Exchange Report

Fall Term 2024-25

Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

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Monthly Activity Vlog

August

I arrived in Copenhagen just before the introduction week began. The Exchange Social Program of CBS hosted a series of welcoming events, including folk dancing, campus tour, scavenger hunt, and canal tour. There were also mandatory informational meetings. I visited Nyhavn, the iconic harbor of Copenhagen, and tried some Danish dishes. The city walks were a highlight, allowing me to explore Copenhagen.

September

During the first weekend of September, I traveled to Malmo, Sweden, with some friends from Hong Kong. We took a train from Copenhagen Central Station and arrived at Malmo Central Station in under an hour. Although Malmo is a small city with limited attractions, the experience was enjoyable.

In mid-September, I took advantage of K7 week, a nationwide initiative in Denmark that offers young people free admission to various cultural institutions. Along with a friend visiting from Oslo, I explored numerous museums and attractions in Copenhagen, including Rosenborg Castle, the Natural History Museum, the Round Tower, Amalienborg Palace, the Design Museum, the Museum of Copenhagen, and Glyptoteket.

At the end of September, I visited Hamburg. Since it's quite close to Copenhagen, my friend and I traveled by FlixBus.

October

Following that, I embarked on a two-week trip through Prague, Vienna, and Budapest. The architecture in Prague was stunning, and the food was nice. In Vienna. I visited the Sisi Museum, Belvedere Palace, Schonbrunn Palace, all of which were gorgeous. I also enjoyed a concert at the Golden Hall and attended an opera at the State Opera House. As a fan of the film "Before Sunrise", which was shot in Vienna, I made a point to visit the filming locations.

Among the three cities, I found Budapest to be my favorite. During my visit, it happened to be restaurant week, allowing us to indulge in fine dining at lower prices. The parliament building was spectacular (we were fortunate to wake up early to queue for tickets). I witnessed a breathtaking scene near Fisherman's Bastion, where a red moon rose behind the golden parliament building—a truly magical experience.

Upon returning to Copenhagen, I continued my exploration of the city. I visited several sites, including city hall, the National Museum, the Black Diamond, the DAC, the Grundtvig's Church.

November

In early November, I traveled to Oslo to visit a friend exchanging there. The weather was pleasant, and I enjoyed some delicious seafood. One evening, I went to Aker Brygge, where the sunset was stunning, and the atmosphere was perfect for relaxing and strolling.

I also explored Christmas markets in early November, which added a festive vibe to the city. Additionally, I took day trips outside Copenhagen to Frederiksborg Castle, Aarhus, and Odense.

Later in November, I visited other cities in Norway, starting with Bergen. We spent most of our time leisurely exploring the city. On our last day, we took a cable car up the mountain and saw a beautiful sunset and the (little) blue hour.

Next, I traveled to Tromso. After a short layover in Oslo, I discovered that our flight to Tromso had been canceled. Our plans were disrupted, and I was re-routed to fly from Oslo to Copenhagen, and then to Tromso. Although the situation was humorous in hindsight, the delay lasted seven hours.

Upon finally arriving in Tromso, my friend and I rushed through the snow with our luggage to catch the Northern lights tour bus. Though we were late, we were grateful that they waited for us to set off. Witnessing the Northern lights for the first time was incredible, making all the chaos worthwhile. Tromso was cold, with snow covering everything, so I bundled up in multiple layers and snow boots. The view from Storsteinen Mountain was breathtaking. I also took a beginner skiing class, which was a unique experience while it was snowing.

<u>December</u>

After returning from Tromso, I focused on preparing for my final exams. Once I completed two written exams, I had only two home assignments left, so I decided to take a break. The next day, I visited Tivoli, where the rides were exciting. I also gathered with friends from Hong Kong for a farewell before leaving Copenhagen.

After finishing my exams, I took a solo trip to Milan before heading back to Hong Kong. I also visited Como and Bellagio, wishing I had more time to explore Italy.

General Study Abroad Information

1) Visa Procedures

As a holder of a Hong Kong passport, I do not need a visa to enter Denmark and can stay for up to 90 days. After this period, a residence permit is required. Upon arriving in Copenhagen, I applied for the permit and paid the fee online. In early September, I visited SIRI with the necessary documents. After several weeks, I received the permit. I also applied for a CPR number and received my yellow CPR card a few weeks later.

2) Orientation Activities

Mandatory information meetings provided a brief introduction to CBS. I also purchased an introductory social package through the Exchange Social Program, which included folk dancing, a campus tour, a scavenger hunt, and a canal tour. These activities took place during the last week of August and the first week of September.

3) International Services & Activities

Months before my exchange began, I received an email from CBS offering the opportunity to have a buddy. I accepted, and a local student was assigned to me. She picked me up at the airport, assisted me with my luggage, and brought me to my dorm on my arrival day.

4) Accommodations

CBS offers several dormitory options, including partnerships with other housing providers. I received an email requesting my housing preferences and was allocated my third choice, Umeus, which is not under CBS. I was placed in a newly built dorm in Valby, with a single room and a private bathroom, but without a kitchen. Note: Avoid dorms that require a deposit, as it's likely you won't get it back.

5) Courses Registration

At the end of March, I received an email from CBS that course applications were open. A course list was available online, and I needed to select 4 primary course choices and 4 alternatives. For more than 30 ECTS (typically 4 courses), course overload applications are required. The UST credit transfer database is useful, and CBS provided detailed instructions, making the process straightforward. I had a month to consider my options before the deadline.

6) Courses that You Have Taken

- BA-BHAAV2262U Entrepreneurial Finance (7.5 ECTS) -- written sit-in exam
- BA-BHAAV5003U Introduction to Sustainable Business (7.5 ECTS) -- home assignment
- BA-BHAAV6006U Corporate Strategy (7.5 ECTS) -- home assignment
- BA-BIBAO3011U Managerial Accounting (7.5 ECTS) -- written sit-in exam

Grades were based entirely on final exams, with no homework, group projects, or attendance requirements.

7) Finance & Banking

I did not open a bank account in Denmark. All my transactions in Denmark were conducted using credit or debit cards. I used a very small amount of cash while traveling to other cities, but I relied on cards for 99% of my expenses.

8) Climate

The weather in August and September was pleasant, with moderate temperatures and long, sunny days. However, daylight diminished as November approached, leading to colder, darker days.

9) Health & Safety

Copenhagen is considered one of the safest cities in Europe. I applied for the yellow health card, which grants access to medical treatment in Denmark. Emergency assistance can be obtained by calling the emergency numbers.

10) Food

There are various options for meals: cooking at dorm, ordering delivery, or dining out. Cooking is generally cheaper, and there are numerous supermarkets, including Asian grocery stores, in Copenhagen. CBS canteens also provide lunch choices.

11) Transportation

I travelled around Copenhagen by buses, metro, and S-trains, which operate 24/7. Occasionally, the metro may be temporarily out of service or closed during the early hours. I purchased commuter cards, which is cost-effective for frequent public transport use, as one-way tickets are significantly more expensive than in Hong Kong. Renting a bike is also an option.

12) Communication

Before traveling to Denmark, I purchased several pre-paid SIM cards from 3 in Hong Kong, which cover most European countries.

13) Sports & Recreation Facilities

There are various gym facilities and membership plans for you to consider.

14) Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

There are numerous opportunities to engage socially. CBS hosted a student society day in late September, allowing students to learn about various clubs. Networking activities are also organized.

15) Cautionary measures

- Bring sufficient winter clothing.
- Travelling without a valid ticket can lead to fines of up to 1000 kr.

Items to Bring

- Sufficient clothing
- Travel adapters
- Passport and identification documents
- Credit/debit cards
- Cash
- Stationery
- Personal medicine
- Umbrella
- Backpack

Useful Links and Contacts

CBS Housing: https://www.cbs.dk/en/study/internationals/exchange-students/housing
International House Copenhagen: https://ihcph.kk.dk