



EXCHANGE REPORT

Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

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Fall 2019, QFIN & COSC

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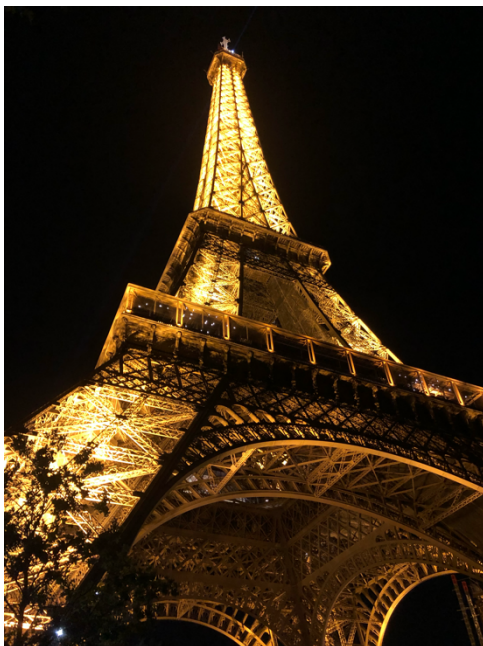
Part I – Monthly Activity Log

August 2019

I arrived at Copenhagen on 20th August. When I first arrived at Copenhagen, it was a very exciting moment. The city is comfortable and refreshing, which is completely different from Hong Kong. There were a lot of things that I need to take care at the beginning, including transportation, daily necessities, communication, etc. Many thanks to my buddy, I settled them quickly. After joining the orientation week activities, I travelled around in Copenhagen and a short trip to Malmo, Sweden. August is the last moments for summer and it is really worth to experience before it is gone.



September 2019



My first lesson started on the second week of September. Therefore, I went for a short trip to France on the first week with a friend that I met at CBS. France is a gem of history and culture. It is also worth mentioning that most museums in France are free to entry for students holding a long-term visa. After that, I got back to Copenhagen and attend my lessons. It could take a while to get used to the school life in CBS. In lessons, the teaching style is quite different from HKUST. The lecturers would spend half of the time presenting lecture materials and give you a lot of time for group work and peer discussion. Between lessons, it is quite difficult to find the classrooms as the campus is separated at different places in the town. Sometimes, the courses may even have overlapping lessons and you have to choose to attend which of them. On mid-autumn festival, some Chinese, Taiwanese and other Hong Kong exchange students gathered at my dormitory and we celebrated the festival together!

October 2019

October is when the midterm period falls in. There is a study week in October with no lessons. This midterm period is for the midterm exams for full semester courses and final exams for first quarter courses. However, there were no exams for me in this period, so I decided to go on a trip. I went to several countries this month. My most memoizable trip was to the former USSR countries. These eastern European countries are quite different from the western European and Nordic countries, namely culture,



history and living standard. It is also worth mentioning that I visited the renowned Chernobyl exclusion zone, the infamous meltdown RBMK reactor of the Soviet Union! The abandoned city is a fusion of concrete buildings and forests. The time has frozen that it felt like time travelling to thirty years ago when the accident occurs. It is really a wonderful experience to visit this no man zone.

November 2019

At the beginning of the month, I went a trip to Iceland and Norway. These two Nordic countries have excellent scenery. The time when I visited these countries are the transition of Autumn and Winter, and the transition was really quick. The surface of the lake frozen in just few days! It is really stunning to see this huge difference over such short period. Besides, I also felt so lucky to have a glimpse of aurora during my trip. Returning from my trip, I started to prepare for my midterm exam for my statistics course. The exam format of CBS differs a lot from the UST ones. The exam was to write an essay in a one or two days. It really felt challenging for me as I never had such experience. After this midterm exam, I focused more on my studies as my second quarter courses kicked in. It felt different to live in November as the sun rises late at eight and set early at four. Together with the gloomy weather, there were less sunlight. Unfortunately, due to the dark sky and slippery road, I fell from the bicycle and hit the ground so hard. I went to the emergency room of the hospital that is next to my dormitory. Denmark is a welfare country, with high tax, they provide free healthcare services. It is quite a rememberable experience to go to a hospital in a foreign country. The healthcare



system in Denmark is excellent. They performed a thorough check-up for me including x-ray. Fortunately, I was not seriously injured.

December 2019

December is the time for most final exams. The exams are quite intensive. Besides being home assignment format of writing a 15-page report, the final exam also had a wider coverage and stricter requirement. Sometimes, the exam period of different courses may overlap each other, and you have to organize your time wisely to meet the time constraints. There are also lots of material to search and read as the essays are usually case based. It is quite stressed to have multiple exams in this format compared with the examination style at HKUST. After all the exams, I went a trip to Central Europe with my family. The celebrations for Christmas and New Year is really amazing in Europe. Almost all town centers are filled with Christmas markets, light decorations and giant Christmas trees. Over the last few days of the month, people started celebrating new year. Fireworks could be found anywhere in the city. On Dec 31 night, I got on my flight to Hong Kong, and I can see fireworks popping out from every house on each moment. It is really astonishing to see such scenery.



Part II – General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

CBS provided the documentary support for visa procedures. CBS will send you a Visa Application form with the school details and school chop to you after finishing the exchange-in application to CBS. You have to pay an application fee of 1900DKK online to create a case ID. Remember to screenshot the page as a receipt. As Denmark does not have a consulate in Hong Kong, you have to submit the application to the Joint Visa Centre in Shenzhen, People's Republic of China. Along with the printed application form and supporting documents, you also need to pay a processing fee of around 2000RMB to the Visa Centre. About one month after submitting the application, the residence permit will be mailed to your address in Hong Kong. After setting down at Copenhagen, you have to register for a CPR number.

Orientation Activities

At the end of August, CBS will organize an orientation week for all exchange-in students. The day time activities are held by CBS which is mostly info sections about the School and Life in Copenhagen, and also a one day short trip in Copenhagen. There are also activities that are held by the exchange buddy team. They organize drinking nights, movie nights, and even trips to Berlin! However, you have to purchase for these event tickets and they are not mandatory.

International Services & Activities

The international office is located in Porcelaenshaven, however, their office hours is quite limited. It closes at 3pm. It is recommended to email them for non urgent matters.

Accommodations

Exchange students were housed either in campus dorms or off-campus rental housing. CBS have some student dorms that can be applied by exchange students, however,

the spots are quite limited. The application procedures will be provided via email soon after completing the CBS exchange application. If you cannot get a place, you have to rent private housing.

Course Registration

The course list is put onto their website. You can read their descriptions before registration. The course registration is put together with the exchange-in application. You can also email the international office before the add-drop period to request adding or dropping courses.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

Lecturers at CBS come from various international backgrounds, even include HKUST. They do not have tutorials, instead, they have workshops that are intended to teach you the computer tools for the course which is also conducted by the lecturers. There is no attendance requirement in CBS. Courses can be quarterly or full semester. The exams may be conducted in either oral exam, sit in written exam or home assignment.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

There are no public sports and recreation facilities in CBS main campus. If you want to go to the gym or swimming pool, you have to join the sport clubs in CBS or go to the private ones.

Finance and Banking

The currency of Denmark is Danish Krone (DKK), the conversion rate is approximately (1 DKK = 1.2 HKD). As it is an uncommon currency, the bid-ask spread of exchange rate in Hong Kong is quite large. The fluctuation of the exchange rate is also quite large. It will be more convenient to use credit card or payWave and the rate is usually not worse than cash. It is worth noting that you need pin-code to use physical card and you need your registered Hong Kong phone number to get the 2FA SMS code for online payments. Therefore, it would be more convenient to add your card to your mobile phone and paypal before your flight.

Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities

There are a variety of student clubs at CBS. The relationship between hallmates are also quite close. You can also meet other exchange students during the exchange social package.

Health and Safety

After registering the CPR number, they will mail you a yellow card which is the Danish healthcare card. With this yellow card, you can enjoy free healthcare service in Denmark.

Food

The Danish food is quite different from Hong Kong food, which may not suit our tastes. The price is also quite high if you dine outside, including CBS canteen. I usually buy and cook myself. You can buy all ingredients in supermarket.

Transportation

Copenhagen have a travel card named Rejsekortet will is similar to Octopus in Hong Kong, but it is limited to transportation only. You can purchase a Rejsekortet at the Airport or all stations at the Rejsekortet machine. However, the transportation fee in Copenhagen is quite expensive and it is cheaper and more convenient to rent a bike for around 150 DKK/month.

Climate

Copenhagen is usually cloudy and rainy. The temperature in August and September is around twenty degrees but it quickly drop to around 10 degrees in October and even lower later, but it seldom falls below 0 degrees. If you are lucky, you may even see snowing.

Communication

The school usually communicate with email and canvas. At arrival, they will tell you to collect a free sim card at the international office which you can top up the card for a monthly data plan that includes roaming in the EU area.

Cautionary Measures

Copenhagen is safe overall, the crime rate is low. Just be aware that there may be drunk people hanging around at midnight.

Part III - Items to Bring.

Checklist

- Credit Card*
- Euros in Cash*
- Bank card for foreign ATM withdrawal*
- Passport*
- Residence permit letter*
- Exchange documents (e.g. Printout of Tenant contract, Acceptance letter)*
- Clothes for winter*
- Thick clothes if you want to travel to Nordic/East Europe*
- Scarf & Gloves*
- Some clothes for summer*
- Chargers*
- Laptop*
- Socket adaptors*

Part IV - Useful links and Contacts

Exchange student guide - Accommodation, course catalog and important dates

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

Google Maps - All in one transportation and map information in whole Europe

<https://www.google.com/maps>

Google Translate – Translate foreign language into your language

<https://translate.google.com/>

Swapfiets – Bike subscription in Copenhagen

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

Omio - Useful website to compare the prices of the tickets of trains, buses and flights in Europe

<https://www.omio.com/>

SAS Youth – Discounted air tickets for students

<https://www.flysas.com/hk-en/fly-with-us/youth-tickets/>

If more information is needed, get my contact from SBM Exchange Team by emailing at bmugexch@ust.hk.