

Exchange Report

Fall 2023

Copenhagen Business School

Denmark

LAM Chi Yeung

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

I arrived in Copenhagen on 23rd August, more than a week before the semester started. I met my buddy at the airport, who helped me settle in my apartment. My friends and I visited different sightseeing attractions, like the Round Tower and the National Museum in the first few days. Copenhagen is not very touristy, and its city center is not huge. However, it is cozy just walking and enjoying the weather and vibe in the summertime.

A week before school officially started was orientation week. After having the meet-up gathering on Monday, we went to a folk dancing session on Tuesday. It was a memorable experience watching the whole hall of people dancing around with music. City Hunt and Picnic Olympics were the other events. The city hunt helped us learn more about the city as we visited different landmarks to complete the tasks they gave us. The Picnic Olympics was held at a spacious park near the airport. They prepared 5 "interesting" games, but I think we should have played them when we were young as Hong Kong kids. My team won the Picnic Olympics and got a free boat trip. It was similar to a party boat where we could drive our boat to wherever we wanted for 2 hours, as long as it was not a restricted area. We used it immediately and enjoyed a nice, sunny afternoon at the canals.

September

On 1st September, they held a back-to-school party at the yard next to the main campus called Solbjerg Plads. It was crowded with people at night, and people were partying with the live bands playing on the stage. I went to Berlin and Hamburg the next weekend. Although Berlin is a culturally rich city, I must say I love Hamburg more because it is much more livelier. The 3-storey Miniature Wonderland in Hamburg is truly an amazing place and a paradise for model lovers. We also happened to attend the Cruise Days in Hamburg, where we visited the festive market and watched 2 fireworks shows at the pier. I went to the Tuor of Denmark organized by the school the next weekend. It was a great time to visit different parts of Denmark, especially since there were free admissions to all the museums in Denmark that week. I would love to have another trip, but I had a presentation on the upcoming Monday, so I had to stay in Copenhagen that weekend to prepare for it. I also had a hotpot gathering at one of the dormitories on the Mid-Autumn Festival with friends from Hong Kong, Taiwan, and even Denmark! It was a nice evening; we had a good time playing after finishing our hotpot and went outside to watch the beautiful full moon in the "light-pollutionless" sky.

October

My friends and I went to Hungary and Austria in the first week of October. I was deeply impressed by the evening scenes by the Danube River in Budapest as we were walking to the dock for our night cruise. It was one of the best views I had ever seen. Vienna, on the other hand, was more crowded, as the city is very touristy in my opinion. Although my friends thought that the Mozart concert we attended was not worth the price, I find it enjoyable to be sitting in The Wiener Musikverein and enjoy 2 hours of music. The State Hall in Vienna is another must-go. The hall is not big, but the interior decorations are stunning. Our next destination was Tromsø, Norway, as we were trying to chase the Northern Light. We tried the Norway Salmon, saw the Northern Light in the middle of nowhere, and went up to a snowy mountain to see the city view from the top. We even did not see the Northern Light only once but twice! So, I highly recommend going there around October because you will have sufficient daytime to explore the city and a clear sky to see the Northern Light at night. Although I had an upcoming exam for my Q1 course, I still joined my friends and went to the Baltic States, Helsinki, and Stockholm for one week. It was fun and memorable traveling from the South to the North (which I also think is from the least developed to the most developed country). I saw my first snow in Lithuania, had great meals in the Baltic States, stayed at a fast food restaurant until midnight to catch an overnight bus, slept on a cruise, and did many more things that week. But I was so tired that I spent around a day and a half recovering in my room after the trip. Luckily, I still had time to revise and prepare for my exam after a hectic month.

November

I decided to rest and enjoy the 'hygge' life in Copenhagen after two months of traveling for two months. But I still visited Iceland with my friends in mid-November. The country was genuinely stunning. Although it is tiring to travel around the country in a minivan, the stunning scenic views are really worth a visit, especially since visiting Iceland from Copenhagen is very convenient. We could not visit the famous Blue Lagoon and had a relaxing spa there because the local authorities predicted that there would be a volcanic eruption around the area during our stay. Fortunately, it did not happen, and it erupted in January. In late November, I also joined a 'hygge' hiking trip organized by one of the CBS student clubs. We went to Roskilde, a nearby town west of Copenhagen. We spent our morning in the country parks, sharing our food and chatting with different people. Although it was technically not a "hike" as Denmark is not a hilly country, it was great to spend the day in a peaceful environment and clear my mind before the exams came.

December

Before exams started, I went to Kronborg Castle and Louisiana Museum with my friend. My friend invited me to his dormitory's Christmas Dinner the next day. I must say the Danes really know how to party and enjoy the moments as I had a great time there. I also visited Parken Stadium to watch FC Copenhagen play in the Danish Superliga. It was freezing outside, but the fans from both sides were passionate about the game and created a wonderful atmosphere around the stadium. Exams did not stop my friends and me from visiting Tivoli Gardens in the city center. I think the award-winning haunted house was overrated, as only one of us got scared. However, getting onto the rides at O.C was another one-of-a-kind experience. After I finished all my exams, it was Christmas time! Unfortunately, many shops were closed during Christmas, so we had to find a Chinese restaurant for our Christmas gathering. After Christmas, it was time to say goodbye to Copenhagen and the lives here as my friends and I went to Poland and the Czech Republic for our long Central European trip. We visited the Auschwitz Concentration Camp, and that place was depressing, especially when you saw the array of buildings surrounded by the fence in the main camp. We spent the New Year's Eve in Prague. Prague was truly a beautiful place. It has classy castles, stunning sunsets, and many more. I also like the Chimney Cake very much. The most important event on New Year's Eve must be the countdown. We spend the last hours of 2023 at the Old Town Square. All the people were just partying around the Christmas Market there, and it was genuinely a wonderful experience!

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January

We went to Cesky Krumlov, a small town in the Czech Republic, on the first day of 2024. It was a nice, cozy place with peaceful views and vibe. The next day, we went off to Salzburg in Austria and had a day trip to Hallstatt during our stay. Hallstatt has the oldest salt mine in the world, which I highly recommend to go and visit. We got to try the slides salt miners used when they worked at different parts of the site. I also skated for the first time in Salzburg. Unlike other experienced ice skaters, we had to hold on to the assisting penguins to 'walk' on the ice. We chose to have some rest at Innsbruck, our next destination, as we all got a little bit sick after the long travel. But we still went to the local casino. Sadly, there were not many people when we entered. I would say Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia, is one of the dullest capitals of all the countries I have traveled to. But the day trip to Skojcan Cave and Piran was one of the most memorable days I had in my exchange. We even experience the complete darkness inside the cave to feel how explorers a few decades ago explored the cave. After that, we went to Vienna (yes, again), and attended an organ concert performed by a rising star in Europe. He even communicated with the audience between the music pieces, but we all did not understand because he spoke German. We visited Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, for a day. Then, we went to Budapest immediately that night. Although the vibe in winter was very different from that in autumn, as fewer people were on the streets and the city was less lively, Budapest was still one of the most beautiful cities I have visited.

After ending our semester-end European trip, I visited Great Britain to visit my friends. I first went to Cambridge, where one of my friends picked me up and took me to London for sightseeing. Then, I went to Oxford for my last two days in Europe to visit another friend. Oxford was a wonderful city with richer cultural and historical elements than Cambridge. But people in Oxford are also more arrogant, making me feel a bit uncomfortable when I chatted with friends of my friend.

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

I am holding a Hong Kong SAR Passport. It allows me to enter the Schengen Region for 90 days. So, I still need a Danish Residence Permit to study in CBS. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark (<https://um.dk/en/travel-and-residence/how-to-apply-for-a-residence-permit>) gives a detailed instruction on how to apply for the document. Because they do not process the applications in Hong Kong, so I went to Shenzhen in late May to submit my application. I brought my CBS acceptance letter, documentations that show I can financially support myself in Denmark, along with the receipts of application fee (DKK2175) and embassy fee (DKK 1725) to Shenzhen. One month later, I received my residence permit by mail.

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

Behavioral Finance

A Practical Guide to Fixing the World: A crash course in transformative problem solving

The Philosophy and Economics of Inequality in the 21st Century

Negotiation

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)

I received an email from the CBS International Office regarding the course registration after I got my CBS email account. The email includes a link to course catalog webpage (<https://www.cbs.dk/en/study/internationals/exchange-students/undergraduate-courses-exchange-students>), highlights the details of course registration, and outlines the instructions on using the course registration application portal. I could choose 4 first-choice courses and 4 second-choice courses on the application portal. The second-choice courses are one-to-one replacements of your first-choice courses if they cannot enroll you into the courses successfully. I knew my course enrollment status in late May. Because I failed to enroll in 2 first-choice courses and 1 second-choice course, I did not have enough credits. So, the International Office sent another email to me, telling me how to apply for other courses. I sent an email back to them with a form illustrating my preference of my courses, and they replied me that they had successfully helped me to enroll in one of the courses.

Where did you live during the program?

Off-campus student dormitory offered by the host institution

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

CBS Housing Department will send an email in mid-May regarding your housing application. I could check the type of housing I would like to stay through their website (<https://www.cbs.dk/en/study/internationals/exchange-students/housing/student-residences>). I could choose my dormitory and room size preference in the application portal. But I chose to pair up with my friend, so I told the Housing Department about my decision and asked for a double room by sending them an email before the application started.

I lived in a shared room in Kathrine Kolligiet with my friend from UST. This dormitory is reserved for exchange students exclusively, and sometimes they have nighttime gatherings during my stay. I think my room is very spacious as it looks larger than 2 single rooms combined, and it was almost fully furnished when I checked in. It also has a common kitchen on the ground floor and a laundry in the basement. The dormitory is in a very nice and quiet neighborhood. It is also close to the Metro and S-train station and only a 10-minute bike ride or 20-minute walk to the furthest campus. There are also a few supermarkets around the neighborhood where I usually do my grocery shopping.

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

There are no health centers or clinics available on campus, but I could use my yellow health card to see a doctor after completing my CPR registration. Copenhagen is a very safe city, I was not worried about my safety during my stay there.

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 12,000

Accommodation (for the entire study abroad period)

HKD 32,000

Program fee (if applicable)

N/A

Personal expenses

HKD 76,000

Others, please specify

Visa application fees: HKD 4,500

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

The Philosophy and Economics of Inequality in the 21st Century

A Practical Guide to Fixing the World: A crash course in transformative problem solving

Behavioral Finance

Favourite Food

Northern European Salmon
Grillen Burger (a tasty burger restaurant)
Kvass (A Baltic Region beer)

Hang-outs places on campus

Dalgas Have 15 (a beautiful campus)
Ground floor of Klein
Canteen in the main campus

Must-dos in the city

Go to Tivoli Gardens
Get on a regional train and explore cities around Copenhagen
Go to Round Tower

Not-to-dos in the city

Go to Little Mermaid
Eat on the street
Stay in the accommodation the whole day

Useful local apps or websites

DOT Tickets
Rejseplanen (Travel planning app)
Copenhagen Card (Tells all attractions in Copenhagen)

Words to describe my study abroad experience

Fruitful
Lively
Unforgettable