

September: My adventure began with a mix of excitement and nervousness. Landing in Copenhagen, I was greeted by my assigned buddy from CBS's pickup service—a lifesaver after a long flight. The student apartments, arranged by CBS, were located in the Amager district. Though the rent was steep at 7,500 DKK/month, the convenience outweighed the cost: fully furnished rooms, a shared kitchen, and a 25-minute bike ride to campus through picturesque streets.

Orientation week was a blast! Over 200 exchange students from 40+ countries gathered for icebreakers. The treasure hunt stood out: split into teams, we raced to decode clues leading to iconic spots like *Rundetårn* and *Torvehallerne Market*. Along the way, I discovered *Hart Bageri* and *Skt. Peders Bageri*, two bakeries famous for their *tebirkes* (poppy seed pastries). The canal tour on the final day sealed new friendships—gliding under bridges while swapping stories with peers from Mexico, Italy, and Japan. By week's end, my phone was filled with contacts, and my calendar with coffee meetups.

October: Classes commenced in early September, and CBS's academic rhythm surprised me. I enrolled in five courses. The structure was refreshingly independent—no mandatory attendance or weekly homework. Instead, grades hinged entirely on midterms and finals, which demanded disciplined self-study. Balancing coursework with exploration was tricky. Mornings were spent poring over accounting frameworks in the library, while afternoons involved biking to *Christiania* or picnicking at *Kongens Have* with classmates.

A highlight was CBS's *Buddy Network* events. My buddy, Emilie, invited me to a *hygge* night at her apartment, where we baked *klejner* (Danish cookies) and debated Nordic welfare models. These interactions deepened my understanding of Danish culture beyond textbooks.

November: Winter's grip tightened. By mid-November, daylight dwindled to just six hours, with darkness falling by 3 PM. The gloom initially dampened my spirits, but I adapted. Investing in a sunrise alarm clock and vitamin D supplements helped. Evenings became cozy rituals: cooking *stegt flæsk* (pork belly) with flatmates, hosting board game nights, or attending CBS's free yoga sessions.

Cycling to class grew challenging as temperatures dropped to -5°C. My rented bike—equipped with frost-resistant tires—became my trusty steed. The 25-minute ride through frost-kissed streets felt magical, though I learned to layer up with thermal leggings and a windproof jacket. Academically, midterms tested my grasp of IFRS standards in *International Financial Accounting*, but group study sessions with peers kept me afloat.

December: Finals loomed large. Post-exams, Copenhagen's festive spirit lifted moods. The Tivoli Gardens' Christmas market, with its twinkling lights and *gløgg* stalls, was a sensory delight. A farewell dinner with my flatmates—featuring dumplings, *smørrebrød*, and *risalamande* (rice pudding)—marked the end of an unforgettable chapter.

Reflecting on four months abroad, I marveled at how far I'd come: from fumbling with Danish kroner to confidently presenting a valuation case study, from homesickness to forging global connections. Copenhagen wasn't just a study destination; it became a second home.

General Study Abroad Information

1. **Visa Procedures:** As a Chinese passport holder, I applied for a Danish student visa at the consulate in Shenzhen. Required documents included:
 - CBS admission letter
 - Proof of financial means (6,000 DKK/month, via bank statements)
 - Health insurance coverageProcessing took three weeks, with no interview required.
2. **Orientation Activities:** CBS's orientation blended practicality and fun. Highlights included:
 - **Treasure Hunt:** A team-based exploration of Copenhagen's landmarks and hidden gems.
 - **Canal Tour:** A guided boat trip with historical insights and networking opportunities.
 - **Academic Workshops:** Sessions on CBS's grading system and exam expectations.
3. **International Services:**
 - **Buddy Program:** My buddy assisted with airport pickup, grocery shopping, and navigating public transport.
 - **Weekly Mixers:** Events like *Global Food Nights* and *Language Exchange Cafés* fostered cross-cultural connections.
4. **Accommodations:**
 - CBS arranged student apartments in Frederiksberg. At 7,500 DKK/month, the cost was high but included utilities, Wi-Fi, and laundry facilities.
 - Proximity to supermarkets (*Netto*, *Lidl*) and bike lanes made daily life efficient.
5. **Course Registration:**
 - CBS's online course catalogue was user-friendly. Registration opened in June on a first-come-first-served basis—no complex bidding system.
 - Course syllabi, exam formats, and reading lists were accessible upfront.
6. **Courses Taken:**
 - All five courses focused on exams (midterm 20%, final 80%).
 - No attendance needed, very adjustable to your travel schedule!
 - *Accounting*, *International Economics*, etc.
7. **Finance & Banking:**
 - Denmark uses the Danish Krone (DKK). Avoid cash—MobilePay (a local app) is ubiquitous for transactions.
 - Budgeting tips:
 - Groceries: 3,500-4,000 DKK/month
 - Transport: 300 DKK/month (bike rental)
 - Leisure: 4,000 DKK/month
8. **Climate:**
 - Winter days are short (sunrise ~8:30 AM, sunset ~3 PM).
 - Layered clothing, waterproof boots, and a reflective bike vest are essential.
9. **Health & Safety:**
 - CBS's health center offers free mental health workshops and flu shots.
 - Bike theft is common—always use two locks!
10. **Food:**
 - Eating out is pricey (150-250 DKK/meal). Cooking with flatmates saved costs.

- Must-try: *rugbrød* (rye bread), *frikadeller* (meatballs), and *lagkage* (layer cake).
11. **Transportation:**
- Rent a bike (~300 DKK/month)—Copenhagen’s infrastructure is cyclist-friendly.
 - For longer trips, the Rejsekort travel card offers discounted train/bus fares.
12. **Communication:**
- Purchased a Lebara SIM card at 7-Eleven (199 DKK/month for unlimited EU data).
 - Free Wi-Fi available campus-wide and in most cafés.
13. **Sports & Recreation:**
- CBS’s gym (200 DKK/month) includes yoga and spin classes.
 - Joined a running club that explored parks like *Fælledparken*.
14. **Social Clubs:**
- CBS International Student Network organized pub quizzes and networking dinners.
 - Joined the *Sustainability Club* for green initiatives and farm visits.
15. **Cautionary Measures:**
- Learn phrases like *tak* (thank you) and *undskyld* (excuse me)—Danes appreciate the effort.
 - Avoid biking during rush hour (8 AM and 4 PM) until comfortable with traffic flow.
16. **Other Notes:**
- **Second-Hand Shops:** *Røde Kors* and *Episode* offer affordable winter gear.
 - **Student Discounts:** Use ISIC card for museums, cinemas, and trains.
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Items to Bring

- **Thermal layers:** Merino wool base layers, gloves, and a fleece-lined hat.
 - **Bike accessories:** Puncture repair kit, sturdy lock, and waterproof panniers.
 - **Academic tools:** Financial calculator (essential for accounting courses), EU plug adapter.
 - **Kitchen essentials:** Portable rice cooker (a savior for budget meals), spice kits from home.
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Useful Links and Contacts

- **CBS Housing Portal:** <https://www.cbs.dk/en/student-life/housing>
 - **Bike Rental Services:** Donkey Republic (affordable rates).
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Best Practices of Host Institution:

CBS’s pre-departure webinars clarified visa and accommodation steps. The buddy program’s personalized support—especially Emilie’s tips on thrift shopping and exam prep—was invaluable.

Pictures:





