

Exchange Report – Fall 2022

Nicholas Bryan Russell Hendris
Copenhagen Business School

Part I – Monthly Activity Log

Start of Exchange – August & September

Since the start of the program, I felt that my exchange university, Copenhagen Business School, has a very good committee dedicated to making exchange students feel at home. Before I have even arrived, I was assigned to a buddy who helped me settle in. He picked me up in the airport, and also gave me recommendations on certain places, restaurants, and stores that he thought was worth visiting. The dedicated exchange organization also planned events where students can socialize, mingle, and explore the university and city.

The time I arrived in Copenhagen was at the end of August, and just by being in the city, I already have a very good first impression. The airport is very nice, the streets are very clean, and they have an extremely good public system. I felt that the Danish are quite advanced, with so much public facilities available. I did not see any signs of glaring issues such as homelessness or poverty. Although living costs are relatively more expensive compared to Hong Kong, I felt that I will have a good living standard going forward.

Because of the abundance of events that Copenhagen Business School, I quickly met a group of friends who are also doing exchange. One great thing about this exchange program is the opportunity to meet people who come from different universities from all around the world. It is interesting to learn from people with various cultural backgrounds, and although all of us are very different people, we got along very well.

October & November

School life in Copenhagen is very different compared to Hong Kong. Lectures are taught with a different style, and the classrooms are generally smaller. There is a much larger emphasis on take-home assessments in the form of essays or presentations, as compared to paper-and-pen quizzes. As someone who is much more used to the latter, it took me some time to adjust to this change in learning style.

Thankfully, Denmark has a lot of public spaces that are beautifully maintained, one of them being the library. More specifically, I frequented the Black Diamond library, which is located in the heart of Copenhagen. Like many buildings in the city, the library has beautiful architectural design and many open, comfortable spaces for people from all walks of life to study, read, and relax. Besides the library, there are many public spaces that are worth the visit, including, parks, museums, and famous landmarks scattered across the Scandinavian city.

Speaking of museums, Europe in general has a clear focus on maintaining their cultural heritage, and when travelling within the continent, I can see the cultural distinction of each place I visit through the museums. Of course, there are all kinds of places worth visiting, but one cannot miss the vast quantities of well-maintained, high-quality museums. During the weekends, I would visit many of these museums to learn more about the history, heritage, and arts that Denmark and Europe has to offer. It is also an added bonus that these museums look absolutely gorgeous from the outside. I thoroughly enjoyed my time both relaxing and learning about different facets of European culture from these visits.

December – End of Exchange

As the months pass in Copenhagen, the weather became colder, and the intensity of classes picked up. With the final examination period looming in the distance, I had to spend more time focusing on my studies. However, I enjoyed it thoroughly since I am fond of the classes I am taking in Copenhagen Business School. One aspect worth mentioning is the take home essay-style exams that are prevalent in the university, especially in contrast to Hong Kong, where most exams are pen-and-paper exams with limited time. I think this essay-style exam lets students expand more on the lessons that they have learned in class, which is always a good thing.

After the examination period is over, it was time to say my goodbyes to the city, and the friends I have made during the past months. I did that through a Christmas celebration with my group of friends. In Denmark, Christmas is treated as a much more important occasion, with most stores and public spaces closing up during the 3-day holiday. While the Danish people celebrated Christmas with their families, we decided to have our own in our dormitories.

Part II – General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

Copenhagen Business School provides necessary support to apply for a student Visa. For most Hong Kong passport holders, this can be done once they have arrived in Denmark. However, as an Indonesian, I had to obtain my Visa beforehand, and since there is no Danish Consulate in Hong Kong, I had to fly back to Jakarta to get it sorted out.

Orientation Activities

Copenhagen Business School provides orientation activities specifically for exchange students in the first week. Be sure to check communications sent through email for this.

International Activities

Throughout the semester, the university hosts several events and gatherings catered towards exchange students, providing a way to socialize and meet others.

Accommodation

Some exchange students were provided with university accommodation scattered all throughout Copenhagen. However, there are many cases where the university could not provide this. In this case, I would recommend finding external accommodation catered for students, and the university can help students to find these types of accommodation.

Course Registration

Copenhagen Business School enrolls students into the course registration system a couple of months before school starts. They also have a database for exchange-viable courses where HKUST students can reference for credit transfer validation.

Teaching and Assessment Methods

The largest difference compared to HKUST is definitely the assessment method. There is usually only 1-2 examinations for the semester (midterm and finals). Many of these assessments are in the form of take-home exams, either a project or an essay.

Finance and Banking

It is possible to open a Danish bank account, but many students find it easier to use online-only banks such as Revolut, where currencies can be easily converted. This is especially useful when travelling outside of Denmark, since the country does not use the Euro (the local currency is Danish Kroner). Also, credit / debit cards are the main forms of transaction there.

Health and Safety

As an exchange student, we can apply for a Danish ID and CPR number. Having these IDs would make us eligible for medical insurance provided by the Danish government. Besides that, Denmark has high standards for cleanliness and health.

Part III – What to Bring

Since the Danish climate is cold, I would advise packing thicker coats and inner thermal layers, but all of these items can be bought in the city. Another one to note might be charging port converters, since the EU uses a different charging plug.

Part IV – Exchange Photos



Photo 1: Exploring the streets of Denmark



Photo 2: Friends in exchange



Photo 3: studying in the Black Diamond Library, a popular Copenhagen destination



Photo 4: A view from the ARoS Art Museum, Aarhus, Denmark



Photo 5: Christmas Celebration