

Exchange Report (Spring 2022)
Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

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Year 3 (GBUS & FINA)



Part 1 – Monthly Activity Log

January

I arrived Copenhagen in early January. I spent the first few days in Copenhagen to explore Copenhagen with my friends who are also doing exchange in Denmark. After that, I was planning to go for a trip to Switzerland and Italy before school starts, but unfortunately I got sick after arrival and had to cancelled the trip.

After checking in the student accommodation in mid-January, I spent a bit more time to travel around Copenhagen and met up with other exchange students at CBS. We went out several times to have dinner before semester starts. I also participated in some activities organized by CBS during the Introduction Week, which were mostly held online due to COVID-19.



February

The semester officially started on 1st February. I spent most of the time in February going to classes and meeting different students. Yet, I still managed to continue exploring Denmark with other exchange students, trying out different food and visiting various museums.

The highlight of this month is definitely my trip to UK in late February. I went on this trip on my own, and travelled to 4 different cities in 1 week. As a football and snooker fan, I was very excited to visit some football stadiums in Liverpool and Manchester, and to watch a live snooker match in Milton Keynes. It has long been my dream to watch my favourite snooker player, Ronnie O'Sullivan, and it had finally come true in this trip. I also spent 2 days in London to meet up with my friends and had some great food.





March

March had been a hectic month for me. I continued to have classes at CBS, and I also went on a trip to Netherlands and Belgium in mid-March with my friends. In particular, we spent quite some time in Amsterdam for some great food and museums. My favourite part would be the visit to Anne Frank House, the place where the Jewish diarist Anna Frank hid from the Nazi Prosecution. It is definitely a thought-provoking place to go to. The Heineken Experience and Van Gogh Museum are also great and worth going to.



In the second half of March, I spent some of the time revising for a final exam in late March. I had a sit-in written exam for a financial derivatives course and I think this course is relatively harder than other courses that I took, so I decided not to travel that time and focused on the exam preparation.

April

Right after the exam, I went on a 2-week trip to France and Portugal. We visited France, Bordeaux, Lisbon and Faro during this trip, and it just felt great to have fun after an exam. The winery tour in Bordeaux was interesting and eye-opening despite knowing barely anything about wine before that. Located in the most southern part of Portugal, Faro gave me some summer vibes after those cold days in Copenhagen, and is surely a beautiful city to visit.

After resting for a few days, I visited Berlin, Hamburg and Malmö in mid-April. Not only did I enjoyed some German cuisine, but I also visited various art and history museum during my time in Germany. You will love this place if you are history enthusiast with all the museums and sites about WWII. Malmö is only a 30-min train ride away from Copenhagen, so don't

miss it, and you will not regret spending a day there. I also visited the renowned Tivoli Garden in Copenhagen after it reopened in April.



With one Danish oral exam in late April, I went back to study mode after those trips and focused on my exam preparation again.

May and June

Despite that the semester ends in June, I decided to return to Hong Kong by early May due to the quarantine requirements in Hong Kong. I did not go around much in May, and spent most of my time preparing for my departure, as there are quite some procedures to go through before leaving Denmark. I also tried some more different cuisines in Copenhagen including Japanese and Chinese food in the last weeks.

After having my flight changed and cancelled for multiple times, I finally returned to Hong Kong in early May and had a 7-day quarantine at quarantine hotel. During those 7 days, I studied for a bit as my semester had not ended yet. I can only read lecture notes by myself since zoom recordings are no longer available for CBS course since February. I had the remaining 2 exams in June, which are both take-home essays.

Part 2 – General Exchange Information

Visa/Residence Permit Procedures

Usually exchange students to Denmark (HK permanent resident) will have to go Shenzhen to complete the visa application process. However, due to the COVID situation, the application process has become easier and there is no need to go to Shenzhen under this circumstance. If your citizenship allows you to travel to Denmark without a visa, you can choose to complete the application after arrival. I applied for the residence permit after arriving Denmark, and this is how the process usually goes.

1. You will receive the ST1 form from CBS. Fill that in and prepare all required documents before departure. To play safe, I would suggest having them in hard copies as well.
2. Pay the processing fee online and keep the documentation of payment.

3. After arrival, make a reservation and go to a Citizen Service Centre (Borgerservice) to complete the application and submit all documents. You will also record your biometrics there.
4. In around 2-3 months, you will get your residence permit, which includes things like CPR number, resident card and yellow card (healthcare card) that you will find helpful in Denmark.
5. After that, you may apply for NemID that gives you access to more citizen services.

The application may be different again in post-COVID period, so it is recommended to check with CBS for the most accurate and updated information.

Orientation Activities

There are a wide range of orientation activities offered by CBS, including the Danish Crash Course, Introductory Week and the Buddy Program. All of the activities are optional.

Danish Crash Course (before semester starts): It is an intensive beginner's language course that helps you to pick up the basics of Danish in a week. It is facilitated by an external language school and is NOT free. If you don't want to pay for a Danish course, you can choose to enroll in the credit-bearing Danish course at CBS.

Introductory Week (before semester starts): Organised by CBS, it offers you the opportunity to meet different CBS students and exchange students through a variety of activities. However, due to COVID, most of the activities were moved to online including the Quiz activities, while the campus tour was still held offline.

Buddy Program: You will be assigned a buddy from CBS, who will be a great help to find your residence on your arrival and get settled in Copenhagen.

Accommodations

There are a number of accommodations offered by CBS for you to choose from. You will receive email from CBS before your departure about the housing application details. If you would like to share a room with a specific person, you will have to email CBS in advance so they can help allocate a 2-person room for you and your friend.

I stayed at Kathrine Kollegiet which is also my first choice for housing. It is pretty close to campus (15-20 min walking or 5-10 min biking distance to campus) and metro station (5 min walk). There are also supermarkets, restaurants, gyms and basketball court nearby. Prices for different types of rooms and accommodations are available on the CBS website.

Courses Registration

At CBS, exchange students can only take up to 4 courses unless you have approval from both HKUST and CBS. For registration, you need to apply for 4 primary course choices as well as 4 alternatives, therefore it is better for you to have at least 8 courses in mind that are qualified for credit transfer before registration. Course list will be available way before

semester starts. I would suggest you do research ASAP and check the HKUST database so that you can transfer as many credits as possible.

Some courses at CBS are only half-semester long (Q3 or Q4 courses for Spring), so do take note of that when you plan your courses especially if you want to study less and travel around in specific times.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

Same as HKUST, most of the course material will be posted on canvas. On the other hand, courses at CBS are more interactive despite that they usually do not count participation (at least that was the case for my courses). Assignments are also usually not compulsory, meaning that most of the time your grade only depends on the finals.

There are 3 main exam formats at CBS – sit-in written exams, oral exams and take-home essays/reports. Make sure to check the exam dates early as they are usually released in the first few weeks of the semester, as well as to check the guidelines and rules for different exam formats as they can be quite different to those at HKUST.

One interesting point about their exam system is that you are allowed up to 3 attempts for each exam, meaning that you can fail the exam for maximum 2 times. However, I definitely do not recommend doing retakes as it can take place after you have left Copenhagen.

Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)

Almost everywhere in Copenhagen accept electronic payment (in DKK), so 2-3 credit/debit cards will be enough, but I will still suggest you to bring some cash just in case. If you are planning to travel around in Europe, make sure your cards can pay in different currencies. Bank account is not necessary and not suggested as it may take a long time to get one.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

I did not join any clubs at CBS but you will receive emails from CBS occasionally about different activities, so do check them out if you want to join any of them.

Health & Safety

As mentioned in the visa part, you will have a yellow card that gives you access to free medical service in Denmark. Clinics are also very accessible.

Food

Food in Copenhagen is pretty expensive especially when you eat out. Therefore, I usually cook my own meals or eat at CBS's canteens (only open for lunch). You don't necessarily have to bring rice cookers and instant noodles from Hong Kong, as you can always buy them there (just a bit more expensive).

Transportation

Known as the best bike city, the best way to go around Copenhagen is biking as Copenhagen is very biking-friendly. You can rent a bike at Swapfiets for less than 200hkd per month that helps you to travel between your dorm and campus at a much lower cost.

You can also take the metro or bus around the city. You will need a Rejsekort (similar as octopus card in Hong Kong) so that you enjoy a cheaper fare on these public transports. However, the public transport in Copenhagen is quite expensive. One ride costs you at least 15-20DKK even you are just taking one stop (which is the distance from my dorm to campus)

Climate

Winter in Copenhagen can get quite cold, with an average temperature of 0-3 degree Celsius in January and February. It starts to get warmer in around March, and in April temperature can go back up to around 10-15 degree Celsius. It often rains in Copenhagen especially in winter, but people do not really use umbrella there, so a waterproof winter coat will be helpful.

Communication

You will be given a SIM card by CBS in the first week, so you will have a Danish phone number with that. You can top up your SIM card and subscribe to data plans online.

Part 3 – Items to Bring

Checklist before leaving

- Clothing
 - Light clothings
 - Warm clothings (Down jacket/coats, scarf, gloves etc)
 - Clothes for even colder places if you plan to Iceland/other Nordic countries (heattech, hand warmer, winter boots etc)
 - Pajamas
 - Shoes and slippers
 - Formal wear (for welcome night and in case you need online interviews)
- Hygiene products
 - Toothbrush
 - Shaver
 - Hair gel/spray
 - Hair dryer
 - Alcohol wipes/sprays
- Medicine and healthcare
 - Personal medicines (since you may not be able to buy the same in Copenhagen)

- Vitamin
 - Skincare
- Electronics
 - Computer (you will still need it as most learning resources are online in CBS)
 - Adapters
 - Earphones
 - Chargers and charging cables
 - Calculator
 - Entertainment
- Travelling
 - Credit card/Debit card (at least 2 and make sure they can work outside of Hong Kong)
 - Some cash (despite most shops in Denmark accept electronic payments, there are still places (eg. the hair salon that I went to) that only accept cash)
 - SIM card (and iPhone SIM card slot pin if you are iPhone user)
 - Umbrella
 - Backpack (A big one would be helpful if you are planning to go on short trips in Europe)
- Documents
 - Passport and HKID
 - Exchange Letter
 - ST1
 - Copy of your passport (just in case you lose your passport)
 - HKUST student ID card (to prove student identity before you get your CBS student card)
 - Corona Passport (if applicable)

You can actually buy most of them in Copenhagen, but the prices can differ by a lot. Do some research if you plan to buy them there.

Part 4 – Useful Links and Contacts

- Accommodation offered by CBS
<https://www.cbs.dk/en/international-opportunities/international-students/guestexchange-student/accommodation>
- Bicycle – Swapfiets
<https://swapfiets.dk/en-DK>
- Lebara
<https://mobile.lebara.com/dk/en>