

Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

EXCHANGE REPORT



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BBA Information Systems and
Operations Management, Year 3

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PART 1: MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG

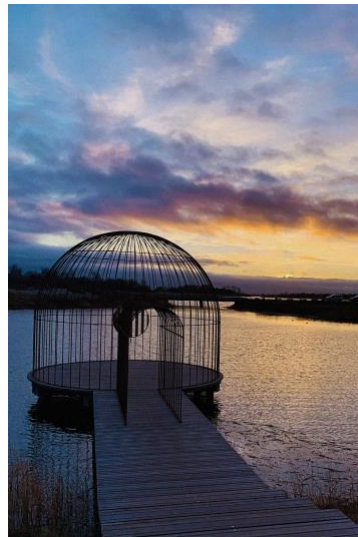
JANUARY 2020

I arrived in Copenhagen on the 18th of January and my exchange buddy came to pick me up at the airport. On my first day in Copenhagen, she showed me around the city center and also helped me get a Rejsekort (Copenhagen Metro Card). Then during my first week there I attended the Danish Crash Course lessons which were held in one of the four university buildings. The Danish language teacher was very enthusiastic and besides the language, I got to learn a lot about the Danish culture and history, which I thought was very useful and interesting. Furthermore, I met a lot of exchange students during those lessons as well. However, in the following week which was supposed to be the 'Orientation' Week, I fell ill because of the cold weather and was only able to attend two out of the many events during that week. But during that time, I got to spend a lot of time with my dorm mates at Tietgen who made me feel so welcome there, that I never felt homesick.



FEBRUARY 2020

The 3rd of February is when my classes at CBS started, and I met a lot more exchange and local students. The first week of February, I decided to finally explore Copenhagen and went to the Tivoli Gardens and a few museums. I also tried out new restaurants. The first weekend of February, I took a short day trip to Malmo, Sweden with my friends from Hong Kong – my first trip out of Copenhagen. During the second week of classes, I attended my exchange buddy's birthday dinner at her home in Copenhagen with her Danish friends – a very hyggeligt evening! Then, the same weekend, a few of my friends from HKUST who were also on exchange in Europe, decided to come visit me there. So that weekend we did a lot of touristy things – we went to the Louisiana Museum, took a canal tour, explored Christiania, visited the Fredericksborg Castle and went to the Tivoli Gardens (again). During the last week of February, since one of my courses had a couple of midterm assignments, I chose not to travel as much and instead decided to catch up on my coursework.



MARCH 2020

During the first few days of March, I took a short trip to Berlin, Germany which was only a short flight away from Copenhagen. And then the first weekend of March, I took a short trip to Amsterdam, Netherlands. However, just one day after returning from Amsterdam, we were informed that our exchange program had been suspended due to COVID-19, and so within the next few hours, I had to bid an unexpected and sad goodbye to Copenhagen.



PART 2: GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

VISA PROCEDURES

The visa form and requirements were quite straightforward; however, it definitely was a lengthy procedure as I had to go to Guangzhou for a day to apply for my visa. This is because, even though there is a Danish Consulate in Hong Kong, you cannot apply for resident permits there (you can only apply for tourist visas in the Hong Kong branch). Therefore, the closest one was in Shenzhen, but I chose to go to Guangzhou as that was more convenient for me. In general, I would recommend everyone to start the visa procedures as soon as you get the visa form so that you can get your visa in time.

ORIENTATION ACTIVITIES

There were two Orientation Packages offered to us from CBS. The first one was the 'Danish Crash Course Week' and this started from the 20th of January. This week was divided into two halves: Danish lessons during the day and social activities like bowling and so on during the evenings (both could be purchased separately). Then there was also the main 'Orientation Week' starting from 27th January which included mandatory information talks and mingling events like a Comedy Night and so on. I would highly recommend all exchange students who are considering going to CBS to enrol themselves to both these Orientation weeks as they can really help you in meeting a lot for exchange students and also help you settle down in Copenhagen before the university classes begin.

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES & ACTIVITIES

Apart from the Orientations weeks, CBS Exchange Coordinators had also organised a three-day trip in April to explore a few cities around Copenhagen – Aarhus and Aalborg. However, this trip got cancelled due to COVID-19.

ACCOMMODATIONS

CBS has wonderful housing options and most of them are within just two or three metro stops away from the CBS university buildings. I was lucky enough to get Tietgen which was the most beautiful dorm in Copenhagen (according to me). Tietgen had a very family-like atmosphere and it came with a fully-equipped kitchen and a common Games and TV Room. However unfortunately, due to coronavirus, I did not get to spend enough time there. I would highly recommend everyone to go for CBS Housing and Tietgen in particular if you can.

COURSES REGISTRATION

The course registration process at CBS was quite straightforward and easy to understand. During the first round, prospective students can go through the course catalogue and select the courses that they want. There is a minimum requirement of 30 ECTS (which is basically 4 courses of 7.5 ECTS each). Even if a student does not get enrolled in a course that they really want, during the next few rounds of the registration process they can choose to waitlist for those courses and try to enrol again.

I took four courses at CBS:

- (i) Information Management in Organizations (semester course)
- (ii) Pricing Management (Q3)
- (iii) Digital Transformation of Business (Q3)
- (iv) Global Supply Chain Management (Q4)

Since my exchange ended early (mid-March) due to coronavirus, I gave most of my exams online, from my home country. Only Pricing Management was an oral exam, so it was conducted over a Zoom call. However, all my other exams were converted to online written submissions with a time deadline.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT METHODS

CBS does not have any one kind of an assessment format. Almost all my courses had a different exam format. For example, one course had an oral examination in which I had to defend my submission of a written report based on a class topic. Another course required a 10-page report to be written based a real-life case inspired from class materials. And two courses had the more typical written exam format – 4 hours questions-and-answers style written exam. Overall, I feel that all the exam formats were quite well suited to the course requirements and were a true test of ‘applied knowledge’ rather than just ‘learned knowledge’.

Moreover, I feel that the classes at CBS were mainly participation based. Almost every class that I took was comprised of 60% class discussions and 40% theory explanations. In fact, one of my courses – Information Management in Organizations – was 100% discussions based, as we were expected to read the theory at home before class, and then the class was solely focussed on real-life examples and applications.

SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES

I never really got a chance to check out the sports facilities at CBS, as my dorm itself – Tietgen – had an indoor fully-equipped gymnasium and a cycling/ running track built around the dorm.

FINANCE & BANKING (INCLUDING CURRENCY / EXPENSES)

While I was in Copenhagen, a lot of people advised against getting a bank account as an exchange student because the process for that is quite complicated. Hence, I used my Hang Seng credit card almost everywhere (just make sure to apply for an international ATM spending limit before you reach there). This was quite convenient as, even the smallest shops in Copenhagen, preferred using a credit card/ cashless payment method. I was charged with a small fee on every transaction, however, I felt that this was more convenient than any of the other options available.

SOCIAL CLUBS & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

Not much information available due to COVID-19.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Overall, I felt Copenhagen was a very safe place. I would feel completely safe in taking the metro or walking the streets at different hours of the day as it was usually always crowded. During my stay in Copenhagen, I never had any negative experience of pick-pocketing or so on.

FOOD

The food in Denmark (the Nordic cuisine) is amazing in my opinion, especially if you enjoy seafood and meat. Furthermore, a lot of cafés and local restaurants were serving 'organic' and 'farm-fresh' food – straight from the farm to your table. Also to my surprise, organic produce such as organic fruits and vegetables were in fact cheaper than the regular fruits and vegetables in Copenhagen's many grocery stores.

At CBS, there was a daily buffet of fresh food in almost all campus buildings and there was an interesting pay-according-to-the-weight system associated with it.

TRANSPORTATION

Since I do not know how to bike, I was a bit apprehensive about navigating myself in a city also known as the 'bike city'. However, during my stay there, I realised that Copenhagen's Metro System is in fact, equally convenient and efficient to use on a daily basis. Since I was living at Tietgen, which was two metro stops away from the main University building, I got myself a monthly pass on an app called DOT Tickets which allowed me to use the metro and the buses (in Zone 1 and Zone 2) for an unlimited number of times during that given month. I felt this was cheaper for me as compared to buying an individual train ticket every time I took the Metro. However, if you know how to bike and choose to get a bicycle, then you may not want to get the monthly pass like me.

Another important thing to note, however, is that Copenhagen's Metro system is based on an honesty policy. This means that the traveller has to remember to check in and check out at the right stations in order to avoid getting a fine or a ticket. This took me some time to get used to, as I did forget to check out of Metro stations during my first month there.

CLIMATE

The weather during the Spring semester months is extremely cold from January-early March. In fact, due to the cold winds and extremely cold weather, I also fell sick for a week during my first month in Copenhagen. However, the weather is supposed to get warmer April onwards. Unfortunately, I was not able to experience this warm weather as my exchange ended in March.

COMMUNICATION

I got a pre-paid Lebara Sim card plan. I felt it was quite convenient and affordable as I could easily recharge with my credit card on the Lebara Mobile App and also it had an affordable monthly plan with more than enough GB of data.

The communication within Copenhagen is not too hard, as you can manage with English almost everywhere. Having said that, I felt that taking the Danish Crash Course definitely enhanced my

exchange experience as I was able to pick up the Danish culture and small conversations at grocery stores and streets.

CAUTIONARY MEASURES

I think as long as you keep a regular check on your CBS email account and follow all the visa, housing and course registration deadlines diligently, you should not have anything to worry about.

PART 3: ITEMS TO BRING

-Warm clothes: You should most definitely carry warm clothes as Copenhagen can get really cold in the winter months. So, you must carry boots, jackets, gloves, a full warmer set, neck warmers and so on if you are sensitive to the cold.

-A small medical kit: Since the weather in Copenhagen can be quite cold, it is a good idea to carry general medicines like flu and fever tablets. Other than that, you can also carry a small kit of medical essentials.

-Cash: Keeping a little cash is always a good idea. You can carry a little of both DKK (Danish Krona) and Euros.

-A two-pin adapter: Remember to check the adapters used in Copenhagen because they are not the same as Hong Kong, so it would be best if you arrange for one beforehand.

-A camera: Because Copenhagen is beautiful and you might want to capture a lot of memories you make there.

PART 4: USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS

Here are links to some of the mobile applications I found to be very useful during my stay in Copenhagen:

Food & Lifestyle:

1. Tivoli (To buy a seasonal pass for Tivoli as you might want to go there more than once):
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/tivoli-gardens/id843256738>
2. Wolt (food delivery in Copenhagen):
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/wolt-food-delivery/id943905271>

Travel:

3. Rejseplanen (Trip planner within and outside of Copenhagen):
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/rejseplanen/id317007942>
4. Swapfiets (An easy option to rent a bike in Copenhagen):
<https://apps.apple.com/us/app/swapfiets/id1330923084>

5. DOT Tickets (To buy a single or a monthly ticket for Copenhagen's transport system – Metro, busses and trains): <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/dot-tickets/id582247244>
6. SAS (Scandinavian Airlines – convenient way of flying in and out of Copenhagen): <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/sas-scandinavian-airlines/id605727126>
7. TAXA 4x35 (To book a taxi in Copenhagen): <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/taxa-4x35-taxi-booking/id440665078>

Communication:

8. MyLebara (Pre-Paid Sim Card Plan App): <https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/mylebara/id1122491914>