

Exchange Report

Spring 2024

Copenhagen Business School

Denmark

SO Man Chung

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

The first month of my exchange experience was exciting. Although I had never lived abroad alone before going to Denmark, I immediately adapted to the new living style in Denmark. Upon my second day of arrival in Copenhagen, I was lucky enough to witness the coronation of King Frederik X, as Queen Margaret stepped down and passed the throne to his son after ruling Denmark for more than half a century. Witnessing the grand parade, the marching soldiers, and the sea of Danish flags waving proudly was a truly awe-inspiring experience. During my first week in Copenhagen, I was one of the few residents in my dorm at Nimbusparken, but I was quickly welcomed by my dorm mates, who invited me to join them in watching the coronation festivities at Kongens Nytorv. It was there that I had the pleasure of meeting several Korean exchange students, who became my really good friends as we bonded over sharing home-cooked Korean cuisine that week.

As I began to explore Denmark's renowned landmarks, such as the iconic Round Tower and the bustling Stroget shopping district, I bumped into other CBS exchange students, and we ventured together to the cozy "hygge" atmosphere of Bastard Cafe, where we immersed ourselves in the local board game culture. This initial foray into Denmark's vibrant social scene was just a glimpse of the warm camaraderie and cultural immersion that awaited me during the CBS orientation week.

During this orientation, I joined a treasure hunt across Copenhagen, a captivating boat tour, and an electrifying night of clubbing at one of the city's most prestigious venues. I even had the chance to learn traditional Danish folk dances, laughing and twirling with my new classmates. These experiences not only provided a delightful introduction to Danish culture but also gave me a tantalizing preview of the academic rigor and collaborative spirit that defines the CBS learning environment.

February

The coronation parties are done and I want to get more of Denmark's culture. The communal spirit that I had seen within my first weeks drove me to look for the exchange students who shared my cultural roots just like I did. After all, it was delightful when I found out that some of the best University students in Hong Kong were from HKU or CUHK and they too had an interest in food. Thus, we started a culinary journey where we prepared traditional Chinese dishes together and then went back to our rooms with food containers filled with what we prepared on that day evening. These small interactions were not only about satisfying our palates; rather they helped create a strong sense of community among us as we shared laughter as well as stories while eating plates full of steaming rice bowls.

One particularly memorable occasion was our Chinese Lunar New Year celebration, where we all came together to cook and feast on festive delicacies. We prepared classic dishes like binlo, tong yuen, and pearl milk tea, the latter being a Taiwanese specialty that was too expensive to purchase regularly in Denmark. It was fascinating to see how each of us, hailing from different Asian backgrounds, approached the Lunar New Year traditions. We enthusiastically shared our cultural practices and enjoyed learning from one another. These communal cooking sessions not only helped us maintain a taste of home but also fostered a deep sense of camaraderie and cultural exchange among us. It was truly a highlight of our time abroad, as we bonded over the universal joy of good food and good company.

Emboldened by these newfound connections, I decided to embark on my first European adventure, setting my sights on the historic city of Paris. As I wandered the streets, I was awestruck by the grandeur of iconic landmarks such as the Eiffel Tower, Trocadero, and the Arc de Triomphe. The rich tapestry of French history came alive as I immersed myself in the stories behind these timeless monuments, fueling my curiosity and igniting a deeper appreciation for the cultural heritage of the continent.

March

As the whirlwind of my initial arrival and cultural immersion settled, I sincerely want to explore the academic atmosphere at Copenhagen Business School. Alongside the finance and economic courses I have taken, my HKUST friends and I decided to enroll in the university's Danish language course.

As native Cantonese and Mandarin speakers, none of us had any prior exposure to the Danish language, which is renowned for its complex grammar and pronunciation. However, we truly believe that the best way of learning local culture is to study its language. Hence, we saw this as an opportunity to step outside our comfort zones.

The classes were small and intimate, with our professor taking a patient and interactive approach to teaching. Through a combination of vocabulary drills, conversational exercises, and cultural lessons, we gradually began to grasp the fundamentals of Danish. I particularly remember the sense of accomplishment I felt when I learned how to order a coffee by saying "Jeg vil gerne have en kop kaffe," and express gratitude with the phrase "Tak skal du have."

By the end of the Danish language program, I was proud to have passed the final exam, which required me to give a brief self-introduction and engage in a 15-minute conversation with the professor, answering his questions about my family and career aspirations. This experience was truly rewarding, as I genuinely enjoyed the process of learning a new language and being able to communicate with the locals, even if at a basic level.

Practicing with my HKUST friends during breaks and study sessions also helped solidify what we were learning in the classroom. By the end of the program, we may not have achieved fluency, but we had developed a deep appreciation for the Danish language and the ability to engage in basic dialogues - a valuable skill that enriched our overall experience studying abroad.

April

In addition to bonding over our shared love of cooking, I have gone on a trip with other exchange students from UST to venture beyond Copenhagen and explore other captivating corners of Europe. One of our most memorable trips was to the northern reaches of Finland. We journeyed to the enchanting town of Rovaniemi, the gateway to the Arctic Circle, and were awestruck by the serene beauty of the snowy landscapes.

In this Finland trip, we headed to the ski resort town of Levi, where we spent hours tumbling and laughing as we grappled with the basics of skiing. Yet the sense of fulfillment we felt after mastering even the steepest of slopes was truly rewarding. Our Finnish adventure also included magical experiences like reindeer sledding and visiting the Santa Claus Village, where we really met the Santa Claus and took a family picture with him. The highlight, however, was controlling our pack of huskies as we sped through the powdery trails - an exhilarating ride that left us breathless and filled with wonder.

Apart from that, I have also traveled to Prague, a destination that I have wished to go to since I was small. Wandering the picturesque Old Town, I was captivated by the classical elegance of the architecture, from the iconic Charles Bridge to the imposing Prague Castle. One particularly memorable excursion was our day trip to the Bohemian Paradise, a stunning natural landscape where we navigated a challenging trail of towering rock formations. The sheer beauty of the rugged terrain and the sense of accomplishment in conquering the route left an indelible mark on me.

May

I have stayed in Denmark for most of the last month of my exchange program. During this time, I've come to deeply appreciate the unique atmosphere and culture of Copenhagen.

My experience at CBS has been incredibly fulfilling. The campus environment has fostered a sense of community and intellectual stimulation that I've thoroughly enjoyed. But what I've cherished the most is the opportunity to fully immerse myself in the biking culture that Denmark is renowned for. Being able to bike around the city with my friends in the beautiful spring weather has been an absolute delight.

We've explored so many amazing places by bike, from amusement parks like Bakken and Tivoli, to the serene natural oasis of J-gersborg Dyrehave. The freedom and ease of getting around on two wheels have allowed me to fully appreciate the scenic wonders of Copenhagen. I've especially loved the tranquil moments spent biking through the lush greenery of the city's parks, soaking in the natural beauty that surrounds us.

In between our adventures, I've also savored the chill, laid-back atmosphere of Copenhagen by spending time with friends at cozy coffee shops. Indulging in the famous Danish pastries at my favorite cafe, Buka has become a cherished ritual. And to maintain a healthy lifestyle, I've also enjoyed solo gym sessions, allowing me to recharge and reflect on the incredible experiences I've had during my time here.

June

During the last few days I stayed in Copenhagen, I have gone to buy a lot of souvenirs for my friends, and these souvenirs mainly come from the Legos I built from the stores. I also took the last chance to go around Copenhagen again, and say goodbye to my friends at Nimbus.

July

I have already come back from Copenhagen to Hong Kong

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 hold an HK passport, so I only need to apply for a residence permit in Denmark. The required documents is basically only the proof of I am exchanging at CBS and my passport copy. The visa fee is expensive, and is around 3000 hkd

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

Danish, Behavioral Finance, Risk Management, Emerging Markets, Industrial Organizational Analysis

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 soon after I received the email of being nominated to CBS. The course registration procedures is just to basically choose five courses with back up choices. The related information can be found on their websites, with course details published in advance to the course selection procedures so students can check with the school regarding credit transfer procedures.

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

The accomodation is a student dorm which only consists of exchange students. The application procedure is basically just to fill in my preference for the five available halls and they would allocate to you. The size is not being able to choose though. The accomodation details are on the website of CBS so you can look through it carefully. I think the accomodation worths 200% its cost, because its very spacious and super close to the main campus. The environment is super nice too as you can have individual bathrooms

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 is a Frederiksberg Hospital in our district, which is very near.

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 7,985

Accommodation (for the entire study abroad period)

HKD 36,765

Program fee (if applicable)

N/A

Personal expenses

HKD 76,250

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

Emerging Markets

Behavioral Finance

Favourite Food

Pistachio Crossiant

Binlo

Self-cooked food

Hang-outs places on campus

Frederiksberg shopping center

Main building

DV

Must-dos in the city

Biking

Eating Danish pastries

Visiting Amagerbro beach

Not-to-dos in the city

Staying too late at SE neighbourhood

going to airport in early morning

Not paying transport tickets

Useful local apps or websites

DOT Billetter

Swapfiets

Google Map

Words to describe my study abroad experience

Once-in-a-lifetime

Perfect

Best