

Exchange Report

Copenhagen Business School

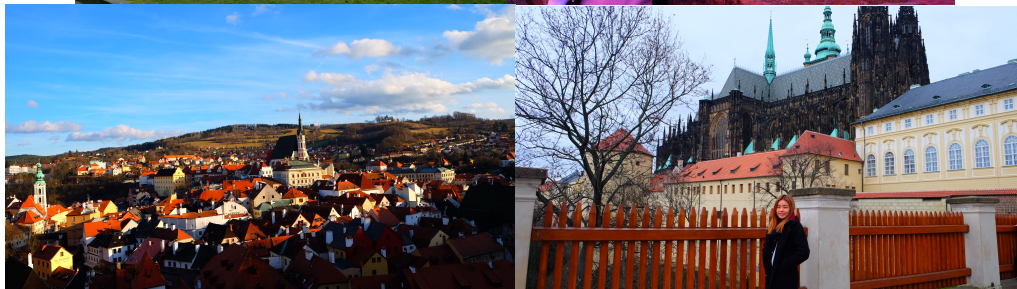


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Part 1: Monthly Activity Log

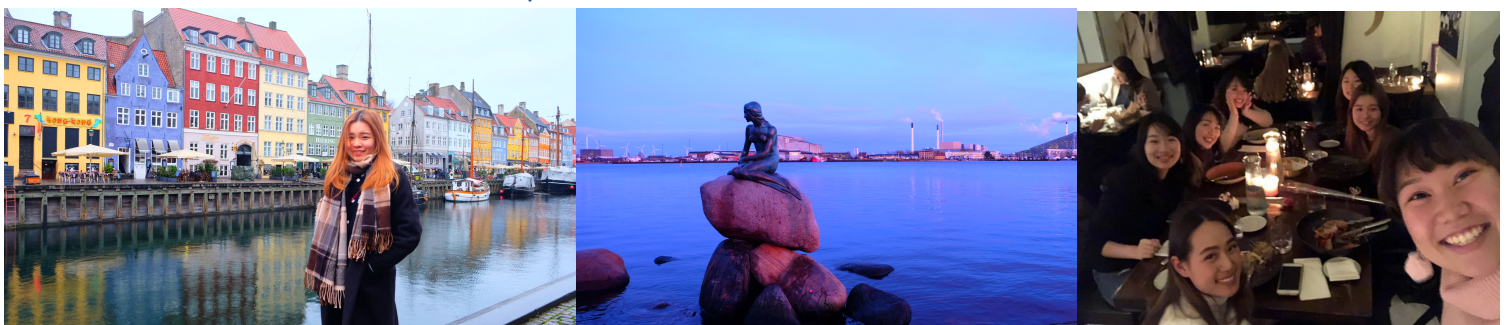
January

I arrived Copenhagen on 26 January. My buddy from CBS picked me up at the airport and helped me to check in my dorm. The semester started at early February, so I attended the orientation week right after my arrival. Some of the events regarding exams, CBS facilities and Copenhagen sightseeing were informative. I also paid to join a social programme which included comedy show, folk dancing, buddy party, etc. It was a great chance to meet the exchange students and get to know more about Denmark. Before the semester started, I went to Prague in Czech Republic for a short trip. I visited famous attractions like Prague castle, Charles Bridge and Old Town Square. After the trip, I went back to Copenhagen and prepared for the semester to begin.



February

The semester started officially on 3 February and there was one week add-drop period. I took 5 courses in total including Behavioral Finance, Risk Management of Multinational Enterprise: Creating Global Strategic Responsiveness, Global People Management: Human Resources Management & Leadership, Danish – Integrated Skills and Theories of Contemporary Society II. I was allowed overloading of 37.5 ECTS in the second round of course application. While I think workload depends on different courses, it is acceptable to take 5 courses.

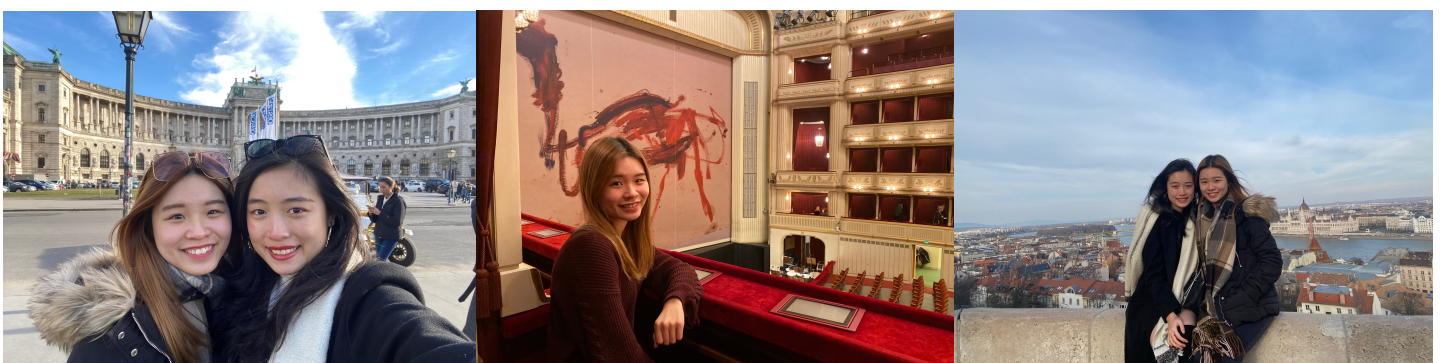


In early February, I spent some time to visit Copenhagen. I went to Nyhavn for one of the most famous harbour scenery, little mermaid, Tivoli and some museums, as well as relaxed at cafes to enjoy the hygge lifestyle. During the Valentine's Day, I celebrated with the girls I met on exchange in a Danish restaurant!

Later, I went on a day trip with friends from Hong Kong to Malmo in Sweden. Malmo is the nearest city from Copenhagen and it only takes 40 mins train to get to there. I also went to Berlin in Germany for a weekend with my friends met in CBS. Berlin is a historically important city and so we visited quite a number of attractions, as well as tried the famous currywurst and kebab. Since Germany is near to Denmark, I suggest you spare a weekend for visiting the historical city!

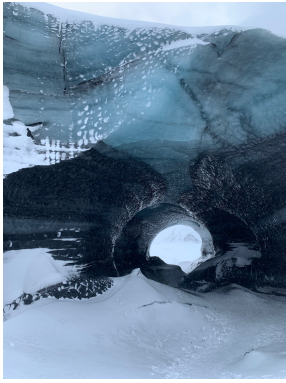


I made use of the last week of February to travel to Austria, Slovakia and Hungary. Central Europe is very different from Denmark, where the architecture style, food and people amazed me. I watched an opera in Vienna and visited the fairytale town Hallstatt. Budapest is one of my favourite cities in Europe, because I enjoyed wonderful food, sceneries and entertainment all together in a place. I recommend visiting Central Europe in one trip as the transportation between the country nearby is only 2-3 hours.



March

In order to catch the northern light, which is one of my bucket lists, I went to Iceland with my friends from UST. Iceland is an unparalleled country where it is covered fully with ice. We joined a few local tours to visit ice caves, waterfalls. The natural beauty



in Iceland is really wonderful and I like Blue Lagoon the most. Enjoying hot spring in a snowy weather is definitely one of the unique experiences. Another one most unforgettable experience must be snorkeling under 0 degree Celsius. It was freezing but amazing with the clear underwater scenery. However, remember to be aware of the weather as it is common for the tours to cancel due to unstable weather condition.



After Iceland, I went to UK as it is nearby. I visited London and Manchester, where I found them similar to Hong Kong in some ways. There is a lot more Asian food than in Denmark, so my homesick for food was cured! However, there are more thefts than I thought in UK. Therefore, you should take good care of your personal belongings.



After the UK trip, the situation in Europe was greatly affected by coronavirus. As the Denmark government announced the closure of school in mid-March, I decided to go back to Hong Kong and cancelled the rest of my trips. I had a farewell with my friends in Copenhagen. Although my exchange lasted for only 1.5 months, I enjoyed it a lot and treasured the friends I met. I hope I can meet them soon in the future and revisit Europe again.



Part 2: General Exchange Information

Visa Procedure

I am holding a Canada passport, but I think the procedure is the same as Hong Kong passport. The nearest Denmark embassy for visa application is in Shenzhen. You have to first register online for a case number. After that, you should fill in the forms, make a copy of your passport and prepare your photos. You have to pay once online, and when you visit the embassy in Shenzhen, you pay another fee. The visa document will be sent to you after 4-6 weeks. Upon arrival in Denmark, you have to apply for CPR card in the municipality office.

Orientation Activities

In the orientation week, CBS provides some free activities for us to get familiar with CBS campus, examinations, housing, sight-seeing, etc. Apart from that, CBS organized social packages. One is held in crash course week with Danish class and cultural activities, another one is in orientation week with comedy night, canal tour, folk dancing, buddy party, movie night and welcome dinner. I paid 725 DKK to join the latter social package as I arrived after the crash course week.

International Services & Activities

CBS has well-organized buddy program, where they would ask your preference and pick you up in the airport after communication. Also, if you have any questions or parcels during exchange, feel free to contact CBS International Office and they will offer help.

Accommodations

CBS housing office will send out emails for information regarding housing application. In the application form, you can indicate your preference in each dorm and the size of the room. For exchange students, you can also request for sharing room with someone you know by emailing the housing department of International Office.

During my exchange, I stayed in double room in Kathrine Kollegiet. I shared the kitchen and bathroom with my friend from UST. Kathrine Kollegiet is located in a

residential area and it is 5 minutes away from Flintholm and Peter Bangs Station. All the campus building is within 15 minutes bike distance. The dorm manager will organize some gatherings for exchange students to get to know each other. As the quota is limited for dorm, you should apply as soon as possible though CBS will help you rent house even if you cannot get a dorm.

Course Registration

Normally, exchange students study 4 courses. However, you may apply for overload and study 5 courses. In September, after CBS release the list of courses, you should look up to HKUST course equivalent database for credit transfer. You may also do course mapping and submit form for approval. However, I suggest you doing it as soon as possible and the process may take more than a month. The first round of course application starts in mid-October. You have to submit the preference of courses and backup courses, as well as priority letter and overload request if applicable. After the result release in late November and the second round of application start in December, where you can register for other courses if the chosen one is oversubscribed. CBS will then email and update you the progress.

Teaching and Assessment Method

CBS teaching styles and assessment ways are different between courses and professors. Learning methods include lectures, in-class discussions, presentation, etc. Classes are generally more interactive than Hong Kong and students' motivation place an important place. There are also some guest lectures where industry expert was invited. Usually a class consists of classes delivered by 3-4 professors. The grading system in CBS is 100% depend on final exam. Therefore, the workload during semester is not very heavy, as there is voluntary exercises and no midterms. The exam format can be sit-in exams, take home assignments and oral exams. Due to corona virus, my sit-in exams turned to take home assignments and my oral exam turned online. Especially for oral exam, which is new to me, it emphasizes on the interaction with examiners. Students will first present on the prepared topics, and then examiners will ask follow-up questions and continue the conversation.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

There are sports team and interest clubs for students to join, you will receive a booklet about the introduction of different teams. I only joined the practice of CBS yoga. You can just register online and pay 10DKK. It is very flexible and organized.

Finance & Banking

I didn't open a bank account in Denmark as I heard the procedures are very complicated and time-consuming. I brought cash (DKK and Euro) and credit card for daily transactions and I think it is enough as Denmark is widely accepting credit cards. Another option would be open a virtual bank called Revolut, so you can top

up the account and exchange online. As you may travel around Europe, I suggest you bring some Euro for exchange.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

There are many clubs in CBS, you can find out the information in an orientation booklet. I didn't join any of the clubs. However, many of my friends joined the case competition organized by CBS and some of the career/company talk. You could find out more on their Facebook page or emails.

Health & Safety

When you apply for the citizenship, they will send you a CPR card together with a medical card where you can see the doctor when you are sick. I did not experience sickness during the exchange, but you can definitely follow the instructions on the card for the service. In terms of safety, Copenhagen is the safest city in Europe, where you do not need to worry about thefts or crimes. However, when you travel to other countries, you should take good care of your personal belongings.

Food

In Copenhagen, it is quite pricy to dine out. Therefore, I usually cook with my roommate, as there is supermarket nearby our dorm. You can find the necessities conveniently. However, most of them are western cuisines, there are few Asian food in Denmark. You have to find out the Asian markets or Asian town for the Asian cuisines.

Transportation

Transportation in Copenhagen is very convenient, you can go to everywhere with metro or bus. The metro is operated 24 hours per day, so you do not need to worry about transportation when going out late. You should buy the transportation card called Rejsekort, however, the transportation fee is not cheap as it costs 12-20 DKK per trip depending on the time you travel. Taxi is not recommended as it is expensive and there is no uber. During my exchange, I rented a bicycle on Swapfiets. It costs 150 DKK per month, but it is very convenient. Cycling facilities are well-developed in Copenhagen, so I rode my bike to school usually.

Climate

It was winter when I arrived Copenhagen, weather was really cold and rainy. During January to Early March, the temperature stayed between -2 to 10 degree Celsius. Sunset was quite early at 4pm. However, after March, the weather became sunny but still under 20 degree Celsius.

Communication

There is guidance and a sim card given in CBS welcome package. You can top up to the sim card for daily communication and it covers also EU region. In Denmark,

people speak both Danish and English, so there should be no communication barrier. All classes are conducted in English except some language classes.

Part 3: Items to Bring

- Visa document and passport
- Cash (DKK and Euro for me)
- Credit card/ debit card
- Gloves, scarf and knitted hat for cold weather
- Winter and summer clothes
- Adaptor
- Laptop
- Stationery
- Medicine
- Waist pack to prevent pickpocket during travel
- Cabin-sized luggage

Part 4: Useful Links and Contacts

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark:

<https://um.dk/en/travel-and-residence/how-to-apply-for-a-residence-permit/>

CBS International Office:

<https://www.cbs.dk/en/about-cbs/organisation/administrative-units/cbs-international-office>

CBS Course Catalogue:

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

CBS Accommodation:

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

Frederiksberg Municipality:

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

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