

Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

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BBA in Global Business
and Information Systems

Exchange Report

Fall, 2022



Part 1 Monthly Activity Log

I arrived in Copenhagen on **August** 27th, which was already after the start of orientation due to my work and flight issues. My buddy picked me up at the airport and brought me to my hall room. I was lucky enough to live on campus in Porcelænsøen where all the residence were exchange students. I made some of my best friends there. CBS had an orientation package that I strongly advice taking as it would help you familiarize yourself with the city, school, and your fellow exchange students. The orientation events took up most of my time in the day and I gradually settled in. The school organized city tours, Danish folk dancing sessions, social dinners, parties, and many other events for us. I learned which supermarkets were cheaper and closer and was still full of excitement from meeting new people. During the weekend, we would explore the city on our own, enjoying the last of summer like tourists.



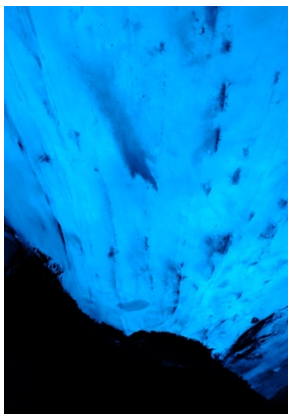
I was more used to my new life in **September** and started planning trips. Our first trip was a Danish tour organized by the school for exchange students. We piled into a bus and went to all the major cities in Denmark as well as Legoland over 3 days. As the semester had just started, CBS had organized lots of parties and events. There was a semester kickoff party where we spent an entire afternoon mingling, listening to stand-up comedy, playing music bingo etc. At night there was a big outdoor music performance that was really fun. I also got to talk to different clubs and learn about what they do on student society day. I decided to join some of their events in the future and it led to me meeting some great friends. The range of focuses of these clubs there really made me realize there are so much in life and so much

you could do in your spare time as a university student. End of September was our trip to Munich for Oktoberfest. We took a 17hr Flixbus and met up with other HKUST students and made friends with complete strangers over beer. Many other things happened that trip and it was a story of a lifetime. We spontaneously decided to go to Oslo, Norway the following week during Oktoberfest and as someone who would always plan thoroughly before doing anything, enjoyed the thrill of spontaneous decisions for the first time.



The start of **October** was our Oslo trip that was super enjoyable, and I had gotten the hang of planning weekend trips and going to new places. I admired Edvard Munch's original painting *The Scream* and the breathtaking Nordic scenery. I went to Stockholm, Sweden the following weekend with a new friend I made, and we experienced a different Nordic city. October was full of interviews and going to classes as midterms were coming up. There was a day that was culture night in Copenhagen and all the museums were free and had special events. I was able to experience more of the city and the unique Danish culture from art, dance, song and even

candy making. I had more time being alone in my room and I started cooking every day at least once. I picked up biking everywhere again as it was a significant part of Danish culture. During the study break at mid-October, I went to Iceland with other Chinese students and saw the most breathtaking views. We hiked glaciers, went into ice caves, saw whales, ice cube on beaches and enjoyed hot spring at blue lagoon. I then finished off the month with a short trip to Switzerland where I met up with a friend on exchange there. It was a month full of the best scenery Europe had to offer.



November was the last month of class, and the weather was getting very cold in Copenhagen. I biked much less since there was always rain. I stayed in Copenhagen more with my new exchange friends and we went freestyle skiing watching, ice skating outdoors, eating at local markets etc. I was also invited to birthday parties and nights out of the local students there. I also participated in dance classes organized by CBS Dance society which was a good way of exercise and socializing. The queen of Denmark had her 50-year reign celebration and we managed to see her in person at the townhall plaza. Christmas markets started showing up and the festiveness was there throughout the month. I went to Berlin for a weekend via a 10-hour night train. I experienced my first snow of the 2022 winter there. The history and art were what I went for, but the Christmas markets were also a highlight. At the end of the month, I went for a long trip where we went to Budapest, Hungary; Vienna, Austria; Bratislava, Slovakia; Prague, Czech Republic in 8 days. This region of Europe was quite different from all the other countries I've seen, and it was fascinating. They all had amazing Christmas markets and we were very glad we could enjoy the festivities in different countries. We were even lucky enough to get snow and saw the beautiful city of Prague under a white blanket of snow.



December was full of finals and saying goodbye to my fellow exchange friends and Copenhagen. It was very sad to hear people talk about their plans for leaving but it really meant we had a good time. We had a lot of final dinners/night outs for our different friends and just wanted to enjoy Copenhagen more. Some friends came to visit, and I was a very capable tour guide for the city and that made me very proud. Right before Christmas, we went on a trip to south of France to escape from the cold and rain of Denmark and had a very nice vacation. We came back to spend Christmas and New Year's Eve in Copenhagen and made memories I will treasure forever. There were a lot of fireworks everywhere around New Year's Eve which apparently was part of Danish traditions. I went on one last trip to Milan then finished off my final essay and left Copenhagen after the best 4 months of my university life.



Part 2 General Study Abroad Information

Visa Procedures

I hold a PRC passport and have had to go back to Beijing to apply for the residence permit as I could not do it in Hong Kong, and I could not enter EU without a visa. If your passport allows you to enter EU visa free, you can apply for residence permit when you are in Denmark. CBS processes everything relatively fast but the office and the Danish immigration take long to reply to emails, calling would be more efficient but it is still very hard to get to them.

Orientation Activities

As mentioned, CBS has orientation for exchange students. It lasts for a week, and you would have to pay for it, but I would say it's quite worth it. The activities include culture events and practical information sessions. There is also the Danish tour and other small events after school starts.

International Services & Activities

There is no pick-up service, but your buddy is obligated to pick you up and hand you the key to your room. The activities are mostly in the orientation package, and they also inform you of any parties in the WhatsApp group for exchange students.

Accommodations

You will have to choose your preference of hall based on the information on the website. You will also need to choose between 3 room types: small, medium, large. The office will send an email when it is hall application time and it's based on first come first serve. Make sure to apply as soon as possible as many exchange students do not have hall in the end. If that happens, you can either look for housing by yourself or ask CBS for help. My hall in Porcelænsøen was very nice and as the only hall on campus, I had access to the canteen downstairs that only serves lunch.

Courses Registration

You can choose courses based on the information on the website. Try to apply for course mapping as soon as possible. You are only allowed 4 courses unless special situations. Exchange students apply for courses by writing an email to the office. There are also several add-drop periods where you can change your course choices by writing email again.

Teaching & Assessment Methods

All teaching was face to face, but no attendance is required. All grades are 100% based on the final.

Finance & Banking

Denmark uses credit card for everything, and cash is very unnecessary. But euro cash would be useful if you plan to travel around. Virtual banks like Revolut and Wise are used as well.

Climate

During Fall, Copenhagen has a very short summer and gets cold and rainy very soon. Remember to bring thick jackets and gloves.

Health & Safety

Copenhagen is very safe, and you can always find medicine, but they are not cheap. CBS does not have a clinic, but you will have a designated doctor once you have your CPR registration.

Food

CBS canteens are cheap and good, but they don't provide dinner. Eating outside is very expensive. There are some decent Asian restaurants in the city. You can buy Asian ingredients in Asian supermarkets.

Transportation

The metro is very convenient within the city and the train takes you to further places. You will need a transportation card like Octopus or have a subscription for a certain period on the app. Biking is the most common way of transportation. You can subscribe to a bike with Swapfiets.

Communication

Everyone speaks English and uses WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram. You can buy a local SIM card in 7/11.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

There are no gyms or facilities on campus. You can join clubs to play sports or join gyms, but none are free and require additional registration.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

There are many clubs, and anyone can join their events, not just club members. Make sure to talk to them and know more about them on society day. Many events are notified in CBS student app, anyone can join and network.

Cautionary measures

The tap water has a lot of limescale. Clean your kettle with vinegar periodically.

Part 3 Items to Bring

- Thick jacket
- Gloves, scarf, boots
- Raincoat
- Personal medicine
- More clothes for winter than summer
- Hair dryer
- Blankets/pillow sheets if not provided
- chopsticks
- cooking tools if needed

Part 4 Useful links

- Courses: <https://www.cbs.dk/en/international-opportunities/international-students/guestexchange-student/undergraduate-courses>
- General guide: <https://www.cbs.dk/en/international-opportunities/international-students/guestexchange-student>
- Housing: <https://www.cbs.dk/en/study/internationals/exchange-students/housing>