



COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL

HKUST Spring 2022 Exchange Report

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MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG

JANUARY

I arrived on 19th January. At Copenhagen Airport, my exchange buddy from CBS has sent her friend to pick me up and assisted me with dorm check-in. Since Covid-19 regulations were still in place at the time, CBS arranged for the Exchange Introduction to be online. The sessions are hosted by students, aiming to be informative and provide some basic tips on learning and life in Copenhagen. I participated in a campus tour of which I did not find very helpful. I lived in Nørrebro, a bit away from school, so I focused on familiarizing myself with the neighbourhood and the city centre area, as well as dealing with administrative tasks such as residence permit applications, student card applications, and settling into dorm.



FEBRUARY

School started 1st February. I took a total of 4 courses, including Behavioural Finance, Danish – Integrated Skills, Language of Negotiations, and Risk Management of Multinational Enterprise: Creating Global Strategic Responsiveness. Some courses like Behavioural Finance and Danish required textbooks, which I purchased from the bookstore on CBS campus.

I had planned this month for exploring Copenhagen. However, the first week of February was spent self-isolating in dorm because I had unfortunately caught Covid-19*. On the bright side, my symptoms were so mild that I was not aware that I caught it until I was almost recovered. Mask regulations were completely lifted by February and herd immunity took effect as we saw Covid cases drop since then. After recovery, I had visited several landmarks and places in Copenhagen, including The Museum of Copenhagen, Torvehallerne. A few exchange students from Hong Kong and I purchased a 24-hour Copenhagen Pass to visit some





museums and actions. On a regular, I did some café hopping to discover the best places for coffee and pastries. I also joined the party that Nexus, a café in CBS, hosts every Thursday night.

MARCH

Some new-found friends and I saw an opera at Operaen. It was performed in Italian and the subtitles were in Danish, so I had no idea what it was about. My best friend exchanging in Lille, France came to visit in the weekend. We went around my neighbourhood, visiting Superkilen, the Round Tower, Botanical Garden, etc.



Mid-March, I joined some HKUST exchange students on a trip to Amsterdam and Brussels. The weather was much more pleasant in these cities than in Copenhagen. Canal tours and windmills in

Amsterdam were breath-taking, and it was quite interesting to see how the architecture compares with those in Copenhagen canals. While indulging in Belgium waffles and chocolate every day, we went on day trips to Bruges and Antwerp during our stay in Belgium.



Coming back to Copenhagen, friends studying Milan, Italy came to visit. We visited the Louisiana Museum of Modern Art, located further up north in Copenhagen. I also brought them to the Meatpacking District, an urban yet rustic area for dinner and drinks.



APRIL

Early April started off in the United Kingdom, where I visited my high school friends studying full-time in London and Cambridge. Staying at their place, they brought me to hidden gems in the area that only locals would know. Since I have been to the UK before, I need not go to tourist attractions or sightseeing, and spent most of my time there catching up with them and getting to know their lifestyle.

A photograph of a young man and a young woman smiling for a selfie. The man is on the left, wearing a blue denim jacket over a grey hoodie with 'TIMBERLAND' visible. The woman is on the right, wearing a light-colored jacket. They are standing on a walkway with a metal railing. In the background, the Tower Bridge in London is visible under a blue sky with scattered white clouds.

Mid-April, I went on a day trip to Malmö. It took a 45-minute train ride from Copenhagen Central Station, and after arrival, the journey could be completed on foot. There we visited numerous museums, including Moderna Museet Malmö, the Disgusting Food Museum and Malmö Castle.

As Spring commences, many attractions and festivals are held in Copenhagen. I went to Tivoli, the 2nd oldest amusement park in the world. I am not much of a roller coaster fan, but my friends found them fun despite being not as exciting as those in Ocean Park Hong Kong. I also went to the Saku



Japanese culture. Since the weather was beautiful, we also took a detour to pose with the Little Mermaid.



I wrapped up April in Milan, Italy to visit my friends studying or exchanging in University of Bocconi. They brought me

to the Duomo, the Galleria, Navigli, and we took a day trip to Lake Como. The 3-day journey was filled with pasta, pizza, croissants, cheeses, and gelatos.



MAY

Coming back from Milan, I felt a bit under the weather. I was to fly back to Hong Kong soon and I needed to ensure I test negative for the PCR test and have all documents ready. I took my last week and a half in Copenhagen chill, focusing on meeting up with some new friends for a farewell. As a coffee addict, I also continued my café hopping and had great conversations with baristas and café owners. Upon completing my checklist of souvenirs, I was ready to head back.

I was lucky enough to land after the border start using the Rapid Antigen Test to determine admittance to the quarantine hotel, and I was out of the airport and in my hotel in less than 3 hours upon landing.

GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

VISA & RESIDENCE PERMIT PROCEDURES

With a Hong Kong Passport, there is no need for a visa to travel to Denmark. I have included a link that shows the passport holders whom visa would be required.

I applied for a residence permit in-person at the Immigrations Office. It is fairly simple, where you just need to pay for the permit (in advance or in-person), bring hardcopies of all required documents, have your biometrics recorded there. My permit was approved after about a month and a half. If you are staying for more than 3 months after receiving the permit, you can apply for a CPR number and a NEM ID, which provides better access to healthcare and other public services.

ACCOMMODATIONS

I lived in Svanevej, a student accommodation provided through CBS. We applied through a portal where we could choose our preferences. We are told that it was in a first-come-first-served basis, but some students who registered relatively early were not given a dorm, so be prepared for that.

Each dorm and what they provide is slightly different. I have a small, shared room with shared bathroom and kitchenette.

COURSES REGISTRATION

We could register for 4 courses per semester. CBS has some Quarter courses, where courses only last intensely for half (the first half or second half) of the semester. They also have

regular courses which last throughout the semester. You could consider these factors when lining your schedule to fit your other plans. Registration is intuitive and instructions provided were very clear.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT METHODS

We had a bit of blended learning in the beginning, but everything converted back to offline by March. There is not much coursework for me, only one class had a group presentation. However, course grades depend 100% on the Final Exam Performance. Final Exam formats could be in Sit-in Exam, Take-home Assignment, and Individual or Group Presentation.

SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES

At CBS, I have friends who participated in sports teams. There are also paid classes like yoga where students can sign up for. There is a gym membership that students could pay for to gain access to the gym, but there are countless accessible fitness centres around the city that where you would easily find for affordable student memberships.

Café Nexus is a nice place on campus for a morning coffee or an afternoon beer. Every Thursday they will have a huge party. However, some of my friends find the night life in the city centre of Copenhagen more exciting.

FINANCE & BANKING (INCLUDING CURRENCY / EXPENSES)

Danish Kroner is difficult to exchange for in Hong Kong. They retrieve it from their vault. All places accept cash, card or mobile payment. I used cash if I have any on me to avoid the transaction fees of credit and debit cards, but mobile payment through Apply Wallet was also a convenient method for me.

SOCIAL CLUBS & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

There is a variety of clubs and activities that CBS students can participate in. If you are looking to join a student organisation, you could find an introduction booklet on campus that includes the description and contact of all clubs at CBS. They do not send out official emails on recruitment, so keep a look out on their social media

HEALTH & SAFETY

All Covid restriction were lifted by February, while Denmark provided PCR testing and isolation hotels for free during that time. Denmark is generally a very safe place, but the area where I live (Nørrebro), or quieter streets can get sketchy at late winter nights.

FOOD

Supermarkets are sprinkled all over the city. You will likely find 2-3 near you. Rema 1000 has the greatest value for money, while Fotex gives great variety. Others including Lidl and Netto I go occasionally as well. If you are looking to get the best deals, the websites of Supermarkets would show products on discount for the coming week so you could plan your groceries.

Eating out can get expensive, but Copenhagen is known for their gastronomy and Michelin Star restaurants. I did go for one Michelin Star restaurant's experience during my stay. Besides, you would likely find me spending the mornings at cafés and bakeries. Copenhagen is a great place for café hopping, and they are very vegetarian/vegan-friendly as well.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation is expensive in Copenhagen. I used Rejsekort (Travel card), kind of like a Hong Kong Octopus card to travel on public transport. It could be bought at the metro stations. Otherwise, I also rented a bike at Swapfiets. It was recommended to us by CBS as it provides student discounts. There are also a lot of Sharing Bike schemes like Donkey Republic or Lime.

CLIMATE

Denmark gets very windy and rainy in the winter, so be prepared with a good windbreaker and thick socks. An umbrella would likely be blown away, so you would be better off with a water-resistant outer layer. The indoors are equipped with heaters in the cold seasons, so lighter clothing would suffice.

COMMUNICATION

I used Lebara sim card, and it is very convenient to top-up data plans monthly. Exchange students can claim a Lebara sim card with the International Students Office. They offer plans that can be used around Europe, convenient for travelling.

Denmark also uses Facebook, especially for student-held activities, gatherings, and society updates. So, if you have deleted Facebook, now is the time to redownload it.

CHECKLIST OF ITEMS TO BRING

Listed are some items I found the most necessary specifically to exchanging in CBS or travelling in Europe. Referring to this checklist exclusively will not suffice.

1. Visa documents and Passport
2. Cash (in Danish Kroner and Euro)
3. Credit or Debit Card / Mobile Wallet
4. Clothes for windy winter weather (windbreaker, down jacket, scarf, thick socks, etc)
5. Clothes for layering in changing seasons (tighter jackets, hoodies, etc)
6. Comfortable shoes to walk and cycle in
7. Medication (difficult to find pharmacy in Denmark)
8. Big backpack or cabin-sized luggage for travel
9. Adaptor
10. A good camera (could be Phone camera)

IMPORTANT LINKS & CONTACT LIST

CBS International Office:

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

CBS Course Catalogue:

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

CBS Accommodation:

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

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark:

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

Student Sharepoint:

<https://studentcbs.sharepoint.com/>

Information on Visa requirement:

<https://www.nyidanmark.dk/en-GB/Words-and-concepts/US/Visum/Countries-with-a-visa-requirement-and-visa-free-countries/?anchor=63F86BF9BAE84296B40028C26E06EF02&callbackItem=2ECFDFC2363E41DD9D438C2289CBAA4&callbackAnchor=16C41B206517421CA26AE0A39D02186663F86BF9BAE84296B40028C26E06EF02>