



EXCHANGE REPORT

2022 SPRING

Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

Chiu Long Kit, Daniel
GBUS & FINA, Year 3

Part I | Monthly Activity Log

January

I arrived at Copenhagen with some other students who are also on exchange in Denmark on 5th January. We toured around Copenhagen for the first few days before depositing my luggage in CBS international office and departed from Denmark again. The semester starts in February but I arrived early to travel with my friends. We went to Switzerland and Italy for around 2 weeks. We had the opportunity to visit Jungfrau, one of the highest peaks in Europe while witnessing countless paintings and sculptures in The Vatican City during our travels. As I went back to Copenhagen by the last week of the month, I meet my buddy who helped me settle down in my accommodation. With Denmark's COVID-19 restrictions still active, most activities had to be held in an online format. I stayed in my room most of the time to attend the orientation talks and settle into my accommodation.



February

During the start of the semester, most courses offered by CBS are still in online format. I still took some time visiting the campuses of CBS. Unlike HKUST, CBS had their campuses spread across different places in the city centre area of Copenhagen (about 5 minutes of bike apart from each other), so I had to familiarize myself with the locations of different campuses in the beginning. I travelled to Spain and Norway during my off-days, while continuing to explore Copenhagen with my friends who travelled to Denmark. It is fascinating to witness the aurora through my own eyes for the first time in Tromsø, a small town in Norway. While Hong Kong was having the 5th wave of pandemic during this time, Denmark was one of the first countries in the world to terminate most social-distancing restraints. It made our travelling and more convenient whether you would like to sightsee within or out of Denmark.



March

As the courses in the third quarter were starting to finish by mid-March, I had more free time aside from attending lectures. Some of my professors also got contacted with COVID-19 unfortunately, so there was not a lot of physical lectures. However, CBS still tried to offer the best learning experience possible through supplementary readings and follow-up recordings. In the meantime, I took a few short trips to travel to Netherlands, Belgium and Germany. These 3 countries are in close proximity with each other and had similar culture and architectural styles. The cuisines, however, are vastly different and had their own traditional offerings and unique styles. Upon returning to my home country, I spent the last two weeks preparing for two of my exams, which one of them took place in an examination hall. After the hectic exam period, I travelled to France to visit my friends who were having his exchange studies there and continued to travel to Portugal together.



April

I had more free time starting from April as half of my courses and their exams have finished by the end of the third quarter. I returned from Portugal just in time for the beginning of the fourth quarter. I also travelled to Hungary, the United Kingdom and Iceland throughout the month. These countries had niche and unique attractions, including the public baths in Budapest, a heavy football-infused culture in the UK and the myriad natural sceneries on the coastlines of Southern Iceland. Copenhagen is also quite a convenient location if you would like to travel to other countries. Located in the 'central area' of Europe, it is relatively cheaper to reach other countries via low-cost airlines. If you would like to go to Iceland, there are only a few starting locations from where you can arrive at Reykjavik at an affordable price, with Copenhagen being one of them (aside London and Paris etc).





May and June

I returned to Copenhagen from Iceland in the first week of May. Even though the final exams in CBS (for quarter 4 and semester courses) do not end until mid-June, I went back to Hong Kong earlier given the start of my summer internship and the 7-day quarantine restraint imposed by the government. I spent most of my time attending the lectures of my Risk Management class and touring in Copenhagen. I had a chance to visit the famous Tivoli Garden as it is reopened in Spring. I eventually left Denmark on 17th May. My remaining final exams in June are taken place in the form of home assignment so I can complete and submit them in Hong Kong.



Part II | General Study Abroad Information

Visa Procedures

Unlike previous students who exchanged in Denmark, our batch could not apply for the Visa/Residence Permit before traveling to Denmark due to COVID-19. Holding a Hong Kong passport, we were allowed a 90-day visa-free stay in Europe, so we could apply our residence permit upon landing.

The processing time for the ST-1 application can take up to 2 months. All details would be enclosed by the staff members from CBS when they send you the acceptance letter before the exchange. Before leaving Hong Kong, you would have to submit an online application and pay upfront to register your case (about 2000HKD). Upon arrival in Denmark, you will have to submit your documents in person in the Frederiksberg townhall and make your biometrics record. You can then collect your CPR card and health card after being approved of your application.

Orientation Activities

Due to COVID-19, all the orientation activities are conducted online. However, CBS still tried their best to help the exchange students settle with a series of programmes as follows:

1. Danish Crash Course and School Tours (before semester starts)
2. Introduction Week (before semester starts)
3. Tours within Denmark (during semester)

You will receive an information package from CBS informing you of all the activities and respective timelines. I skipped most activities (they are not mandatory) as I was not in Denmark. Most of them are not free either so that would be a factor for consideration as well (eg. The Danish Crash Course was about 2000HKD). I did attend some of the talks throughout the introduction week, as they informed you of the details regarding Courses and Exams, Housing, IT & Library etc.

International Services & Activities

The CBS inbound exchange team offers the buddy programme. It is very helpful as each exchange student would be assigned a local student (typically in his/her master's studies), who would pick you up from the airport, take you to the residence and handle all the check-in procedures. They are also happy to help you with any kinds of problems you might have settling into Denmark. However, you should reach out to your buddy in advance and contact the CBS inbound exchange team in case they do not respond.

You can also visit the CBS International Office physically for any enquires as they oversee the entire exchange programme.

Accommodations

By mid-November, CBS would send you an email regarding the information on housing. It is on a first-come-first-served basis, and you can make up to 3 choices of accommodation through their portal during a designated time. Make sure you check the time of filling your choices and decide your preferences well before the deadline.

I chose Kathrine Kollegiet (KK) and shared a room with a schoolmate from HKUST. We informed the CBS Housing Department of our roommate and accommodation preferences, and they assigned a room for us before the application time mentioned above.

We lived in a double room with shared kitchen and toilets. KK is also a popular choice for exchange students as it is close to the campuses (10-minute bike ride) and the metro station (3-minute walk). You can view the accommodation choices and their respective pricing in the link attached in the references.

Note that the residence is not open for check-in until mid-January. If you are arriving in Europe early and plan to travel in other countries prior to the start of the semester, I would suggest storing your luggage in CBS International Office by emailing them in advance.



Courses Registration

Unlike HKUST, CBS has 3 types of courses in one semester:

	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	Semester
Classes	Early-Feb to Mid-Mar	Mid-Apr to Early-Jun	Early-Feb to Mid-May
Finals	Late-Mar	Mid-Jun	Mid-Jun

You are allowed to take 4 courses for one semester. Although overloading was allowed according to previous exchange reports, it was not the case for this semester. The table below are the courses that I took:

Course Code	Course Title	Type
BPSYV1035U	Language of Negotiations	Semester
BHAAV4491U	Financial Derivatives and Their Applications	Quarter 3
BHAAV2389U	Behavioral Finance	Quarter 3
BINBO1601U	Risk Management of Multinational Enterprise: Creating Global Strategic Responsiveness	Quarter 4

CBS publishes their courses for the upcoming semester quite early, so you can start planning the offered courses and cross-check with the credit transfer database (link below) quite early. Make sure you choose more than 4 courses (preferably 8) and make a list of preferences.

Similar to applying for an accommodation, you would receive a link from CBS to fill in your course preferences. Given that the courses are assigned on a lucky-draw basis due to limited quotas, you can choose up to 4 courses as your 'first-options', while adding one extra course to **each selection** as a 'back-up option'. In any case that your first option is full, you will be assigned the back-up option.

The timetable for the courses is not announced until the beginning of the semester (so you cannot plan your timetable in advance like HKUST). There is also no fixed timetable as some courses may start at a different time across different weeks. (Make sure you check your timetable every week) It is unlikely that there will be a clash in time slots for your lessons, but if it does happen you should contact CBS immediately. During the transitions throughout the semester, some courses might overlap so you have to skip one particular class (a common practice in CBS).

Teaching & Assessment Methods

Unlike HKUST, there is only one final exam for courses in CBS and no participation nor attendance. You can skip the classes (although not recommended) and there would be no penalties as long as you perform well in the final examination. For most courses in CBS, the classes are more interactive as the professor tries to engage the entire class to a discussion or other activities. The only exception for me is the Derivatives class as the lecturers had to focus on going over all the contents and mathematical calculations.

For the courses that I took, the exams took place in the form of sit-in exams or home assignments. For sit-in exams, make sure that you read all the rules and regulations clearly (especially the use of calculators if you are a finance student as The HKEAA-approved calculator is **prohibited** in Denmark). You will be given a computer to type in and submit your answers, or a digital pen that converts your handwritten drafts into electronic images for the computer on a real-time basis. I would advise going to the examination all at least 30 minutes prior to the exam to familiarize yourself with the situation. Home assignments, on the other hand, are not as different as you submit a document online before the deadline.

Climate

From January to March, the weather in Copenhagen is acceptable (about 2 degrees). The rain and wind, however, would make it feel much colder. Remember to wear gloves or your hands would be freezing just by staying outdoors. The amount of sunlight is also very limited as the sun would set by 4-5pm. It is uncommon to use umbrellas as the rain tends to come and go quickly, and you could shield yourself with a hood over your heads. From April to May, the weather starts to get warm (about 9-15 degrees) and the sun would not set until 9pm.

Health & Safety

After applying a CPR number and residence permit, you will be mailed a yellow card. You can use it to go to the clinic for free by making a booking in advance. Copenhagen is quite safe, even if you walk out alone even at night times. Do remember to always lock your bicycle when it is idle and be aware of drunk people at night as drinking is a heavy part of the Danish culture.

Food

It is expensive to eat out in Copenhagen (about 150-250HKD per meal), so I cooked most of my meals at home with my roommate. You can get groceries from supermarkets such as Fotex and Lidl, which are very convenient with a wide range of product offerings. Another economical option is the CBS cafeterias, but note that they are only available during lunchtime and have very short opening hours (11:00 – 14:00). There are also Asian markets located in the central station area of the city in any case of cravings for Asian food.

Transportation

I travelled around Copenhagen with two major modes of transport: metro and bicycle. You would need a Rejsekort (the Copenhagen version of an Octopus Card) to use the public transport, but it is much more expensive than Hong Kong (at least 20HKD for one ride). You can get the card in the airport right after landing in Denmark. Note that Denmark's transportation system works differently, as passengers need to tap your card when getting on/off the ride to avoid a penalty. As for bicycle, CBS recommended renting bikes from Swapfiets and they cost ~150HKD per month. It is usually cheaper, faster and more convenient to commute with your bicycle for daily purposes compared to walking or taking the metro and I would recommend it unless you are very uncomfortable with a bike.

Communication

You can get a free Lebara SIM Card from the CBS International Office. It gives you a Danish phone number and you can go on the Lebara website to choose your desired data plans. I only used the card for phone-call purposes as I bought a SIM card from Hong Kong with recurring monthly plans. The Lebara SIM Card also works across different countries in Europe in case you would like to travel.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

There are no sports facilities in CBS, but there are gyms located nearby the school and my residence. There is also a basketball court right under Kathrine Kollegiet (my residence).

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

I did not join any social clubs in CBS as I wanted to focus on travelling. The recruitment season for most societies also happen in the beginning of the academic year so you might miss it if you exchange in spring. However, there are some career/networking events across the semester where you can find physical booths on campus. There will also be mass email promotions that you can always refer to (similar to the practice in HKUST).

Cautionary Measures

In general, I did not encounter any language barriers in Denmark. Everyone can speak fluent English and communication was not a problem. It would be better to know basic Danish as most signs and menus do not offer an English translation. I simply used the camera function on Google Translate when necessary. There were few to no incidents against Asian students and did not cause a heavy nuisance.

Part III | Items to Bring

1. Clothing

- Warm clothes (e.g. down jacket, scarf, heattech underwear, gloves, hats)
- Light clothes (for warmer places when travelling)
- Formal wear (for Orientation Activities or any Formal Interviews)
- Sneakers and Flip Flops

2. Hygiene products (must be travel-sized to put in carry-on baggage)

- Shampoo and bath soap
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Lotion
- Alcohol and wet wipes
- Surgical masks

3. Electronics

- Computer and charger
- Mobile phone and charger
- External Power Bank
- Adaptors (at least 2)
- Extension Units
- Calculator
- Headphones/earphones

4. Healthcare

- Basic medicine (e.g. Panadol)
- Vitamins/supplements

5. Travelling & Money

- Passport and other official documents for ST-1 Application
- Cash (DKK and/or EUR)
- Credit cards (at least 2 for alternate usage)
- SIM card
- Backpack/small suitcases for carry-on

Part IV | Useful Links & Contacts

CBS Homepage for Exchange Students

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

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

CBS Accommodation

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

CBS Undergraduate Course List

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

Swapfiets – Bike subscription in Copenhagen

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