

Exchange Report

Fall 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.

August

I arrived in Copenhagen on August 16, a few days ahead of most of the exchange students, which is what I needed to get settled in. My home away from home, UMEUS Amager, was a student residence perfectly located to access buses and metros within the city, with a good number of other young tenants living there, with a communal kitchen and a mix of different nationalities and ethnicities among my dorm mates from all corners of Europe and Asia. They were so super hospitable, and we bonded late at night in the kitchen cooking and telling stories about our home countries. Local CBS exchange buddy took me around the city, took me out in the metro, local supermarkets, etc. Over the coming days, I traveled around Copenhagen with my exchange friends from Hong Kong and visited sites like Nyhavn & ate most street food in a Reffen Food Market.

Month Highlights:

- CBS's Exchange Social Program
- Social Introduction Week

I was doing a scavenger hunt-style event in Copenhagen, where my team got lost (so lost) in Christianshavn, but fell into this adorable little hidden cafe and stuffed our faces with Danish pastries before rushing to the next checkpoint. The week ended with a traditional Danish folk dance session, where I clumsily tried to follow the steps but ended up laughing with my new friends. This was such a fantastic kick-off to my adventure of being an exchange student.

September

With the semester well underway, I finally caught the chance to sit through actual lectures at Copenhagen Business School. It was a different kind of teaching from what I was used to in Hong Kong — rather than simply writing down what professors taught, students were encouraged to speak with one another, question what they read and participate in lectures. It was a bit slow to get into, but I was eating up the interactive nature of it. Off-road, this month's clear highlight was a three-day tour of Denmark run by ESP. So we set out on a Friday morning, first to Aarhus, Denmark's second-largest city. If you needed a step back in time, the outdoor Den Gamle By museum with its cobbled streets and old buildings was a pleasant time and place to visit. Later, when my friends and I strolled around the city on our own, we found a homey café and sampled smørrebrød, Denmark's signature open-faced sandwich. The next day, we ventured out to Skagen, where the North Sea meets the Baltic Sea. It was surreal being at the very tip of Denmark, with crashing waves on both sides. That night in Aalborg,

following a delicious Danish dinner, we experienced the city's famous nightlife — a memorable night with locals and foreign exchange students dancing in the streets. The trip ended on a whimsy-filled note with a visit to Legoland in Billund. It was just the thing to cap off the weekend, with impressive Lego constructions and childhood nostalgia on the roller coasters before returning to Copenhagen.

October

October started out with a great trip to Munich for Oktoberfest. The atmosphere was fantastic — lively music, people in traditional costume, huge beer tents. My friends and I got on some rides and we were as tame as hell! One whirled us so fast we almost dropped our pretzels. We also joined a locals' table, and they taught us a Bavarian drinking song — we didn't get the lyrics quite right, but they cheered us nonetheless. Beyond Oktoberfest, we visited Königssee, a famous alpine lake. It was rainy and foggy and the mountains were hidden from view, but that didn't diminish the boat ride so much as lend it a pervasive sense of mystery. The trumpet call echoing across the lake was agonizingly beautiful. We took a FlixBus overnight from Munich to Berlin. The Berlin Wall Memorial and the concentration camps also felt especially rich in historical context. Walking among the giant concrete slabs was surreal and walking through the camp itself was horrifying. After that, I went back to Copenhagen, had an exam in international economics, and then I went on a solo trip to Warsaw. I loved learning about Polish history and food — eating pierogi in a small milk bar was a big favorite. October was an amazing month for me because I visited places and also traveled on my own, which was rejuvenating too.

November

CBS had no exams nor attendance requirement and I decided to travel and study. I spent half the month in the UK, Edinburgh being the starting point where I did a Harry Potter tour. It was magical walking those winding alleys and seeing where they got the inspiration for Diagon Alley. I also hiked up Arthur's Seat for a nice view of the city. I then visited old friends in Glasgow and St. Andrews, sharing stories over fish and chips by the sea. I had a hilarious moment in London where I hopped on the wrong Tube train and went in completely the wrong direction from my intended destination — but it brought me to an amazing vintage bookstore that I would name as one of the highlights of the trip. Skipped the UK and went to Eastern Europe, starting in Prague. The sunset cast over Charles Bridge and Prague Castle and their medieval marvels was breathtaking. I went (as everyone does) to the famous Széchenyi thermal baths in Budapest — a surreal experience when you're out in the cold night sky. My final stop was Ljubljana, a lesser-known fairy-tale-style architectural gem in Slovenia. I walked and took a boat trip out on the Ljubljanica River, just chilled. It was all the adventure that November was supposed to be.

December

With my Eastern Europe trip done, I returned to Copenhagen to study for my Entrepreneurial Finance exam. It wasn't all that hard for me since I had been reviewing the material consistently. After it ended, I went on an overdue adventure with a friend to Norway. We did the "Norway in a Nutshell" tour from Oslo to Bergen and through snow-capped mountains and scenic fjords. In Bergen, we went to Mount Fløyen to get a panoramic view, had fresh seafood on the harbor and wandered around an adorable little Christmas market with lights and warm snacks. The most memorable destination was Tromsø, where we were lucky enough to see the Northern Lights for the first time! Watching the green lights dance in the sky felt surreal. Christmas Day in Tromsø was a bonus for us — we made a snowman and had a hygge, holiday meal in a wooden cabin. We traveled to Helsinki for the final week of December. We walked around the snowy Suomenlinna Fortress, tried an outdoor sauna, and ate reindeer meat at a local food market. This was the perfect capstone to an incredible exchange experience!

January

I booked a flight back to Copenhagen to sit my last ever International Finance exam. My other remaining class had a take-home essay, meaning I had a full week to chop that thing down. I took my last trip to Madrid and Lisbon after my last exams. In Madrid, I feasted on delicious tapas, tried the famous churros with hot chocolate at San Ginés, and toured the Royal Palace, which was more beautiful than I'd envisioned. Whenever we walked through Retiro Park on a sunny afternoon, the best part to enjoy the brightest side of the city was gifted to us. So one of my highlights had to have been seeing a Real Madrid match at Santiago Bernabéu Stadium and the sheer spectacle of the fans there was unreal! Lisbon was a dream. The weather was absurdly good and the coastal scenery stunning. We hopped on the famous yellow tram and traveled up the steep streets of the city, stopping to admire a stunning sunset at the scenic Miradouro de Santa Catarina. Belem, where we tasted the original Pastéis de Nata and it was undoubtedly the best custard tart I've ever tasted. Walking the cliffs at Cabo da Roca, Europe's westernmost point, felt like an appropriate end to my odyssey. This trip, and this unforgettable chapter of my life, ended when I went home 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

As I am holding the HKSAR passport, I had to apply for a residence permit in order to stay for more than three months in Denmark.

Although I could have filled out the application before leaving Hong Kong at the offices in Guangdong, I chose to do it after I'd arrived in Copenhagen, at one of SIRI's offices.

I had to fill out an application form and upload documents.

These documents included:

- Evidence of payment for the application fee to SIRI
- A copy of all pages of my passport
- Documentation demonstrating my enrollment in an educational institution in my home country
- Proof that I would be financially able to support myself while in Denmark.

The application fee would be DKK 2,490 and the processing time, around two months.

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

International Economics

Entrepreneurial Finance

Undergraduate International Finance

Business, Gender and Labor Market Inequality

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)

In early April, CBS will send an email about course selection. You can find the course list for undergraduate programs on their website at cbs.dk/undergrad. Exchange students need to choose four main courses and also select four backup options in case their first choices aren't available.

The application is done through CBS's online system, and the deadline is in late April. Course selection is not first come, first served, so it doesn't matter when you apply as long as it's before the deadline. The results are released in late June, and if you need to make any changes, there is an add-drop period afterwards.

Where did you live during the program?

I lived in UMEUS Amager, an off-campus student co-living accommodation recommended by CBS.

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

While on exchange in Copenhagen, I lived at Umeus Amager, a student co-living place that was about 20–25 mins to campus of CBS by metro.

My floor included a mix of local Danish students, exchange students, a few postgraduates. The mix was both good and bad. I originally applied for student housing through CBS, which had then run out of spots, so I had to look for other options, and then ended up at a flat at Umeus Amager.

Considering its location and how difficult it's been to find private housing on my own, I thought that this would be my best option. Residents had private rooms, and each floor had shared kitchens. I had nice and considerate floormates, which made for a more enjoyable cooking and socializing experience in the common areas. The building had modern amenities like study areas, social lounges, but there were drawbacks. Rent was a bit pricier than other housing, Wi-Fi issues were a problem, and management sometimes was slow to respond. They even had a pretty strict move-out process where they would thoroughly inspect for any kind of damage and charge you pretty hefty, even for minor damages. Otherwise, the general location was well priced, and supermarkets, cafés, and public transport were all close by, making everyday life in Copenhagen much more manageable.

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

Copenhagen is home to an expansive healthcare system. As soon as you have your CPR number and yellow health card, you may avail yourself of public healthcare services 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 10,000

Accommodation (for the entire study abroad period)

HKD 42,000

Program fee (if applicable)

N/A

Personal expenses

HKD 100,000

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

International Economics

Entrepreneurial Finance

Undergraduate International Finance

Favourite Food

Open sandwiches

Thai food in Copenhagen

Pasta cooked by myself

Hang-outs places on campus

CBS Library

Lobby in Kilen

CBS canteen

Must-dos in the city

Visit Tivoli

Biking

Visit Nyhavn and take the canal tour

Not-to-dos in the city

Not studying

Eating out frequently

Not paying on metros

Useful local apps or websites

my.cbs.dk

DOT

Wolt

Words to describe my study abroad experience

Exciting

Remarkable

Fruitful