

Exchange Report

Fall 2023

Copenhagen Business School

Denmark

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Monthly Activity Log

Write a log of one paragraph for each month highlighting some of your interesting exchange experiences, activities, impressions & places of interest. Please describe your study, learning and life experience. This section should be at least 600 words long.

August

During my first few days in Copenhagen, I experienced a mix of excitement and uncertainty. It was my first time in Denmark, and more than that, it was my first time setting my foot in Europe.

As someone from Indonesia who had studied in Hong Kong, I was accustomed to being surrounded by people of similar racial backgrounds. In Indonesia, the majority of people were native Indonesians or Chinese-Indonesians, and in Hong Kong, most people were of Chinese descent. Therefore, arriving in Copenhagen and encountering a different kind of homogeneity, characterized by blonde hair and blue eyes, was indeed a new and unique experience for me.

The Scandinavian architecture had also left a lasting impression on me from the moment I arrived. Riding the metro system, I was in awe of the distinctive shapes and designs of the houses, which stood in stark contrast to what I was familiar with in Indonesia. As I explored the city, I started to appreciate more and more the blend of modern and old-world styles of architecture that was infused into the city's buildings. Contrary to my initial belief, Copenhagen had much more to offer than I had ever imagined. Exploring the city before orientation began, I had the opportunity to visit renowned landmarks such as the Little Mermaid, Gammel Strand Street, Rosenborg Castle, Christianborg Palace, and Nyhavn.

The orientation events further enriched my experience, as I had the opportunity to interact with a diverse group of individuals from various countries. While it was initially intimidating to be surrounded by people from different cultural backgrounds, it soon became a source of fascination and growth. It was during this time that I formed a close-knit group of friends who would become my companions on European adventures and study partners during the demanding exam periods.

August in Copenhagen was a month of discovery and adaptation. The newness of the city and its cultural diversity challenged my perspectives and expanded my horizons. From the captivating Scandinavian architecture to the vibrant landmarks and the bonds forged with fellow international students, every experience left an indelible mark on my journey. Little did I know that this was just the beginning of an incredible and transformative chapter in my life.

September

As classes began, I adjusted to the different scheduling system in Copenhagen. I took four classes during my exchange, two in the first part of the term and two in the second. The first class I attended focused on platform businesses like Google, Amazon, and Uber. The professor was engaging, and I quickly made friends with Danish students who introduced me to their customs and way of life. Adjusting to the Danish lifestyle was initially challenging, but I soon discovered its unique benefits. The slower pace allowed me to enjoy picnics in the park with friends, engaging in deep conversations about various topics that I had put on hold during my previous semester where I had focused most of my time and efforts on job search. While I occasionally experienced homesickness, especially for Asian cuisine, overall, September was a month of adaptation and personal growth.

October

In October, my friends and I, having acclimated to Copenhagen's pace, began exploring different European destinations on weekends. We ventured to places like Italy and the Faroe Islands, a special region in Denmark known for being the filming location of Peter Pan. These trips brought us closer together and fostered deeper connections, despite our diverse backgrounds. It was an eye-opening experience to learn about different cultural values while also discovering shared perspectives on careers and interests.

Additionally, I attended a seminar on Asia-Denmark business connections organized by the university, where I gained insights into the strengths of Denmark-based companies and their interest in expanding into Asia along with the potential collaboration with Asian companies. The seminar featured notable speakers, including the former China head of Maersk, providing a unique and valuable experience that I think would be hard to get anywhere else.

November

As my exchange was nearing its end, I was enveloped by a bittersweet. I wanted to make the most of my remaining time in Copenhagen. With the days growing shorter, I found solace in exploring the city's cafes that I and indulging in the Danish concept of "hygge."

The introduction of two new courses, particularly Entrepreneurial Finance, had also re-fueled my enthusiasm for learning as it was a topic that I had been interested in for a while. Yet, as the month drew to a close, I couldn't help but feel a tinge of nostalgia knowing that my time in Copenhagen was rapidly going to an end. November was a time of reflection and gratitude, as I appreciated the friendships forged, the knowledge gained, and the personal growth achieved during my exchange journey.

December

December marked the conclusion of my exchange, and although it was bittersweet, I immersed myself in studying at the library. I spent most of time working on the final exams and assignments, with late-night study sessions at the library became a shared experience with my fellow students, as we supported and encouraged one another through our courseworks from varying disciplines.

Reflecting on my journey, I realized that if someone had told me at the beginning of the exchange that I would form such a close bond with a friend group from Mexico, Thailand, and the United States, I would have found it hard to believe. However, through this experience, I not only learned about Danish culture but also had the opportunity to explore and appreciate the cultures of my international friends (with some new Spanish words and Thai words in my arsenal!). With gratitude in my heart, I said my farewells to my friends, knowing that the memories and experiences would forever hold a cherished place in me.

Please briefly describe the visa application procedures, including

- 1) Type of passport/travel document you are holding**
- 2) Type of visa you are required**
- 3) Required documents**
- 4) Visa fees**

- 1) Indonesian Passport
- 2) Schengen Visa
- 3)
 - * Fully completed and signed, Schengen visa application form
 - * Two recently taken passport, photographs for Schengen visa
 - * Valid passport
 - * Itinerary of your trip
 - * Accommodation Proof
 - * Proof that you have travel and medical insurance
 - * Proof of financial means
 - * Letter from school/college/university confirming attendance.

4) 80 + Cost of insurance (For travel & medical)

What are the course(s) that you have enrolled at the host institution?

Google, Uber, Amazon: The Management of Platform Businesses
Scandinavian Sustainability & Corporate Social Responsibility
Entrepreneurial Finance
Behavioral Finance

Please briefly describe the course registration procedures, such as

- 1) When did you receive the course registration details**
- 2) What is the course registration procedures**
- 3) Where can you access information related to course registration (e.g. websites)**

1) I received the course application March 27, 2023 (For Fall Semester 2023)
2) The course lists are available online at a link that was sent from the CBS International Office email. We then need to apply for 4 primary course choices as well as 4 alternatives. While course overloading is possible, it is only permitted if required by our university but they cannot guarantee that it will be possible. After application, they will present us with a confirmation of our course enrollment on May 26, 2023.

3) Website: <https://www.cbs.dk/uddannelse/internationals/exchange-students/undergraduate-courses-exchange-students> & Email of the CBS International Office

Where did you live during the program?

Off-campus student dormitory offered by NGOs or private companies

Please briefly describe the accommodation at the host destination, including

- 1) What type of accommodation**
- 2) What is the application procedures (If you are staying at accommodation offered by the host institution)**
- 3) How did you search for the accommodation and where did you book your accommodation (If you need to arrange your own accommodation)**
- 4) Facilities in the accommodation**

1) Off-Campus Student Dorm by Private Company (The Mark)
2) Application through link sent by CBS International Office where you rank your top choices for dorm
3) N/A
4) <https://themark.dk/en/facilities/> (A wide range of facilities including common room, kitchen, laundry room, game room, music room, pottery studio etc.)

Please briefly describe the health and safety support provided at the host institution, including

- 1) Whether there is health centers or clinics available on campus
- 2) Any safety matters that you are concerned about

- 1) Not familiar with health centers/ clinics
- 2) No

Finances

How much did you spend (in HKD) on the following items? (Please input "0" if not applicable to you)

Air ticket between the place of departure and destination (round trip)

HKD 9,000

Accommodation (for the entire study abroad period)

HKD 90,000

Program fee (if applicable)

N/A

Personal expenses

HKD 80,000

Others, please specify

N/A

My Top 3s

Please share with students some of your top 3s. If it is best to provide the information in the language of the host destination, please do so, but provide an explanation in English.

Courses at the host institution

Google, Uber, Amazon: The Management of Platform Businesses
Entrepreneurial Finance
Behavioral Finance

Favourite Food

Danish Hotdogs (There's one hotdog cart near campus!)
12 Coffee and Eatery
Kini Kini Restaurant

Hang-outs places on campus

Group study rooms in DH Library
Sitting Area in DH Campus
Sitting Area in Library Ground Floor in SP Campus

Must-dos in the city

Visit the King's Garden especially during summer or fall for picnic!
Visit the Rosenborg and Christianborg castles!
Try to go to Christiania (with a friend), the buildings are quite artistic and has a very different look to the rest of the city

Not-to-dos in the city

Try to stay quiet in the public transportation (especially in the metro and ofcourse, in the quiet zones)
The city is very safer but maybe try to be aware of your surroundings when you are near the Central station area at night

Visit the Tivoli Gardens in winter (it's very cold and most rides are closed/ wet due to rain)

Useful local apps or websites

Rejsekort (Transport App)

Instagram (Follow friendsofcph, they have a lot of events that you can go to!)

Google Maps (Will be your best friend in finding your way around, although double check in Rejsekort on transport as sometimes the trains and buses might be closed)

Words to describe my study abroad experience

Adventure!

Eye-Opening

Unforgettable