

Exchange Report

Spring 2024

Copenhagen Business School

Denmark

LI Tsun Ho Adrian

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.

January

In January, I mainly participated the Welcoming Week hosted by CBS, and I think it is quite well-organized. Throughout the week, I managed to meet a lot of new friends in the Welcoming Party and Party Night. I also experienced some of the Danish traditions like folk dancing, and left a good first impression on the city of Copenhagen during city hunting.

One more thing to add is about my residence. Although I was allocated for a student hall called Svanevej, it located a bit far away from the main campus (and the residence of most of my friends). Svanevej is also located at the most unsafe region in Copenhagen with a few murdering cases happening. But it turns out to be a blessing for me to be able to get into this student hall. By the way, please really rent a bike if you know how to cycle. It will leave you with the most unforgettable memories in Denmark.

February

This is my happiest time throughout the entire exchange journey. I get to familiarize with some good friends that I met here, and they take care of me a lot throughout the entire exchange journey (with good meals and companion). We also cooked a lot as it is very costly to dine outside in Copenhagen. I could still remember the times that we cooked and chatted till late night.

Apart from meeting some life-long friends, I also enjoyed my time in Copenhagen very much. As the weather in Northern Europe sucks in the winter, it becomes particularly precious for sunny days. On one of the precious sunny days, I cycled to the Lakes and wander around to appreciate the natural beauty of Copenhagen, as well as observing and experiencing the life of the Danes. I also visited the Botanical Garden nearby, and grabbed a tasty chimney cake (it costs around 90HKD

though).

In mid-February, I also visited some of the tourists spots like Christianborg Palace and the National Museum of Denmark with my secondary school friends that stayed a while in Copenhagen. We also watched a match for UEFA Champion League (F.C. Copenhagen V.S. Manchester City FC) together with some of my friends in CBS in a bar called Barkowski.

In late February, I travelled to Norway and Berlin in Germany with some of my friends. We managed to catch the aurora on the last day that we stayed in Tromso, and immersed ourselves into the history of Deutschland.

March

In March, I stayed in Copenhagen for a few weeks to finally focus on my study (as exams are approaching for Q3 courses). However, the workload of CBS is really incomparable with that of HKUST. For each course, there are no assignments (or they are not counted towards the final grade). The grade is solely dependent on the final exam or written products (in which you could discuss with others and search in the internet). I cannot say the grading is much more lenient than that of HKUST but it is certainly very

easy to get a pass.

Apart from studying, we also spent some time to further explore the beauty of Copenhagen, and enjoy some Hygge moments with one another. It is typically remarkable for the times that we played board games in Bastard cafe.

I also travelled to Czechia with one of my UST friends that I met here in mid-March. Apart from staying in the capital Prague, we also tried to get away from crowds and visited some small towns like Karlovy Vary and esk Krumlov. In this trip, we tried a lot of good food like pork knuckle with Pilsner beer, and even enjoyed fine dining with a very reasonable price.

April

I travelled to 5 countries (Finland, Estonia, Latvia, France and Scotland) in this month. In these trips, we managed to catch the aurora again, and it is even more stunning than the one that I saw in Norway. We also got to see the natural landscape in Finland and Scotland. However, as I get extremely exhausted after these trips, I decided to spend more time in Denmark in the rest of the exchange journey.

After the long trip to Finland, I also spent one week resting in Copenhagen, and catch the time of Sakura blossoming. I also visited the Grundtvig' s church. When I was lying in the grass next to the church, there comes a grannie and talked to us in Danish. We tried to communicate with them using Danish (though her daughter is actually translating her questions into English). She recommended us to visit the cemetery nearby as the flower blossoms there. She said that she will visit there too as the tombstone of her husband locates right over there as well. Conclusion: You will feel happy even in the cemetery of Denmark because it' s just so relaxing and does not look like a cemetery.

May

After ending the trip to Scotland, I spent some time to revise for the upcoming Danish exam with little chances to master it within one day. As mentioned before, I spent most of the time in Copenhagen in May, leaving some lasting memories with the city. I went to 2 theme parks, Bakken and Tivoli, watched horse racing, and walked around the Amager Beach to see the Danes windsurfing during the sunset. When it comes to summer, Copenhagen is full of tourists and the Danes that stayed at home during the cold and cloudy winter. There is a marathon called Royal Run being held in mid-May, in which the atmosphere is really stunning. I was also being brought into a street dancing party unexpectedly by a Dane, and experienced one of the Danish ways of living.

For the trips, I went to Budapest as planned before. I also got an unexpected short trip to Helsingor in Denmark and Gothenburg in Sweden with my friend that also lives in Svanevej. There is a male little mermaid statue in Helsingor, which looks better than the one in Copenhagen. In Gothenburg we visited the archipelago there, and the museum of World of Volvo, as Volvo was founded in Gothenburg.

June

It is time to say goodbye to my homeland and the stress-free moments of my life. On the last few days, we biked around the city and tried some good Danish pastry. I also cooked with my friends to enjoy the last bit of Hygge moments with them. I also did some revisions on the last incomplete course in CBS and took my first and last sit-in examination in CBS. After all stuff, I set off to Croatia and began my last trip as planned long time before. From my perspective, Croatia is a place that worth visiting, but probably not again as the locals are generally not very friendly. However, I would say the sceneries are one of the best in Europe, especially for Plitvice Lakes National Park, the Blue Cave and also the city of Dubrovnik.

After the trip, I returned to Copenhagen and prepared to leave a few hours later. Within the few hours, I tried to recall my Danish life of living by biking around the city and trying out some pastries. I also walked around Nyhavn and some other spots that I usually go when I was in Copenhagen, wrapping up my exchange journey perfectly.

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 currently holding the HKSAR passport. To study in Denmark, I have to apply for a residence permit that lasts for around 6 months. The application is actually not complicated but the instructions are not very clear. To submit the documents and to complete some sort of biometrics requirement, you have to travel to Shenzhen or Guangzhou (the nearest centres to Hong Kong), if you would like to obtain a residence permit before your departure. However, it is still fine for you to apply after your arrival to Copenhagen. For me I applied prior to my departure, and it costs me like HKD 5000. Documents required are official transcript issued by HKUST, offered letter from CBS, an application form to be filled by CBS and me, and the copies of your passport.

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

Integrated Skills - Danish, Emerging Markets, Macroeconomics and European Integration, Behavioural 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)**

I received the course registration details before getting the official offer letter issued by CBS (approximately late September). There is a list of course which can be enrolled by us, and an email with relevant website links are sent to us. There is a designated page for exchange students so that we would not get confused with the courses that only can be taken by other students in CBS. To register the course, we have to just simply indicate our preference by filling in a form, and you will be allocated to the courses according to the availability and your preference. For a few courses you might have to write a letter of intent about the reason that you want to enrol in the course.

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**

I lived in one of the six student halls - Svanevej, offered by CBS. However, it is not directly managed by CBS, comparing with other student halls. Some of the floors are actually rented to other citizens and only the ground floor, first and second floor are rented to exchange students.

To apply for the student dormitory, we also need to fill in a form to indicate our preference. There are sufficient information provided by CBS regarding the size, price and other useful stuff about renting a student dormitory. However, the demand for it is also huge so you might not get allocated for a housing, and the school will help you find housing if you are not able to get one (not for my case).

For Svanevej, there is a common room and common kitchen. There are rules set by the landlady, and one of the rules banned us from frying in the small kitchen in our rooms so that we are supposed to do most of the cooking in the common kitchen. However, as it is really too inconvenient to cook in the common kitchen, most of us ended up did the frying within our rooms. For my dorm, there are no wifi but only cable lines so that it created some inconvenience for me at the beginning. One of the rules also stated that we cannot use router. However, no one is following this rule so that I asked my friend to bring me a router afterwards, improving my quality of life significantly.

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 centres available on campus, but there is already a hospital located near the campus. If you are granted a residence permit, you could see the doctor for free, and you will be assigned with a doctor as well.

Regarding safety, it is generally quite safe in Copenhagen except for the region that my student dormitory is located at. There are a few murdering cases happening throughout my entire exchange period, in which that does not happen in other districts of Copenhagen. But in general I feel safe throughout my entire exchange in Denmark.

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 38,000

Program fee (if applicable)

N/A

Personal expenses

HKD 40,000

Others, please specify

Travelling expenses: HKD 60,000

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

Emerging Markets

Macroeconomics and European Economic Integration

Integrated Skills - Danish

Favourite Food

Danish pastry

a tiramisu that is sold in supermarkets. It costs around 14 DKK for 2.

The brand of Sailing, which could be found in the supermarket fotex.

Hang-outs places on campus

The beach next to the examination hall

Library

N/A

Must-dos in the city

Rent a bike and cycle around throughout your entire exchange journey.
Try out some famous Danish pastries and enjoy hygge moments with your peers.
Explore the events to be held in the city, and join them.

Not-to-dos in the city

Not paying for public transport as there are a lot of surprise checks and you will be fined for a large amount if you get caught.

You are free to do anything in Denmark if you obey the rules stated.

N/A

Useful local apps or websites

DOT Tickets

Lime

Donkey Republic

Words to describe my study abroad experience

Relaxing

Perfect

Unforgettable