

EXCHANGE REPORT

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Copenhagen Business School

Denmark



Source: ctrip.com

Overall Experience

As a student from Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, I had the incredible opportunity to participate in a one-semester exchange program at Copenhagen Business School in Denmark. During my time abroad, I studied mostly finance and had the chance to travel to quite a number of countries, including Iceland, Hungary and Sweden.

One of the most positive aspects of my exchange experience was the opportunity to immerse myself in a completely different culture. Denmark has a very unique way of life that is vastly different from Hong Kong, and it was a fantastic experience to witness and be a part of. I loved exploring Copenhagen and trying local cuisine, which was delicious and a highlight of my experience. The city also had a great public transportation system, which made getting around quite easy.

However, there were also some challenges that I faced during my time abroad. One of the biggest challenges was the language barrier, as not everyone spoke English. I had to use body languages to communicate with the locals and get around the city, but it was still difficult at times. This was particularly difficult when it came to reading official documents or navigating public transportation, where signs and announcements were often in Danish only. As a result, I had to learn some Danish to get by, which was a challenging but rewarding experience. Although I did not enroll in language courses at CBS, I learnt a bit of Danish from my friends and other exchange students studying Danish. This helped me to feel more confident when interacting with locals and improved my overall experience. Additionally, the language barrier also made it challenging to socialize with locals outside of university events, as it was difficult to find common ground due to the language differences. However, I was still able to make friends with international students and locals who spoke English, which helped me to broaden my perspectives and make new connections. Practicing body language also improved my confidence and allowed me to express myself more comfortably. Overall, while the language barrier was a significant challenge, it also taught me the value of perseverance and the importance of being open-minded to new experiences.

One of the most memorable experiences of my exchange was the chance to travel to Iceland. The natural beauty of the country was breathtaking, and I was able to see stunning landscapes, such as the Northern Lights, that I had only seen in pictures. The culture and traditions of Iceland were also fascinating to learn about, and I enjoyed trying traditional Icelandic foods such as fermented shark. I also had the chance to join the glacier tour where I literally walked on glacier and drank the glacier water. During the tour, the tour guide told us that the glacier has gone backwards 50 meter in the past 5 years. I was shocked and heart-broken to see how much damage us has done to our planet. Another memorable experience was traveling to Hungary. Budapest was a beautiful city, and I was able to visit historical landmarks such as the Buda Castle and the Fisherman's Bastion. I also enjoyed exploring the local markets and trying traditional Hungarian foods like chimney cakes.

Aside from my travel experiences, I was also able to meet many people from all over the world during my exchange. The student community at Copenhagen Business School was diverse and

welcoming, which made it easy to make friends. I also had the opportunity to participate in various cultural activities and events, which helped me better understand and appreciate different cultures.

One of the biggest takeaways from my exchange experience was the development of my independence and resilience. Being away from home for an extended period was challenging, but it also taught me how to be self-sufficient and how to adapt to new environments. I also learned how to be more open-minded and flexible, as I was constantly exposed to different perspectives and ways of thinking.

In conclusion, my exchange experience at Copenhagen Business School was truly transformative. It provided me with the opportunity to learn about a different culture, enhance my academic knowledge, and gain new life experiences. While there were challenges along the way, the positives far outweighed the negatives. I would highly recommend this exchange program to any student looking to broaden their horizons and challenge themselves in a new environment.

Monthly Activity Log

August

- The highlight of August was the Welcome Events organized by the exchange office. The most interesting event was the Danish Sports Day. I formed team with students from other schools and tried out different kinds of games. It was a nice chance meeting new friend.

September

- The highlight of September was the Danish Tour organized by the exchange office. We went to different Danish cities. We visited Legoland and Aarhus Art Museum. The art creations there were very inspiring.

October

- The highlight of October was the trip to Iceland. I went to Iceland with other exchange students. I enjoyed the natural beauty of Iceland. We saw whales and joined the glacier tour. It was shocked to see the impact of global warming in Iceland.

November

- The highlight of November was the long trip to Central Europe. I went to Hungary, Austria, Slovakia, and Czech Republic with several friends from UST. The culture and view in Central Europe are very different from the Nordic. It was amazing learning more about different parts of the world.

December

- The highlight of December was the trip to Spain and Italy with my family. After the final exam, I went to a short trip with my family. The historical sites in Spain and Italy were eye-opening. My favorite site was Sagrada Familia.

General Study Abroad Information

1. Visa Procedures

Being a Hong Kong passport holder, I was allowed to stay in Denmark (Schengen Area) for 90 days for travel purpose, meaning that I do not need a Visa to enter Denmark/most countries in Europe. However, for exchange students, we have to apply for residence permit which gives you the right to stay for more than 90 days and study or even work in Denmark.

There are two ways to apply for the residence permit. First, visit the International House at Copenhagen after arriving at Denmark and apply for it right away. Second, you can apply for it before departure. The closet Visa center should be in Guangzhou, China. This would be more complicated and troublesome. But make sure you have done research before leaving since residence permit policy may change in the future.

2. Orientation Activities

CBS holds all kinds of orientation. There were two welcome packages offered at the start of the semester. Both of them started in late-August. One package offers a lot of social activities where you can meet up new friends. This package is relatively less costly, but I did not join it due to time clashes. The other package contains a lot of special activities like canal tour, Danish traditional sports, and welcome party. I strongly recommend joining this one as the school would bring you around the city so you can learn more about Copenhagen while meeting other exchange students. This package costs around 1200HKD. Most of the school-held activities at CBS are a bit pricy. So, make sure you put that into account before applying for CBS.

3. International Services & Activities

The activities mentioned above were all held by the exchange office. Besides that, the office also provided events like Bar Night where students can enter famous bars/clubs for free. We were also taken to a Danish tour where we visited other cities in Denmark and the Legoland. The Danish Tour was a bit pricy and not so well-planned. I suggest travelling to other Danish cities by yourself instead of joining the school's one. Besides that, other activities like Danish Folk Dance, Danish Sports Day were all very enjoyable.

The school does not provide pick-up service and some of the exchange buddies refused to pick us up. So, be prepared and plan ahead before flying to Denmark.

4. Accommodations

Schools in Denmark are not allowed to own properties. As a result, CBS does not have on-campus dormitories like UST. However, the school provides 'dorm-like' buildings which are leased to students as dormitories. Most of the exchange students were able to be located in one of the apartments. For students who could not get a place, the school helped them with renting private apartments. A thing to be noticed is that when living in 'dorms, students were renting the place owned by the property owners. So, we had to sign contracts and pay deposits.

The application procedure was pretty simple, we logged to the website provided and choose the apartments we wanted. The application was on first-come-first-serve basis and normally there is

no waiting list. So, make sure you have good internet connection. In general, all apartments have similar facilities and prices. I suggest choosing your favorite neighborhood when applying for accommodations. There is no meal plan provided by CBS. But most of the apartments/housings are equipped with kitchen. It is very convenient to cook.

5. Courses Registration

The course registration process was a bit complicated. Before the start of semester and the release of course timetable, exchange students could apply for 4 courses. However, after the release of the timetable, some courses may overlap. In this case, students must switch to another course since most of the courses do not provide recordings. Basically, we had to apply for the courses all over again to ensure no time crash. I suggest using the first application as a chance to apply for credit exchange. During the application, we could see details of the course like content and workload. We can compare the courses provided with UST database and apply mappings for the courses not included in the database. Applying for as many course as possible since it can be very messy when you need to switch courses without applying for credit transfer in advance. After doing so, you would have more time to arrange your courses after the release of timetable.

6. Teaching & Assessment Methods

The workload at CBS is relatively less heavy compared to UST. For the courses that I have enrolled to, there were few required assignments. They were graded either by final exam or essay. However, there were a lot of assigned readings or pre-lecture materials that we needed to study by ourselves. Even though they are not graded, they were very important. They really facilitated my learning progress and helped me keep up with the classes.

7. Finance & Banking

The currency used in Denmark is Danish krone. The exchange rate with HKD is almost 1:1 so it is very easy to calculate prices in Denmark. Credit card can be conveniently used in Denmark. Since exchange students will only stay in Denmark for one semester, I do not recommend applying for a local bank account. If you are worried about the commission fee charged by credit card companies, you can Revolut which allows you to pay in Danish Krone without paying commission fee.

8. Climate

Despite being in the Nordic, Denmark is not very cold. If you are staying in Copenhagen, the temperature in winter is slightly below 0 degree Celsius. Since it is neither humid nor dry in Denmark, the climax is very cozy, even in the cold days, you won't uncomfortable. Plus, there are radiators or heaters in most indoor areas so winter in Denmark is not hard to handle.

9. Health & Safety

After receiving residence permit, you can apply for CPR at the international house in Copenhagen. The CPR comes with health insurance so you can use public health facilities like

hospitals for free. Medications can be bought at pharmacies. You can even buy them on food delivery apps. However, you should still go to hospitals when you are very sick.

10. Food

Food can be easily purchased at supermarkets. Copenhagen is a pretty small city so you can always go to the central part of the city where shopping is convenient. You can also buy food online with food delivery app. There are several Chinese supermarkets in Copenhagen, one of them is located in the city center. I suggest going there for sauces and instant food. As mentioned before, most of the dorms are equipped with kitchen. It is very convenient to cook at dorm.

11. Transportation

The subway system in Copenhagen is well developed and convenient. Most of the lines operate 24 hours. You can almost go everywhere by subway. After arriving at Copenhagen, you can purchase a subway card at the airport. Then you can use it like Octopus card in Hong Kong. There is not gate in the subway stations. You must tap on the machines to check in and check out. Otherwise, you will be fined.

12. Communication

Sim cards can be easily purchased at convenience store like 711. They come with a phone number and date plan. You can go to the website and purchase date plan. The sim cards can usually be used across Europe. After leaving Denmark, you can cancel the phone number online.

13. Sports & Recreation Facilities

Although there is no gym in dorms, there are a lot of gyms in Copenhagen. You can register for membership after applying for residence permit. The most popular gym – SATS provides discount to students.

14. Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

Besides the events organized by the exchange office, exchange students can join all societies and clubs like local students.

15. Cautionary measures

There is nothing in particular. However, it is always important to respect others. During exchange, you would meet so many people from different countries. I believe it is vital to show respect to all kinds of culture even if you are not familiar with them.

Items to bring

1. Chargers
 2. RAT test
 3. All kinds of identity documentations
 4. Medications (those you are used to)
 5. Pens (for custom)
 6. Backpack (use for short trip)
- There is no need to bring too many clothes, you can buy them easily in Copenhagen.

Useful links and contact

- <https://ihcph.kk.dk>
- <https://studentcbs.sharepoint.com>
- <https://www.cbs.dk/en/study/bachelor/all-bachelor-programmes>