

# **Exchange Report**

## **Copenhagen Business School, Denmark**



Hung, Yun-yeh (Stanley) | Year 3 GBUS & FINA

Spring 2022

## Part I: Monthly Activity Log

### **January**

I arrived in Europe on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, and my first stop was in Milan, Italy. I spent around 11 days exploring the country, from Milan all the way to Rome. Italy left me with a very good first impression of Europe. I enjoyed the cathedrals, museums, and most importantly - the authentic Italian cuisines. After the trip, I departed for Copenhagen on January 14 to settle down before the semester officially starts. During my first few days in Copenhagen, I had the opportunity to familiarize and further immerse myself in the drastically different environment from Asia. Everything was nice, except for the weather. Copenhagen in January is freezing cold and super windy – not to mention the heavy rain. If you're staying in Copenhagen during winter, make sure you have a waterproof jacket with you.

My other friends who are also exchanging at CBS arrived a few days later, and we decided to do a short trip to Sweden. In Sweden, we celebrated our Chinese New Year by purchasing ingredients in the Asian market and cooking hotpot in the Airbnb. I was very fortunate I had the chance to experience a very special CNY atmosphere in Scandinavia with my dear friends.



Traveled countries: Italy and Sweden

### **February**

The semester officially starts in the first week of February. I took five courses in total - Financial Derivatives and their Applications, Language of Negotiations, Integrated Skills of Danish, Risk Management for Multinational Enterprise, and Theories of Contemporary Society. Unlike HKUST or most universities in Hong Kong, CBS does not have a concentrated campus. Instead, all the buildings are separated, so make sure you go



to the correct building. The courses were mostly well taught, and I love the energy during discussions. For example, some exchange students including me had a thought-provoking discussion with the local Danish students during one of the courses on Theories of Contemporary Society, in which we compared how different elements of a specific city can influence the atmosphere. I brought my personal experiences in Taiwan and Hong Kong as an example and listened to interesting stories from all around the world.

Traveled countries: Poland, Czech, and Germany

### March

My March started with an unexpected solo trip to Istanbul, Turkey. My original plan was to directly fly back to Copenhagen from Munich, which is the last destination of my Germany trip in February. However, there was something wrong with the flight I booked, so I ended up in Istanbul and stayed in the city for four days. Istanbul locates right between Asia and Europe; therefore, the city is a mix of various cultures. I really loved the historical sites and the Turkish cuisine – it's totally different from any city in Europe and was something fresh for me after staying in Europe for a period.

I finished my presentation for most courses in Mid-March and decided to visit Iceland – the nation of natural beauty. There, we visited the famous blue lagoon, did stargazing, and enjoyed our youth on the Black Sand Beach – everything was absolutely peaceful, as all the hustle and bustle of urban life belongs to the past century.

Traveled countries: Turkey, Iceland, and the United Kingdom





## April

Most of my exams are in April, so I stayed in Copenhagen during early April to study. Something great about CBS dorms is that it's very big and comfortable, so there's no problem staying in the room for the whole day just to prepare for my exams. Just the day after I finished my financial derivatives exam, I flew to Paris with my friends. One of my favorite places is Mont-Saint-Michel. It is a tidal island in Normandy, a few hours away from Paris by car. The view is breathtaking, no wonder Jay Chou chose this place as the cover of his newest album. I also visited the other famous sites in Paris like Louvre Museum, the Eiffel Tower, and Paris Disney Land. After the trip, I had to attend another exam – the Danish oral exam. For me, Danish was the most difficult subject of all, and I prepped very hard with my classmates. Fortunately, I got a good grade and passed the subject.



Traveled countries: France

## May

I started my May in Barcelona, Spain. The weather in Spain is totally different from Copenhagen, and I did not prepare any sunscreen so unfortunately, I got sunburnt during the first few days in Barcelona. Aside from that, everything exceeded my



expectation, in a good way. The fascinating sea view from the beach, the paella and sangria, and the beautiful people we met along the journey. After Spain, we visited Portugal, which was a lovely experience as well.

After the trip, I stayed in Copenhagen



for a few days, and visited some beautiful places in Copenhagen. Among all, I personally recommend Reffen, a special food court beside the beach. It's always good to grab a few drinks with friends and enjoy the sunset there. I also spent time with the friends I met in CBS,



partying, playing board games, picnicking, etc. I had a lot of fun in Copenhagen. My sister visited me in Mid-May, and we did a two-week trip to 6 countries. I personally loved Amsterdam the most because in the city I can experience various aspects of life. Experience it yourself and let me know if you like it.

Traveled countries: Spain, Portugal, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany

## June

June was the last month of my exchange, and I continued my journey from



Nuremberg to Salzburg and Hallstatt. Hallstatt is somewhere I would recommend going, not only because of the great mountain and lake view but also the salt mine adventure where we could explore the underground mines created hundreds of years ago. I spend my final week in Croatia before coming back to Hong Kong, and it was also worth it. I visited Zagreb, Plitvice Lakes National Park, Split, and Dubrovnik, where "Game of Thrones" took place.



I flew back to Hong Kong on June 11, and that was the end of my wonderful semester in Europe. The good thing about exchanging in Copenhagen is that I not only stayed in Denmark but visited a lot of places around Europe. I would definitely recommend CBS as your next exchange destination, as I enjoyed mine a lot.

Traveled countries: Austria, Croatia

## Part 2: General Exchange Information

### **Visa Procedures**

I applied for my residence permit in Denmark, but it's also possible to apply beforehand. My Taiwan passport allowed me to stay in the EU Region for 90 days without a visa, so I just have to make sure my residence permit is approved before the 90 days limit.

The application for a residence permit is very simple. You just need to pay for the permit online, bring the receipt together with all the required documents to the immigration office in person, and record your biometrics there. My permit was approved after a month, and I received a letter from the immigration office sent directly to my dorm to inform me the application is successful.

### **Orientation Activities**

CBS students organized a social week for exchange students which includes parties, a scavenger hunt, a canal tour, folk dancing, and a movie night. I enjoyed the activities a lot, as it's one of the best ways to meet new people.

### **International Services & Activities**

CBS will pair you with a local student as a buddy pair, and several buddy pairs will form a buddy group. Some buddies (not all) will organize buddy dinners to welcome you. Buddies will pick you up at the Airport and hand you the keys to the dorm.

### **Accommodations**

I lived in a double room at Katherina Kollegium with Raymond, another GBUSer who is also my close friend. We shared a bathroom and a Kitchen, and the space is more than enough for two people. We even hosted a dinner and invited 6 friends over to cook.

I applied for the dorm through the portal, where we indicated our preferences for dorm and room type.

### **Course Registration**

Students are required to apply for 4 courses, and I personally registered for 5 with the consent of CBS and HKUST. Different from HKUST, CBS has two quarters per semester. There are three types of courses: Q1 courses, Q2 courses, and full semester courses, which means that the course is taught in both Q1 and Q2.

### **Teaching and Assessment Method**

Classes in CBS do not take attendance, and grades are 100% depending on your final exam. Generally speaking, classes are well taught, and classmates are proactive in discussions. Exams can be in-person written exams, oral exams, or writing an essay. It's relatively flexible if your exam type is essay writing, as you can do it during trips or when you're back in Hong Kong.

### **Sports and Recreation Facilities**

I registered as a member of Fitness X – a local gym. I personally find the registration fees are quite cheap and the Gym is just a few minutes away from CBS's main campus so it's very convenient.

### **Finance and Banking**

Most of the transactions are cashless in Copenhagen, so I used my Hong Kong or Taiwan credit/debit card instead of opening a Denmark bank account. From my experience, the only transaction that needs cash is at the barber's place, so remember to prepare some cash if you need to do a haircut. Aside from that, I do not consider DKK as a necessity. Exchanging Euros would be much useful as you might travel to other European countries.

### **Climate**

Denmark's winter is cold, windy, and mostly rainy. The locals don't really use umbrellas, as the strong wind basically makes an umbrella useless. I would recommend you bring a waterproof jacket, especially if you're riding a bike. After April, the weather turns warm and it's when most of the activities begin.

### **Health & Safety**

I was lucky I did not need to see a doctor during my exchange, but with a PCR number, you will be able to use the medical service in Copenhagen at a lower price.

### **Food**

Eating outside in Copenhagen is expensive, so just like my fellow exchange students, I cook most of the time. There are a lot of supermarkets in the city - Rema 1000, Fotex, Lidl, and Netto. After comparison, I would say the Rema 1000 has the best value for money. Grocery shopping in Copenhagen is pretty affordable, so most of the local students also prefer cooking instead of eating outside when they meet friends.

### **Transportation**

I would say Copenhagen's metro is one of the cleanest in Europe. However, it's



very expensive and delays quite often compared to Hong Kong and Taiwan. I would recommend students rent a bike from Swapfiets as it's convenient and more affordable. Copenhagen is not a big city, so you can bike almost everywhere. If you're taking a metro, I would recommend using a Rejeskort card. It's similar to an Octopus, and it's cheaper than buying single tickets for every trip.

### **Communication**

I used Lyca mobile because there are actually free sim cards provided by the company at the airport. All you need is to purchase a top-up package at supermarkets and insert the code to access the 4g data. I personally bought a 100G per month package that provides 11G of EU roaming. However, Lyca mobile does not work in several countries, and it caused huge problems. Taking this into consideration, I would recommend you to try other brands like Lebara.\

### **Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities**

Just like HKUST, CBS provides students with a variety of opportunities to network, and there are also many student societies to choose from. I personally did not join any of them, but one of my friends is a member of the investment society. I'm pretty sure you can find a club that suits your interest in CBS.

## **Part 3: Checklist of Items to Bring**

Below is a list of items I would recommend bringing. Please adjust according to your own needs.

1. Passport and other visa documents
2. Credit or Debit card (some stores don't allow Apple Pay)
3. Winter clothes (Waterproof jacket, windbreaker, down jacket, gloves, scarf)
4. Adapter
5. Power Bank
6. Backpack (I brought a big backpack since I don't travel with luggage)
7. Medication
8. Euros
9. Lotion (I think Copenhagen is quite dry compared to Hong Kong)
10. Noise Cancelling Earphones (Babies may cry on the plane)
11. Locks (for your luggage and backpacks, I use it everywhere just in case)

## Part 4: Useful Links

Below is a list of items I would recommend bringing. Please adjust according to your own needs.

My CBS Portal (Accessing most information about CBS)

<https://studentcbs.sharepoint.com/>

CBS Undergraduate courses

<https://www.cbs.dk/en/study/internationals/exchange-students/undergraduate-courses-exchange-students>

CBS Housing

<https://www.cbs.dk/en/study/internationals/exchange-students/housing>

SkyScanner (Booking a flight)

<https://www.skyscanner.com.hk/?locale=en-GB&market=HK>

Trainline (Book a train or bus)

<https://www.thetrainline.com/>

ISIC (International student card)

<https://www.isic.org/>

Hostel World (Booking a hostel)

<https://www.hostelworld.com/>