



Solbjerg Plads 3

**Copenhagen Business School, Denmark
Exchange Report | 2020 Spring**

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Part I | Monthly Activity Log

January

I arrived Copenhagen on Sunday, 26th January 2020, just one day before the CBS Introduction Week and the official commencement of the school term. There was another orientation programme (CBS Danish Crash Course) a week before my arrival, but I did not join. Since I joined the CBS Buddy Programme, my buddy (an Italian master's student in CBS) came to pick me up at the airport and helped me with my luggage to my hall.

I strongly recommend you to join the CBS Introduction Week as almost all exchange students join and most social circles form during this week. I went to classes during the day and joined the orientation activities in the evening (events were held at night).



February

Most classes began on the first day of February (only a few courses had classes beginning late-January). I spent most of my time going to classes and meeting new people during the first week. Apart from joining events organised by my hall, there were also many parties for international or exchange students (not only from CBS). I paid for a ticket to a party organised by Copenhagen Exchange & International Students. If you like meeting new people in a party, then I would recommend you to keep an eye for these events (event invitations usually posted on Facebook) as there are early bird tickets.

Since I had a couple of day-offs per week, I also travelled to Lund and Malmo (1-hour train ride from Copenhagen), Berlin, Prague, Interlaken, Milan, Nice and Monaco in February. I travelled mostly during weekends and went to a couple of cities per trip. I was very lucky as I went to Milan in early-February before the COVID-19 outbreak in Italy.



March

I continued having classes and also went to Iceland and London during the first week of March. The Danish Government announced a 2-week suspension of school and only citizens were allowed entry into Denmark. Under HKUST's regulation, students on exchange in areas with a red travel alert were to return to Hong Kong. Therefore, I booked my tickets back to Hong Kong and left Denmark a couple of days later.

The rest of the month was extremely hectic for me as I had final exams for 4 of the courses. The exam format in CBS is quite interesting as some finals were oral exams while some were just essay submissions (some had both). As CBS converted all of the courses and finals online, I had my oral exams via Microsoft Teams, while essay submissions were not affected at all as they were online to begin with (I almost missed one of my exams due to time difference so pay attention to that).



April, May & June

I was quite free in April as most of the courses I took ended in mid-March. I only had one course to study left this month, and another two final exams. The professor uploaded the course materials and lecture videos to CBS's Canvas, and my remaining two exams both took place online.

Most exchange students travel even during the final period as CBS exams are quite scattered. According to my buddy from CBS, the exams do not occur day-to-day as most students have internships during the semester (unlike Hong Kong where it is more common to have internships during semester breaks/holidays). The school arranges the exams in a way where students can handle both their academics and internships.

My last class was on 21st April, so I also planned to travel a lot around Europe for the rest of April and May before returning back to Hong Kong in June and finishing my last final. Unfortunately, I ended up spending most of my time indoors instead due to social distancing in Hong Kong.

Part II | General Exchange Information

VISA Procedures

Since there are no VISA application services in the Danish Consulate in Hong Kong, I went to Shenzhen to get my VISA done. I received the ST-1 application form (which includes the CBS acceptance letter and VISA forms) from my CBS student email. There is a list of supporting documents (it is clearly listed in the ST-1 application form) which you need to prepare and bring with you to Shenzhen. You must complete the VISA application in person as you have to provide your biometrics (i.e. your fingerprints) in the VISA application centre.

The VISA application is quite expensive (around HKD4000) and complicated as there are 3 fees you have to pay:

- VISA application fee to the Danish Ministry of Immigration
- VISA application fee to the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Administration and handling fee at the VISA application centre in Shenzhen (prepare some RMB when you go)

Remember to also visit Frederiksberg Townhall after you arrive Copenhagen to register for your CPR number and resident card.

Orientation Activities

CBS provides a lot of orientation activities for exchange students:

- CBS Danish Crash Course (20th January to 25th January 2020)
- CBS Introduction Week (27th January to 2nd February 2020)
- Exchange Social Programme – Tour of Denmark (April)
- Buddy Programme [free]

CBS will send you the orientation activity package via email, so you can take your time deciding if you want to join or not. I arrived Denmark just in time to join the CBS Introduction Week which included a lot of activities – Comedy Night, Sightseeing Tour, Buddy Party, Movie Night and the Welcome Dinner.

The school also organises a lot of other free talks and activities such as the Courses and Exams Talk, Housing Talk, IT & Library Talk, Campus Tour etc. I did not go to all of the talks and events as some clashed with my classes. You do not have to worry about attending all of them as it is not compulsory, and you can always ask other exchange students for important information.

Accommodation

You will receive an email from CBS regarding housing in late-November. The application is first-come-first-served and you can fill up 3 accommodation choices in the application portal. However, the application format changed to lucky draw for our batch as the system crashed.

I chose Kathrine Kollegiet (KK) as it was quite close to the campus (10-minute bike ride or 20-minute walk) and the metro (3-minute walk to the airport express station). I lived in a doubles room with another friend from HKUST, where we shared the same kitchen and toilet. Both you and your friend are required to follow instructions and send an additional email to the person-in-charge in order to have you and your roommate arranged in the same room. I checked the pricing, available rooms (singles/doubles) and addresses of the student accommodations from CBS's official website [here](#).

Course Registration

CBS publishes their courses quite early, so I was able to check the offered courses and plan ahead. If the CBS course you want to study is **not** available in the database, remember to submit an application form to HKUST's Credit Transfer Application Unit (details can be found [here](#)).

In CBS, you are allowed to take up to 4 courses (or 5 courses with an overload request). Since I wanted to take 5 courses in CBS, I requested for an overload request from HKUST's exchange office as a supporting document during my course registration on CBS's portal.

In CBS, there are 3 types of courses: quarter 3 courses; quarter 4 courses and semester courses. The major difference between them are the dates of your classes and finals:

	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Semester
Classes	Late-Jan/Early-Feb to Mid-March	Late-April/Early-May to Early-June	Late-Jan/Early-Feb to Late-April/Early-May
Finals	Mid-March to Early-April	Mid-June	Mid-June

Unlike HKUST, CBS does **not** provide the course timetable during the course application. Therefore, it is possible that your courses will have clashing time slots. In CBS, you are allowed to have time clashes in your timetable, but you will have to manage schedule on your own and choose which classes to go to. My schedule was really bad as I was taking 4 Q3 and 1 semester course (which is not recommended by CBS and very uncommon).

Teaching & Assessment Method

The teaching and assessment method in CBS and HKUST are quite different. Most of the courses I took in CBS were much more interactive than HKUST and had at least 2 group discussions per class (or exercise sessions – similar to the tutorial sessions in HKUST) and were the major focus of the lecture.

In terms of assessment, CBS usually only accounts for your final report (and oral exam) while HKUST has a lot of midterms and projects which were all part of the grade. Out of the 5 courses I took, **all** of them required me to complete a written report or synopsis, while two of them had a follow up oral exam which required me to discuss with the professors on the content I had written.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

There are no sports facilities in CBS, but there are gyms located near the school. I did not join any gyms though.

Finance & Banking

The only accepted currency in Denmark is Danish Kroner (DKK). I used a debit card from Revolut to withdraw cash from ATMs in Denmark to get DKK. Copenhagen is quite cashless so I just used my credit card mostly as it was a hassle to get cash. However, I had to alternate between credit cards as sometimes a one-time password is triggered, and I could not retrieve the password to proceed to payment as my Hong Kong phone number was not available.

I did not open a bank account in Denmark as I thought it was not necessary for me, given that I am quite comfortable using my credit card in Copenhagen. Although I had some Euros with me for travelling, I was able to pay with credit card in all of the places I travelled to.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

I did not join any social clubs as it seems like the club recruitment season occurred in the beginning of the academic year (September). Since I wanted to focus on hanging out with friends and travelling, I did not reach out to join any social clubs. However, there is a social club booklet on campus which may be useful for you when considering which club to join.

Health & Safety

After you successfully register your CPR number at the Frederiksberg Townhall, the office will mail you a CPR card and a yellow medical card to your accommodation. You can visit the clinic for free using your yellow card. I was lucky and did not get sick, so I did not use my yellow card (which was invalidated after I returned to Hong Kong).

Food

It was quite expensive to eat out in Copenhagen, so most of my meals were home cooked. There are a lot of supermarkets for you to choose from, with Lidl and Fotex being the cheapest – but with poorer brand selection and product variety. To stop my cravings for Asian food, I went to the Asian market near the CBS campus, but the groceries were pricey there. However, I heard from my friend that it is possible to bargain for a cheaper price if you buy a lot at once.

Transportation

You can travel around Copenhagen by train or metro. I got my Rejsekort from another friend who went to CBS a semester ahead of me, but you can also get the card at the Copenhagen Central Station. You must tap your card before and after your metro ride, or else you would be fined. You can also rent a bike to travel around the city. Since I was not comfortable multi-tasking while riding a bike (you are required to signal when making turns), I did not rent a bike and mostly walked to took the metro.

Climate

It was quite cold and always raining in Copenhagen during my stay there. The days were quite short – the sun would only rise when it was 8am, and the sky would be dark by 5pm. It was also extremely windy (my phone almost got blown away once) so umbrellas were not common – we just pulled a hood over our heads.

Communication

I got my Lebara SIM card for free for joining the CBS Introduction Week. At the back of the SIM card, you can find your Danish phone number and bind it to your data plan on Lebara's website. I paid for the 100GB+ data plan for DKK99, which also covered 5GB free data within the EU. I was able to use the same SIM card in all of my trips. You can choose to auto-subscribe to the data plan, but I would not suggest so as I forgot to cancel the subscription and got charged again after leaving Denmark.

Part III | Items to Bring

- Clothing
 - Warm clothes (e.g. down jacket, scarf, heattech, hat, gloves etc.)
 - Light clothes (e.g. t-shirt for warmer places during travel)
 - Formal wear and shoes (for Welcome Night)
 - Sneakers
 - Pajamas
- Hygiene products (travel-sized for carry-on baggage)
 - Shampoo and bath soap
 - Toothbrush and toothpaste
 - Lotion
 - Alcohol and wet wipes
 - Surgical masks (to use on the plane)
- Electronics
 - Computer and charger
 - Mobile phone and charger
 - Adaptors (at least 2)
 - Calculator
 - Headphones/earphones
- Healthcare
 - Basic medicine (e.g. Panadol)
 - Allergy/personal medicine
 - Vitamins/supplements
- Travelling & Money
 - Passport and other official documents
 - Cash (DKK, Euro)
 - Credit cards (at least 2 for alternate use)
 - SIM card
 - Umbrella
 - Backpack/small suitcases for carry-on

Part IV | Useful Links and Contacts

VISA Application

<https://www.nyidanmark.dk/en-GB/You-want-to-apply/Study/Higher-education>

CPR Registration (for timeslot reservation at Frederiksberg Townhall)

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

CBS Course List

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

CBS Grading System

https://www.cbs.dk/files/cbs.dk/danish_grading_scale_2017.pdf

Lebara SIM

<https://mobile.lebara.com/dk/en>