

2024 Fall Exchange Report
Copenhagen Business School
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GBUS & OM

Monthly Activity Log

September

I arrived in Denmark on September 2nd, as my internship only ended a week before. I did not have the chance to be part of the orientation and mingling; hence, I reached out to people on the CBS Exchange Whatsapp group chat to venture around (e.g. swimming in Island Brygges). On the second week of September, I did a weekend trip to Stockholm, Sweden, to see my friend Julie who was doing her exchange at Stockholm School of Economics. Weather in Scandinavia is sunny until this time of the year, so travelling to the Nordics at this time is recommended. We explored Gamla stan and enjoyed Fika around the bay area. Mid-September, I met more new people in my dorm, UMEUS Valby, and mainly hung out with kitchen mates who either study at CBS or KU. We explored unique areas such as Reffen, the Louisiana Museum of Art, and weekend vintage markets. At the end of September, I went on a 4-day trip to Germany and Austria for Oktoberfest with friends I met on exchange. As ticket prices to Munich were extremely inflated at the time, we took a plane to Frankfurt first, then a train to Munich. Oktoberfest was a lot of fun as we mingled with locals in the beer tents that served drinks from the most famous German beer brands. It an authentic experience of the German drinking culture. We then took a train to Vienna, Austria, enjoyed a short day trip, then flew back to Copenhagen.

October

In October, the weather started becoming cloudier and rainier. There were some days where the sun did not rise at all. I focused on going to the famous cafes in town such as Atelier September, Lillie Bakery, and La Cabra to try the famous Danish breakfast platter. My friend came over from Korea, so I took her out to historical sites such as Frederiksborg Castle etc. Then, my exchange friends and I went on a trip to the Netherlands. We did a 2 day stay in Amsterdam, where we visited sites such as the Van Gogh Museum and Anne Frank's house and also participated in the Amsterdam Dance Event. Then, I took a flight to Southern Italy, and did a 5-day stay at Salerno, a small Italian city. I stayed in the area for a few days, exploring local restaurants and cafes. Then also took daytrips to areas such as Amalfi, Positano, and Capri. The weather there was sunny and suitable for sea swims – a getaway from the gloomier Copenhagen weather.

November

The weather was gloomiest in November. There was rarely any sun and rain poured very often. So instead of travelling, I stayed at home more often, experiencing the Danish *Hygge* culture with flat mates. We cooked together every day and played board games and chess while sipping wine. Also, one of my courses ended early, so I was busy studying and preparing for the final essay assignment. At the end of the month, Christmas markets started opening around the city, so my friends and I went on daily tours to exploring all of them. Other activities I've done include skating at Broens and visiting Glyptoteket Art museum and Tivoli Gardens.

December

On the first week of December, I went on a short trip to Prague, Czech Republic, mainly to see its famous Christmas markets. The city was compact and small, yet fully decorated with Christmas lights. The Christmas markets were much bigger compared to the ones in Copenhagen and much more packed. There was a bigger variety of food in cheaper prices. Then, it was exam seasons, so for the rest of the month, I focused on revising in the school library or Black Diamond. For Christmas, I did a final trip in London, the United Kingdom. I visited Dellin, a fellow GBUS mate doing her exchange in LSE. We visited famous sites such as the Big Ben, Tower Bridge, Notting Hill and Shoreditch. I also did a day trip in Cambridge where I met up with a friend for a punting tour. A day after Christmas, I came back to Copenhagen, and took some rest for my last days in Europe. On the last day of 2024, I went back home.

General study abroad information

1) Visa Procedures

I hold a Korean Passport. Hence, I could stay in the Schengen area without a visa for 90 days. I took advantage of that I applied for a visa after I arrived. I received my residence permit in Mid-October.

Visa fee: DKK 1,890

2) Orientation Activities

There are orientation activities and even a Denmark trip (going to cities outside of Copenhagen and Lego Land), organized by CBS. I did not attend in both, but the orientation is a good opportunity to make friends. However, I did hear some disappointing reviews from friends who joined the Denmark trip.

3) International Services & Activities

Your exchange buddy is supposed to pick you up at the airport, but my buddy last minute informed me he couldn't come. Luckily one of the HKUST exchange students came to pick me up.

4) Accommodations

Accommodation is not guaranteed. CBS did not assign me a dorm, so I was offered private housing options. I was offered private housing in shared house owned by a HKUST GBUS alumni. However, she began ghosting CBS and me, so I had to find a new accommodation for myself. I signed up to live in UMUES and was assigned a room in UMEUS Valby. The location is a bit far from CBS but there are two buses that directly take you to Solbjerg Plads. UMEUS is not too recommended as they are not likely to return your deposit back (I paid around 15,000 HKD and only got half of it back).

5) Courses Registration

Course registration is relatively easy, I got enrolled to all of my priority choices.

6) Teaching & Assessment Methods

There is no attendance check, and not set schedule. Class schedule is likely to be different weekly, so remember to check your timetable when planning for trips. Classes are more engaging as professors strongly encourage participation from students. Your final exam grade is equivalent to your final grade, so try your best to do well for that final exam. Sit-in exams are difficult whereas final assignments and essays are relatively easy to get a good grade on.

7) Finance & Banking

Danish Kroner are used. I used my HSBC Debit Card, Hana Bank Travel Log Card, and a Travel Wallet Card (latter two are Korean). It is recommended to have both Master and Visa Cards.

8) Climate

Weather is the best in the summer. Please try to come early if you aim to do exchange for the Fall semester. If not, try to explore Northern Europe before October as the weather gets extremely gloomy afterwards. Travelling to Southern Europe is recommended for November and December -- to escape the rainy weather in Denmark.

9) Health & Safety

I got insurance covered for my entire stay. If you have a CPR card and mitID, you can probably get free/discounted health care.

10) Food

Denmark prices are 1.5x Hong Kong prices. Groceries are relatively cheap but eating out is not. Also there are not a lot of great restaurants there, so I cooked a lot. I recommend having brunch out and eating in for dinner as there are a lot of good bakeries and cafes around the city. Bakery Recommendations: HART, Juno, Anderson & Maillard, Andersen Bakery, Rug etc. Cafes: Lillie Bakery, La Cabra, Atelier September, Dzidra, Villette, Conditorei La Glace etc.

11) Transportation

The transportation prices are extremely expensive as going from one zone to another starts from 24 DKK (one-way). Hence, it is recommended to get Swapfiets. However, in November and December, it was too rainy that I got a commuter card for two zones (around 600 DKK per month).

12) Communication

People in Denmark usually use Instagram and Whatsapp to communicate.

For my SIM card, I got a Lyca mobile sim at the 7/11 in the CPH airport. I later changed my data plan on the Lyca mobile website.

13) Sports & Recreation Facilities

CBS offers different sports clubs. I personally did not partake in regular sports clubs, but I did join a one-off session for CBS bouldering club and yoga sessions (30DKK per session) in Dalgas Have. Other than this, gym registration is relatively cheap in Copenhagen, and it's everywhere (Fitness X, Puregym etc.). Fitness X has a regular buddy registration event where you could register a month of gym for 110DKK per person.

14) Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

There are many different clubs, but not all of them are offered to exchange students.

15) Cautionary measures

- Try not to get fined on the metro or the bus by checking whether your ticket includes all zones you plan to travel in.
- Don't go on the metro with your bike during rush hours as you will get fined.
- Remember to buy bike metro tickets as well when you go on the metro with a bike.
- Know the bike rules (when to raise which hand) as the Danish people will shout at you when you seem like a rookie.
- Copenhagen is a relatively safe city, but still be careful with your belongings as my friend got her phone stolen in the SP campus. (by an outsider who randomly entered the building)

Items to Bring

Winter jackets (but if not, there are many places to thrift as well)

Shoes for different occasions (especially rain boots or waterproof sneakers)

Heating mattress

Shower filter

Towels (relatively expensive there)

Rice cooker

Chopsticks

Different Asian sauces needed for cooking

Useful Links and Contacts

s.dk – website to find housing