

COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL, DENMARK

Exchange Report, Fall 2022

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Monthly Activity Log

August and September

I arrived in Copenhagen on August 28th after a 16-hour flight. Since I couldn't secure a hall place from CBS, I stayed in a private housing that was referred to me by CBS. It was a studio located in Amager, which was not too far from the CBS campus. During the first few days, I was busy settling into my new accommodation.

Early September was the introductory week, which I participated in the compulsory orientation organized by CBS. I also enrolled in the orientation package, which required an additional fee. However, it was worth it because I got to attend several events and make many new friends. These events included a canal tour, a buddy dinner, and a ball dinner. Additionally, CBS arranged a few events throughout the semester with limited capacity. For example, I went on the Tour of Denmark, a three-day trip organized in mid-September. I highly recommend this tour as it takes you to several major cities in Denmark and popular attractions such as Legoland and Grenen.



October

Since I did not have many classes in October, I did a lot of travelling in October. In early October, I visited Munich for one of the most famous festivals there, Oktoberfest. It was a fascinating experience where we got to immerse ourselves in Germany's local culture and

try out their beer. During the mid-term break in mid-Oct, I also travelled to Switzerland and the UK with my friends. It was an eye-opening experience, especially since it was my first time watching a football game and visiting the Harry Potter Studio Tour. In late October, I had my first solo trip to Hamburg, Germany. Germany was a safe country so I didn't to worry about my own safety. My trip was enjoyable, and I got to experience the freedom and flexibility of travelling alone.



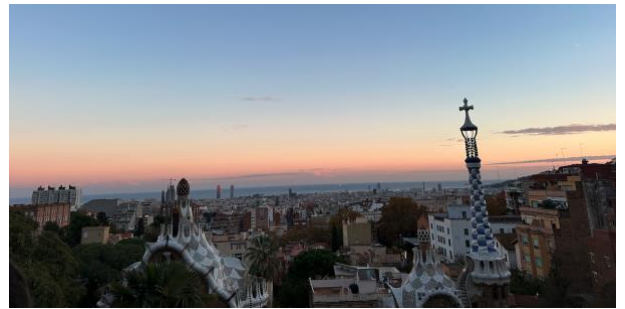
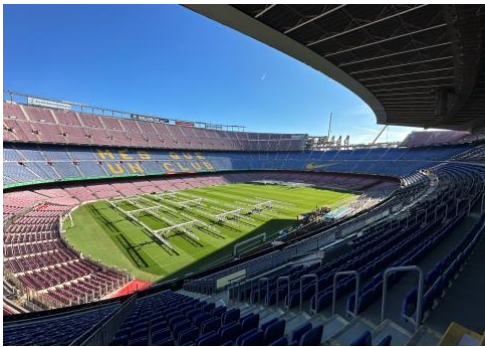
November

In November, I had a few exams and presentations, so I spent most of my time studying at home or with my friends. One of the toughest challenges for me was the Danish language exam, where I had to speak to the examiner in Danish for around 15 minutes. It was a unique experience for me to learn a foreign language in a foreign country, but thanks to the course, I can now speak basic Danish to introduce myself, my hobbies, and my family! I also spent more time to explore the city of Copenhagen. For example, I visited the Copenhagen Zoo and townhall with my friend.

December

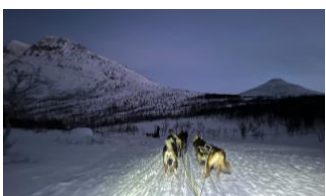
In December, I also had a few exams, but I spent half of my time travelling since they were only writing exams that allowed me a few days to complete the essay. In early December, I went to the Netherlands and Belgium with one of my friends. I had a tight schedule, so I immediately departed for Barcelona after returning from Belgium. Barcelona is a beautiful city with fantastic weather! I also visited Camp Nou, the home stadium of one of the world's largest football clubs, FC Barcelona. However, since I visited the stadium during the World

Cup period, I couldn't see any of their games. In late December, my friends and I travelled to Italy for nine days, where we visited Rome, Florence, Venice, and Milan. Italy was a really interesting country with a lot of attraction points and nice food!



January

As my exchange program was coming to an end, I began packing my stuff and preparing to leave the place I had been staying for the past four months. My girlfriends visited me, and we travelled together for three weeks. First, we visited Central Europe, including Hungary, Austria, and the Czech Republic. The city view and people in Central Europe were quite different from what I had observed in Northern Europe. After that, I travelled to Tromso and saw the Northern Lights for the first time in my life! We also went on a Husky ride where Huskies took us for a ride on a sled. Finally, I returned to Denmark and prepared for my flight back to Asia.



Items to Bring and Useful Links & Contacts:

- **Visa Procedures**

As a Malaysian, I can enter Denmark without a visa for three months, therefore the entire process for me was quite easy and simple. If you hold a passport that allows you to enter without a visa, you just have to apply for a residence permit, which you can do either before you depart for Denmark or after you have arrived. However, I chose to apply for my residence permit only after I had arrived in Denmark, as I thought it would be easier. Overall, the application was pretty simple, and CBS provided me with all the necessary documents.

- **Orientation Activities**

CBS will arrange some orientation activities where they will provide you with basic information about your exchange study in Denmark, such as housing rules and course selection. However, I arrived in Denmark quite late due to my internship. I think it's fine if you have to skip some of the orientation activities and you can still catch up with your friends later.

In addition, there is also an optional orientation program where have to pay to join. However, you got to join a few events where you can meet other exchange students. For example, there was a folk dancing night, an opening dinner, and a sports day. It was quite fun and a good way to make new friends too. They may occasionally announce new events with limited seats, i.e. the Tour of Denmark, so make sure you enroll quickly when they announce one.

- **International Services & Activities**

There is no pick-up service provided by CBS, but your exchange buddy is responsible for picking you up from the airport and handing over the dorm key. It's important to contact your exchange buddy to arrange this if they didn't contact you.

- **Accommodations**

Before you arrive in Denmark, you will receive an email from CBS asking you to prepare for your hall application. You can find more information about each of the halls online (<https://www.cbs.dk/en/study/internationals/exchange-students/housing>). Make sure you mark down the date for hall enrollment and apply for it once you receive the enrollment email from CBS, as it's based on a first-come, first-served basis and many exchange students, including me, didn't get a hall place.

However, CBS will still assist you in looking for private housing if necessary. I was staying in a studio-style housing by myself, and it only took me 15-20 minutes to reach CBS. When you are looking for private housing, you can always tell CBS your preferences (i.e. single or shared room, budget) and they will try to match you with the landlord.

- **Courses Registration**

CBS announces their available courses for the upcoming semester early, so you should have enough time to prepare for the courses you plan to take. Make sure to

match the courses you want to take with the HKUST credit transfer system to ensure that you can transfer the credit. There were quite a lot of HKUST students who exchanged at CBS and did course mapping application, so it was quite easy for me to find some courses to map with.

Please be reminded that courses at CBS will have different timeframes. For example, some courses will start in September (for the winter semester) and end around mid-October. So you get to have more flexibility with your schedule.

- **Teaching & Assessment Methods**

Teaching at CBS could be quite different from your experience in Hong Kong as it is more interactive. Students are always invited to participate in class by sharing their opinions. For example, in my Danish classes, we had a lot of speaking exercises where we were required to talk to our partners in Danish.

In terms of assessment methods, CBS tends to give students more flexibility. For example, most of the grading methods of a course are quite simple, such as a final exam or final paper, which would directly decide your grade. However, it might be riskier as your grade depends on one final exam. Therefore, CBS provides students with two retake chances, even for exchange students.

- **Sports & Recreation Facilities**

There are no gym rooms or sports facilities at CBS. However, you can find some gym rooms near CBS.

- **Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)**

The main currency in Denmark is DKK (Danish Krone), and you can use debit/credit cards almost everywhere. Please note that the EURO is not widely used in Denmark, so it might not be the best option for you.

During my exchange, I used an HSBC debit card as it charged lower transaction fees and offered a better exchange rate.

- **Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities**

There are many clubs available at CBS, and it's easy to find something that interests you. You can find the list of social clubs at CBS here (link: <https://www.cbsstudents.dk/student-organizations>). However, I didn't join one during my time at CBS.

- **Health & Safety**

Denmark is a very safe country, and I didn't have to worry about my safety during my time there. When you successfully register your CPR number, you will also receive a yellow medical card that you can use to visit clinics for free if necessary. I was lucky that I didn't get sick during my time at CBS, so I didn't need to use the card.

- **Food**

The food in Denmark is quite different from the cuisine we are familiar with in Asia. I would recommend bringing some Asian packaged food with you so you can still have the food you are familiar with. However, you can also find some Asian markets in Denmark, but the prices are definitely higher.

Eating out in Denmark is quite expensive, so I mostly cooked for myself when I was there. You can also choose to eat at the CBS canteen, which offers more affordable food, but it only serves food during lunch hours.

- **Transportation**

Transportation in Copenhagen is very convenient, and you can reach most places with the metro and bus. Many people also ride bikes in Copenhagen because it's cheaper and more flexible if you're riding it daily. I rented a bike with Swapfiets (link: <https://swapfiets.nl/en>), where you can subscribe to a plan to rent a bike for a few months.

- **Climate**

Denmark can get really cold during the winter (around 0 degrees), so make sure you prepare enough warm clothes. However, it doesn't snow a lot in Denmark compared to other northern European countries.

- **Communication**

Almost everyone in Denmark can speak good English, so it was quite easy for me to communicate with people there. For communication apps, they might prefer Messenger or WhatsApp.

I bought a Lyca SIM card at 7-Eleven on my first day arriving in Denmark. There are different plans available for you to subscribe to. Please check if it covers free data in other European regions, as there is usually a certain limit for your data usage in other countries (for example, if you subscribed to a 30GB data plan, you might only be allowed to use 5GB of your data in other countries).

Things to bring

Clothing

- Warm clothes (e.g. heattech, hat etc.) - it can get really cold in Denmark during winter
- Formal wear and shoes - for formal dinner
- Sneakers/ boots - easier to walk in snow and keep you warm
- Pajamas

Hygiene products

- Shampoo and bath soap
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Lotion/ lip balm – it gets really dry during winter
- Alcohol and wet wipes
- Surgical masks

Electronics

- Computer and charger
- Mobile phone and charger
- Adaptors - you can buy one European adapter as most European country use the same kind of plug
- Headphones/earphones

Healthcare

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

Travelling & Money

- Passport and other official documents (i.e. residence permit)
- Debit/ Credit cards
- Cash - optional, Northern Europe countries are quite cashless
- SIM card - you can either bring an international SIM card or only buy one when you arrive in Denmark, we usually use Lyca or Lebera
- Umbrella
- Backpack/small suitcases for carry-on luggage on flight
- Neck pillows
- Eye mask
- earplugs