

# Exchange Report

**BI Norwegian Business School, Oslo**



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**Professional Accounting and Finance, Year 3**

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# Monthly Activity Log

## January

I arrived Oslo with another exchange mate on 7<sup>th</sup> January, which was the first day of the orientation week. Aside from joining the orientation activities, we also explored the neighborhood around the student village and the campus and bought some daily necessities from IKEA. After settling down, we went for sightseeing in the city on days with no lessons. I have to say that Oslo is a really beautiful city that combines both modern and natural elements. At the end of January, we went to Copenhagen in Denmark by overnight bus during weekend and it was a great trip.



*Sognsvann lake, Oslo*



*Little Mermaid, Copenhagen*

## February

As I only had class on Monday to Thursday, I had plenty of time to travel around during weekends. Therefore, I went to Budapest in Hungary, Bratislava in Slovakia, Prague and Cesky Krumlov in Czech Republic and Hallstatt and Vienna in Austria in two weeks. Among all the places that I have been to in this trip, the most memorable cities are definitely Cesky Krumlov and Hallstatt. The scenery there was really so beautiful, and I am very lucky that I visited Hallstatt after it snowed, which made the view even more stunning. The food in Eastern Europe is also very cheap that I can finally enjoy different delicious food there.



*Český Krumlov, Czech Republic*



*Hallstatt, Austria*

## March

The first week of March was a busy week, I had taken one midterm exam and handed in three project assignments. After that, I had planned to have my trip to Bergen in Norway and Barcelona and Madrid in Spain in the coming weeks. However, that was when the COVID-19 started to outbreak in Europe and many flights had to be cancelled, and so as my trips. The school had also announced that they would change to online teaching, so I planned to come back to Hong Kong earlier. However, before that, I went to Dublin in Ireland for my last trip as the situation there was still under control. Yet, the day when I arrived, the government announced to close down most of the places so I can only visit the countryside places before I came back and this marked the end of my exchange journey.



*Howth Cliff, Dublin*

# General Exchange Information

## Visa Procedures

You will need to apply for your study permit after you have received the admission letter from BI. You have to arrange an appointment with the Norwegian Consulate through the UDI website and pay the application fee of NOK5300. On the appointment day, please make sure you have prepared all the documents required as this may lead to a much longer waiting time. Please arrange the appointment as soon as possible as the visa process takes more than a month.

## Orientation Activities

BI had arranged an orientation week before the school officially started. Activities including ice-skating, barbeque and sight-seeing were held and these activities were very good opportunities to make friends with other international students.

## International Services & Activities

There is a Facebook group for BI exchange student to join. Different events will be posted in the group, including pub nights, cross-country skiing course and etc. and there will also be some reminders for exchange students. Moreover, a free dinner called “BI-nner” would be held on every month for international students. The registration is on a first-come-first-served basis.

## Accommodations

There are three housing providers which are SiO, BSN and Diakonhjemmet. I chose to live in Kringsjå Student Village operated by SiO. They offered many different types of room and I rented a single flat with private bathroom and shared kitchen for 8 persons, which costed me NOK5109 per month. The village is 20 minutes away from

BI by metro, but I think that it is still very convenient as there is a metro station, a supermarket and a gym right next to it. It is also very close Sognsvann lake, a great place for walking and cross-country skiing.

## Course Registration

BI will send you the course list and schedule along with the log-in details of student portal via email in late November. There are only two weeks for you to register the courses so please do not miss the email. You can register up to 30 ECTS credits, which is equivalent to 4 courses.

## Teaching & Assessment Methods

### **EXC2901: Norwegian Culture and History - An Introduction**

[Equivalent to Common Core Course in Humanities]

The purpose of this course is to give the students an insight into Norwegian history, culture and society with an emphasis on politics and economics. There will be a field trip to Norsk Folkemuseum, and students will have to give a presentation on it afterwards. This course will be weighted 100% on a 3-hour written final exam.

### **EXC3673: Corporate and Financial Risk Management**

[Equivalent to 3000 Level Course in Finance]

The objective of this course is to provide students with an understanding of risk management and to be able to understand why corporations should manage their financial risks and how they use do so. This course will be weighted 20% on a 2-hour multiple choice midterm exam and 80% on a 3-hour written final exam.

### **FIN3516: Financial Statement Analysis**

[Equivalent to 3000 Level Course in Finance]

This course aims at preparing the students to analyze and interpret financial statements in a financially meaningful way and the fundamental issue of valuation.

This course also gives student skills to use Bloomberg terminal to gather and analyze information. This course will be weighted 20% on a group project on valuation and 80% on a 3-hour written final exam.

### **FIN3617: Behavioral Finance**

[Equivalent to 4000 Level Course in Finance]

The objective of this course is to give students an understanding of investor and managerial behavior and its impact on financial market outcomes by explaining financial market phenomena with institutional, social, cognitive, and emotional biases to the traditional paradigm. This course is weighted 40% on assignments and class participation and 60% on a 3-hour written final exam.

## **Sports & Recreational Facilities**

There are gym facilities in the campus and some of the SiO accommodation areas, students can choose to join the 3-months membership or 6-months membership to enjoy the facilities. Hiking and cross-country skiing are also other options for you, and it is easy to find the relevant information on the internet.

## **Finance & Banking**

As credit cards are widely accepted in Norway, I didn't prepare any NOK, the currency used in Norway, but handling all my daily transactions by credit cards. I only prepared some EURO for my travel to other European countries as some of the shops only accept cash.

## **Health & Safety**

In terms of healthcare, there is a medical center in the campus and a hospital near the Ullevål Station, you will be requested to do a body check at there when you receive the residential card. In terms of safety, I think Norway is a pretty safe country, at least I didn't have to worry about pocket-picking when I was in Norway.

## **Food**

I prefer cooking most of the time as having dinner outside is a costly option in Oslo. You can buy the food you need in supermarkets like KIWI and REMA1000. Grønland is also a good choice as there is an Asian market and some grocery stores.

## **Transportation**

Ruter is the biggest transportation service provider in Oslo and students can buy a 30-days travel pass with NOK450 to take the metro or buses. Please remember to top up the pass every 30 days as you may be fined when you are being discovered using an inactive pass.

## **Climate**

The weather is cold in Norway during January to March. The temperature would be around 5°C to -10°C and it would even snow sometimes. When it snows, the floor would become slippery, so it is important to bring a pair of snow boots along with you. Also, the time with daylight is very short in winter. The sun usually rises at 10am and sunset would be around 4pm in winter, but as the time goes, the time with daylight would become longer and longer.

## **Communication**

Most of the Norwegians can speak English so communication is not a problem in Norway.

## Items to Bring

- Passport
- HKID card
- Documents (study permit letter and BI admission letter)
- Credit/Debit card
- Cash (EUR)
- Clothes (both winter and summer)
- Gloves
- Scarf
- Hat
- Boots
- Adaptors
- Chargers
- Wi-Fi router
- Laptop
- Camera
- Skin care products
- Medicine
- Stationery

## Useful Links & Contacts

- Visa: <https://www.udi.no/en/>
- BI: <https://www.bi.edu/>
- BI its learning: <https://bi.itslearning.com/>
- SiO housing: <https://www.sio.no/en/>