

Exchange Report

Spring 2024

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.

January

In late January amidst the lingering winter chill, I arrived in Copenhagen, the city where I would be spending half a year in. My accommodation (Nimbusparken) was provided by Copenhagen Business School (CBS), which is relatively near the campus, requiring only 10 minutes of walk or 3 minutes of cycling. Shortly after I have settled down, the orientation week commenced. The orientation week covers a series of activities including several informative seminars, a city hunt, a canal tour, a pub night etc. A diverse group of exchange students from different parts of the world were brought together, and everybody was extremely excited about spending half a year in Copenhagen. A standout moment during orientation was the Danish folk dance session, where Danish instructors adorned in traditional attire led us in dances. Although the activity was a lot more exhausting than expected, it was an enjoyable experience where we danced in pairs and groups. Shortly after the orientation, my friend came over to visit from Sweden. Together we explored the city in a tourist-like fashion, heading to places like Nyhavn, Grundtvig's church, the Little Mermaid, the Round Tower and more.

February

February was the official start of the semester. I was enrolled into 5 courses in total: Behavioral Finance, Emerging markets ' Societies in Transition, Language of Negotiations, Risk Management of Multinational Enterprise and finally, Danish ' Integrated Skills. Courses in CBS are delivered in quarters: some courses would only take up the first half of the exchange period, some the other half, and the remaining being semester wide. The mode of teaching also ranges from extremely discussion based, to student presentation based and lecture based. 20 February 2024 marks Lunar New Year ' s Day. Celebrating Chinese New Year away from my family for the first time was indeed a unique experience, yet the festive atmosphere remained since a huge group of Chinese students gathered for a joyous traditional hotpot meal. Towards the end of February, the visit to Odense (a city in Denmark) -- the birthplace of Hans Christian Andersen, was a captivating experience. The immersive and interactive storytelling journey at the Anderson ' s Museum offered a nostalgic trip down memory lane. As we walk through the life journey of Anderson, we end up in an area, where all the stories he wrote were presented vividly. To me, it is a must-visit destination in Denmark, despite the relatively long travel time by bus.

March

In March, I travelled through the vibrant cities of Barcelona and Madrid in Spain. The spring weather was relatively comfortable than Copenhagen, and I no longer had to wrap myself in layers of clothes, jackets and padded coats. Spain was renowned for their exceptional cuisine and architecture. I could not agree more with this statement after having countless meals of tapas, paellas as well as appreciating Gaudi ' s architecture. Back to Copenhagen, exploring ' Freetown Christiania ' have unveiled a hidden gem within the city. The prohibition on photography has added an air of mystery to this unique community. In case you are interested, you may gather more information online and visit this place in person!

April

As spring blossomed in Copenhagen, the scenery became a perfect backdrop to witness the city's seasonal transformation. The weather turned warmer, with cherry blossoms blooming in parks around the Little Mermaid and the graveyard near Grundtvig's church. I then also travelled to Helsinki and Rovaniemi in Finland with other students from CBS, where we participated in a range of winter activities, from skiing to reindeer sleigh rides, husky expeditions, and northern lights chasing. Although it was well past the Christmas season, Santa Claus was still there to greet us in the Santa Claus Village.

May

"Hej! Jeg er Karis!" This means 'Hi, I am Karis!' in Danish. This sets the tone for May, which started with my Danish oral examination. It requires a 2-minute self introduction as well as some QnA on several topics. Through my courses, I came across Danish vocabulary and sentence structures, surrounding various topics like food, daily routines, sports, and accommodation. Despite the prevalence of English in Copenhagen, acquiring a new language skill and being able to communicate in Danish with locals was a rewarding experience. As we all passed the Danish exam, we celebrated by visiting Legoland and Lego House in Billund (another Danish city), where one of the most classic childhood toys originated. We embarked on a two-day journey and immersed ourselves in a real-life version of Lego World. This month also surprised me with a third sighting of the northern lights right outside of our dormitory in Copenhagen. It was a stroke of luck that added a magical touch to the month.

June

In June, the final month of my exchange in Denmark when all courses had come to an end, I embarked on travels to Switzerland and Nice of France with my friend, immersing ourselves in the contrasting landscapes of snowy mountains and sun-drenched beaches. In mid-June, I returned to Hong Kong, where I completed my online final examinations, which concluded my enriching exchange journey. Leaving Denmark, I was truly grateful for the meaningful friendships I had forged and all the unforgettable experiences in Copenhagen during my time abroad. I'll see you again, Denmark!

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

Since I hold the HKSAR Passport, it is required to apply for a resident permit to stay in Denmark for more than 3 months. Although it is possible to apply for the permit prior to departure from Hong Kong in Guangdong, I decided to apply only after arrival to Copenhagen in one of the SIRI offices. Apart from submitting an application form, the following documents are required: 1) Documentation of paid case processing fee to SIRI, 2) Copy of all pages of your passport, 3) Documentation showing that you are enrolled at an educational institution in your home country and 4) Documentation showing that you can support yourself during your stay in Denmark. The processing fee would be DKK 2490, while it would take around 2 months to process.

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

Behavioral Finance

Emerging Markets ' Societies in Transition

Language of Negotiations

Risk Management of Multinational Enterprise - Creating Global Strategic Responsiveness

Danish ' Integrated Skills

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)**

For my exchange term (Spring 2023-2024), I received the email regarding course registration sent to my CBS email address in early October 2023. All details are clearly stated in the email. We were given around a month to consider the choices and had to submit the Course Application Form by 31 October 2023, where we had to indicate 4 primary course choices and 4 alternatives. The course "Danish - Integrated Skills" is not counted in the 4 choices, hence you may choose to additionally take this course. Note that courses are not distributed on a first-come-first-served basis. The course list and details could be accessed through: <https://www.cbs.dk/en/study/internationals/exchange-students/undergraduate-courses-exchange-students>.

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 was allocated to a student accommodation (Nimbusparken) which is only 10 minutes walk or 3 minutes of cycling to CBS. All rooms are single rooms. A private toilet is attached to each room, whereas a common kitchen is shared among around 12 students in Nimbusparken. Basic facilities including washing and drying machines, cleaning tools are available, there are also plenty of common areas as well as a parking lot for bicycles. (Note that Nimbusparken is usually allocated to CBS graduates.)

In order to apply for accommodation offered by CBS, we had to indicate our preferences through a link sent to our CBS email address within a specific timeframe. However, allocation is not first-come-first-served. We had to indicate our priorities among 5 student residences, choose a single or shared room, and choose between small, medium or large room. The housing allocation is completed several days after the application deadline. Unfortunately, I was not allocated to any student housing. It was until rooms in Nimbusparken became available that I was given the chance to apply for housing in Nimbusparken. (This piece of information was sent to my CBS email, however it might not be the same case for other semesters.)

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**

Denmark has an extensive healthcare system. As long as you have received your CPR number and the yellow health card, services provided by the Danish public health insurance are free of charge.

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 37,000

Program fee (if applicable)

N/A

Personal expenses

HKD 75,000

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

Danish - Integrated Skills

Emerging Markets ' Societies in Transition

Behavioral Finance

Favourite Food

Danish pastries

Hotdogs from 711

Home-cooked meals with other exchange students

Hang-outs places on campus

Outdoor grass area

CBS Cafe Nexus

CBS Library

Must-dos in the city

Canal Tour and Nyhavn

Visit Freetown Christiania

Bastard Cafe (Boardgame Cafe)

Not-to-dos in the city

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Useful local apps or websites

Citymapper (Map)

DSB (Transport)

Flixbus (Bus Travel)

Words to describe my study abroad experience

Eye-opening

Becoming independent

Fruitful