is said to be the best summer in all years. It is pretty warm, with a weather of around 25 degree Celcius. There is no air-conditioning in Denmark shops, so you might be quite hot. September and October got pretty windy and chilly weather, ranging from 13-20 degree Celcius. You should wear a jacket most of the time. November and December are definitely the coldest days in Copenhagen. You must wear a down, gloves, a knitted hat and boots when you go out. The temperature is about -5 to 5 degree Celcius.

Communication

In the welcome package given by CBS, there is a sim card inside. The mobile service provider is Lebara and you have to top up the sim card in order to use it. You can do it online to top up the sim card. The sim card is quite good because Lebara provides services in EU area as well so you do not have to worry about the data usage when travelling around EU. But you should keep in mind that Lebara does not cover service in non-EU countries like Turkey and Russia. As for the day-to-day communication, Danish is the most common

language used. However, most of the people can speak fluent English. All classes are conducted in English.

Cautionary Measure

There are not many typical cautionary measures in Denmark.

Part 3: Items to bring

- Personal ID and passport sized photos
- Cash (I brought Danish Kroner and Euro with me)
- Gloves, boots, knitted hats (IMPORTANT!!)
- Waist pack (for travelling to countries with high pickpocketing risk)
- Electronic devices (Laptops, Tablets)
- Credit and Debit cards
- Stationary (it is quite pricy to buy stationary in Copenhagen)
- Medicine
- Adaptors
- Winter and summer clothes
- USB for exams with aids - Cabin-size luggage for travelling

Most other items can be bought in supermarket in Denmark, they are convenient.

Part 4: Useful Links

CBS International Office: <https://www.cbs.dk/en/about-cbs/organisation/administrativeunits/cbs-international-office>

CBS Course Catalogue: <https://www.cbs.dk/en/international-opportunities/internationalstudents/guestexchange-student/undergraduate-courses> CBS

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

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

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark: <http://um.dk/en/travel-and-residence/danish-visa-rules/>

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