

# Exchange Report

## Copenhagen Business School, Denmark



**Hung Ling Yam (William) | Year 4 GBUS & FINA**  
**Spring 2024 to 2025**

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## Part I: Monthly Activity Log

### January

I arrived in Copenhagen on 27<sup>th</sup> of January. Upon my arrival, I moved into my student dormitory in Umeus Valby. As the student accommodation in Copenhagen Business School (CBS) is full, the school allocated me to an external accommodation. It was comfortable, and close to city centre. After meeting up with my buddy to pick up the keys, I headed to the first orientation event, which is a welcome meet up. The full schedule of the orientation events can be seen in the following picture:

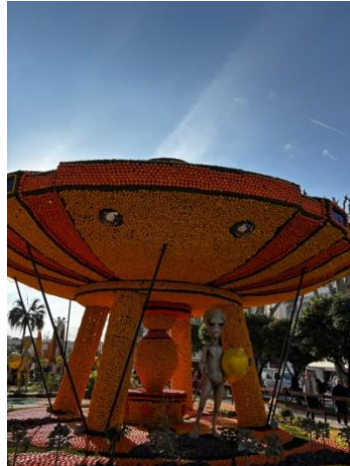
INTRODUCTION WEEK SOCIAL PACKAGE - SPRING 2025						
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
27 JANUARY	28 JANUARY	29 JANUARY	30 JANUARY	31 JANUARY	1 FEBRUARY	2 FEBRUARY
<b>WRIGLEJET PICK-UP</b> FINSSENSVEJ 60 15:00 - 17:00  <b>WELCOME MEET-UP</b> PH DVNHALLEN 18:00 - 20:30	<b>WELCOME PRESENTATION</b> SP01 11:00 - 12:00  <b>CBS GREEN INITIATIVE - CBS HOUSING</b> SP01 12:00 - 13:30  <b>FOLK DANCING (ONLINE SIGN-UP)</b> PH DVNHALLEN 16:00 - 18:00 19:00 - 21:00	<b>INFO MEETINGS</b> SP01 09:00 - 11:00  <b>CAMPUS TOURS (ON YOUR OWN) - MEET-UP</b> PH DVNHALLEN 12:00-14:00	<b>INFO MEETINGS</b> PH DVNHALLEN 10:00 - 11:45  <b>CITY CENTER SCAVENGER HUNT</b> CITY CENTER 15:00 - 18:00  <b>HOT CHOCOLATE MEET-UP</b> CAFÉ NEXUS 17:00-21:00		<b>CANAL TOURS (ONLINE SIGN-UP)</b> VED STRANDEN 26 11:15 - 12:15 12:30 - 13:30 14:00 - 15:00 15:15 - 16:15	

Generally, it consists of a few different types of events. There are information talks about life in Copenhagen as well as study requirements; meet-ups which are essentially a huge networking event with food and drinks; and cultural events which mainly composed of the canal tour and folk dancing. The information meeting is less informative than I had imagined, as all the materials are already sent in email. The campus tour was “self-organized”, which meant that we just roamed the campus on our own after receiving a map from the organizers. Nevertheless, it was a solid start to my exchange journey in CBS as I met new friends and started immersing into the Danish lifestyle.

## February

The semester officially commences on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February. I took 5 courses in total: 3 Q3 courses, 1 Q4 course, and 1 semester course. More details can be found in the *Courses Registration* and *Teaching & Assessment Methods* session in this report. Some lectures are online while some are offline, and attendance is optional for all the courses that I took. Nevertheless, participation in the lecture is active and the professors were all engaging. The teaching method in Copenhagen is quite different from that in HKUST: a lot of group discussions and Q&As in lectures, as opposed to the more traditional chalk and talk method in HKUST. However, I do enjoy the teaching in HKUST more because the pace of the learning is faster and the content is more thought provoking.

After the first week of study, I decided to travel to France. The first stop was Paris. In addition to the famous tourist spots in the city centre, such as the Eiffel Tower, Notre Dame, and Palace of Versailles, I also went on two day-trips to Mont Saint Michel and Bordeaux. After Paris, the next stop was Nice in southern France. In my trip to Nice, I also visited Menton. The timing of my visit was surprisingly good, as there were two carnivals taking place in Nice and Menton: the Nice Carnival and the Menton Lemon Festival respectively. Experiencing the carnivals firsthand was something exceptional.



After my short stay in Nice, the next stop was Italy. I travelled to Rome, Florence, Pisa, Venice, and Milan. However, my trip had a bad start. I caught diarrhea in Rome, and I could not enjoy the delicious food in Rome. Making things worse, my wallet was stolen in a bus, along with all my cash, credit card, student ID, HKID, and keys. I already learnt that pickpocketing was serious in Rome before the trip, but I did not expect to become victim myself. I quickly went to the police station to make a report. With the police report, I was able to claim insurance on the amount that I have lost. While the money lost was recovered shortly, it did cause a huge mental stress on me. The rest of the trip in Italy was decent, although it could be made better with clearer and bluer skies.

## March

After the trip in Italy ended, I went back to Copenhagen for a few days to catch up with the lecture content. The lecture content was not extremely difficult. It was manageable. After a few days of rest, I embarked on another trip to Iceland. This time, I booked a 7-day round-the-island tour. The sceneries on Iceland were another level: waterfalls, fjords, valleys, mountains, deserts, craters, volcanoes, glaciers – nothing ceased to mesmerize me. I had a good luck with the weather as well, with most of the 7 day trip being sunny. Apart from the spectacular views, I also learnt a great deal about Iceland's history through the tour guide, all the way from the beginning of Viking Settlers in 500 AD to the transformation of the economy from banking to tourism in the last decade.



After the trip in Iceland, I began my travel to Spain and Portugal. I travelled to Madrid, Porto, Lisbon, Seville, Granada, and Barcelona in sequence. The things that I loved about these two countries are the culinary experience and the passionate people. I also learnt more about the colonial history of Spain and Portugal, as well as the Islamic period of Spain by visiting monuments and palaces dating back to those periods. It was impressive to see the rise and fall of empires. During my trip, I had 3 online exams. However, they were all manageable because they were only online essays. Moreover, almost 90% of students receive a grade above B. Therefore, passing the exams, even achieving an excellent score, is less difficult that what I had initially imagined. However, studying for the exams remain crucial, as the essays draw heavily on the concepts mentioned in the lectures.

## April

After the trip in Spain and Portugal, another exciting country awaited me: Greece. I travelled to Athens, Zakyntos, and Santorini in early April. All three places offered a starkly different experience. The Athenian experience was filled with history and culture. I always loved the ancient Greek mythology and history. Through the acropolis museum, a visit to the Parthenon, and a day trip to Mycenae,

Asclepius' sanctuary and Napflio, I cemented my knowledge about the civilization that gave birth to democracy and acted as the foundation of Western society. Apart from history, the food was amazing. After Athens, I went to Zakynthos. The primary reason that I went there was because it was one of the filming location of the Descendents of the Sun. Turns out, this place was more than that. The diamond blue waters of Zakynthos will forever stay in my memory. The final stop in Greece was Santorini. It was a relaxing stay. I enjoyed the architecture and design of the city a lot.

After the trip in Greece, I went to London. The trip in London was short, but fulfilling. I visited the British museum, and I finally understood why the British museum is said to tell the story of humanity after scrolling through the vast amounts of artefacts from all ancient civilizations. I also went to Harry Potter Studio, and watched The Phantom of the Opera in His Majesty's Theatre. The cultural experience in London was spectacular.

After London, the next stop was Morocco. I was mainly there for a trip in the Saharra desert, and it did not disappoint. I drove through the desert in quad, rode camel to a desert camp, and looked at the sky brimming with stars at night. Apart from the desert, I also visited the famous blue town. It was indeed a place worth visiting.

After Morocco, I went to Amsterdam to see the tulips and caught up with the friends that I met in an international case competitions that I participated in my second year of university. The sea of tulips made me feel like I'm in heaven, and catching up with my friends was refreshing.

The last stop of my travel is Switzerland. I visited Zurich, Geneva, and Interlaken. The sceneries in Switzerland was on another level. It was peaceful and quiet, far from the noises and hassles of the city. Moreover, I was able to step out of my own comfort zone and tried paragliding. The paragliding experience was definitely one of the highlights of my exchange journey.



## May

I did not do much in May. I was mainly resting and really experiencing the life in Copenhagen. I started learning cooking: moving from only knowing how to microwave pre-cooked food to learning how to prepare basic pasta and meat was a small, but proud step. I also started cycling more in Copenhagen, as it was a city well-connected by biking lanes. Renting a bike was cheap, and getting around with it was a healthy exercise worth the sweat. I also started slowly studying for the exams in June for my last 2 courses. I returned to Hong Kong in the last week of May, and took the online exams in Hong Kong.

## Part II: General Exchange Information

### Visa Procedures

There are two ways to apply for a student visa: in Denmark after arrival or in Guangzhou before arrival. It is not possible to obtain a visa in the Danish Consulate in Hong Kong as only the Guangzhou consulate possess the equipment to record biometric information of the applicant.

As I did not want to travel to Guangzhou just for the visa, I applied for the visa after I landed in Copenhagen. It is necessary to obtain a visa as Hong Kong residents are only granted 90 days of visa free visit in Europe Schengen countries in a span of 180 days, if I remember correctly. This means that if you don't have a visa and you travel to a non-Schengen country after your visa-free period expires, you may be detained by the immigration.

You will have to book an appointment in the immigration office, which is called SIRI, in Copenhagen to record biometric information and submit all necessary documents to obtain the VISA. After 1 or 2 months, a physical visa will be sent to your residence in Copenhagen. Remember to write your name on the mail box to receive it.

### Orientation Activities

For orientation, there are a few packages that are offered by CBS: the free package, the paid package, and the paid package with Danish crash course.

The free orientation package, which is attached below this paragraph, consists of information talks only.

MANDATORY INFO MEETINGS SPRING 2025				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	28 JANUARY	29 JANUARY	30 JANUARY	
	<p><b>WELCOME</b></p> <p><b>PRESENTATION</b></p> <p>SP01</p> <p>11:00 - 12:00</p> <p><b>CBS GREEN INITIATIVE</b></p> <p>12:00 - 12:30</p> <p><b>CBS HOUSING</b></p> <p>12:30 - 13:30</p>	<p><b>LIBRARY &amp; ACADEMICS</b></p> <p>SP01</p> <p>9:15 - 9:30</p> <p><b>IT &amp; CBS PLATFORMS</b></p> <p>SP01</p> <p>9:30 - 9:45</p> <p><b>COURSES &amp; EXAMS</b></p> <p><b>UNDERGRADUATE</b></p> <p>SP01</p> <p>10:00 - 11:00</p>	<p><b>COURSES &amp; EXAMS</b></p> <p><b>GRADUATE</b></p> <p>PH DVNHALLEN</p> <p>10:00 - 11:00</p> <p><b>STUDENT TO STUDENT</b></p> <p>PH DVNHALLEN</p> <p>11:15 - 11:45</p>	

PARTICIPATION IN THE INFORMATION MEETINGS IN THIS SCHEDULE IS MANDATORY.

I joined the the paid orientation package, which costed around 200 DKK. The schedule and activities are listed in the image below. The meet-ups are just free networking

sessions. There are no hosts, no activities, only snacks and drinks. You just go there and talk to the people to meet friends. To me, these meet-ups are not as well-organized compared with the cultural activities. Folk dancing and canal tours are quite interesting and are worth joining.

<b>INTRODUCTION WEEK SOCIAL PACKAGE - SPRING 2025</b>						
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
27 JANUARY	28 JANUARY	29 JANUARY	30 JANUARY	31 JANUARY	1 FEBRUARY	2 FEBRUARY
<b>BRACELET PICK-UP</b> FINSENSVEJ 6D 15:00 - 17:00  <b>WELCOME MEET-UP</b> PH OVNHALLEN 18:00 - 20:30	<b>WELCOME PRESENTATION</b> SP01 11:00 - 12:00  <b>CBS GREEN INITIATIVE + CBS HOUSING</b> SP01 12:00 - 13:30  <b>FOLK DANCING</b> (ONLINE SIGN-UP) PH OVNHALLEN 16:00 - 18:00 19:00 - 21:00	<b>INFO MEETINGS</b> SP01 09:00 - 11:00  <b>CAMPUS TOURS (ON YOUR OWN) + MEET-UP</b> PH OVNHALLEN 12:00-14:00	<b>INFO MEETINGS</b> PH OVNHALLEN 10:00 - 11:45  <b>CITY CENTER SCAVENGER HUNT</b> CITY CENTER 15:00 - 18:00  <b>HOT CHOCOLATE MEET-UP</b> CAFE NEXUS 17:00-21:00		<b>CANAL TOURS</b> (ONLINE SIGN-UP) VED STRANDEN 26 11:15 - 12:15 12:30 - 13:30 14:00 - 15:00 15:15 - 16:15	

If you are planning to arrive at Copenhagen two weeks before the semester starts, then maybe the social package with crash course is more suitable for you. I did not join this package so I have no comments. The schedule is attached below for your reference

<b>CRASH COURSE WEEK SOCIAL PACKAGE - SPRING 2025</b>					
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>TUESDAY</b>	<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>THURSDAY</b>	<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>SATURDAY</b>
	21 JANUARY	22 JANUARY	23 JANUARY	24 JANUARY	
	<b>BRACELET PICK-UP</b> FINSENSVEJ 6D 17:30 - 18:00  <b>DANISH HYBEE NIGHT</b> TOO OLD TO DIE YOUNG 19:00 - 21:00	<b>INTERNATIONAL BUFFET</b> DALGAS HAVE (DH) 17:30 - 20:00	<b>QUIZ NIGHT</b> CAFE NEXUS 17:00 - 20:00		<b>DISCO BOWLING</b> BOWLERNESHAL GRONDAL 19:00 - 21:00

### **International Services & Activities**

Every exchange student is paired with a buddy. The buddy picks up the keys for you and also receives you at the airport if you request so.

### **Accommodations**

You can apply for accommodations in the official portal. You first select whether you want single room or double room, and then the specific dormitory that you desire. Unfortunately, I was not allocated to a room in the dormitories provided by CBS. Instead, they connected me with an external student accommodation provider called UMEUS.

For 7600DKK a month, I get a single room that is too big for myself. I gain access to a huge kitchen and the dormitory is conveniently located in just 10 minutes of bus away from campus. The rental may seem expensive compared with UST standards, but it is the cheapest option that you can find in Copenhagen already.

**However, I do not recommend Umeus Valby.** They find reasons not to return your deposits. My entire 8,000DKK deposit was not returned to me because they thought my room was dirty.

### Courses Registration

Each semester is split into 2 quarters in CBS. In the second semester, it is split into Q3 and Q4. Each course can last for one quarter or one semester. Generally, students can register for 4 courses per semester. As I may not meet my graduation requirements, I registered for 5 courses after handing in a letter of priority.

The 5 course that I registered are:

1. Global People Management: Human Resource Management & Leadership
2. Principles of International Marketing
3. Language of Negotiations
4. Behavioural finance
5. Risk Management of Multinational Enterprise: Creating Global Strategic Responsiveness

In total, if there are no accidents, I should be able to transfer 18 credits to HKUST. Although this may seem a lot, it is not guaranteed that you can register 5 courses. Many exchange students do submit letter of priority, and not everyone's need is satisfied.

### Teaching & Assessment Methods

The lecture is generally taught on campus, with a mix of a few online lectures depending on the professor's availability. Attendance is optional, and depending on the course, homework is optional as well. For all the 5 courses that I registered, 100% of the grade is in the final online exam, which is a 10-page online essay.

The grading is extremely lenient. For the three Q3 courses that I took, the mean grade is B, B, and A respectively. In the course that has an average grade of A, more than 80% of students scored an A, which is unimaginable if we compare it with the grading in Hong Kong. Obviously, the professors do not curve the students. The grades of the two Q4 courses that I took have not been released yet, and I expect a similarly lenient grading approach.

### **Sports & Recreation Facilities**

There are gyms in proximity to the student accommodation. However, I was too lazy to hit the gym so I don't know how much they charge.

### **Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)**

Copenhagen is generally cashless. I applied for HSBC world debit card before my exchange. It offers a better exchange rate compared with the student visa credit card. I did not use cash in any place in Copenhagen, so I don't see a real need to exchanging HKD to DKK.

### **Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities**

There are regular gathering held by the external student accommodation that I lived in. generally once every two weeks and in every holiday like Easter. The career team in CBS also sends out regular email for career opportunities.

### **Health & Safety**

I did not get sick in Copenhagen, so I cannot inform you about the procedures of seeing a doctor. As for safety, Copenhagen is a pretty safe city compared with the rest of Europe. The only thing that gets stolen is bikes. Or maybe your food in the common kitchen. Apart from that, there are no thieves. It is an extremely safe city to be in.

### **Food**

Eating outside in Copenhagen is very expensive. Generally, it costs around 200HKD per person per meal for an average restaurant. There are restaurants that offer cheaper options, starting from 80DKK, but they are a rare gem.

Therefore, cooking in Copenhagen becomes a necessity, unless you have an unconstrained budget. The two supermarkets that I visit the most are Føtex and Lidl. Lidl offers the cheapest groceries in town. The average cost of a meal is around 30 to 40 HKD per person if you shop there. I only go to Føtex if there is something that I cannot find in Lidl.

### **Transportation**

The transportation network in Copenhagen is really developed, and you can pretty much get to anywhere with trains, metros, or buses. However, compared with Hong Kong, it is very expensive to travel. It costs 30DKK, which is around 36HKD, for one bus, train or metro ride.

A healthier and sometimes cheaper option is to travel by bike. You can buy a brand new or used bikes from previous exchange students, or rent a bike. I like cycling so I always rented bikes through the app Donkey Republic. If you are on a budget, try to avoid Lime. They are electric bicycles and cost a lot more. All the areas in the city are well-connected by biking lanes. Biking is a safe and healthy way to travel.

### **Climate**

It is a lot colder than Hong Kong. In winter, it hovers around -5 to 0 degrees. Remember to bring sufficient warm clothes, especially if you intend on travelling around with bikes. The wind is extremely strong if you go on bikes and I have friends that caught a cold because they did not wear enough when they biked.

### **Communication**

I bought 10 sim cards in Hong Kong, which costs around \$100 each. They are all 10GB data cards that can be used everywhere in Europe for a month.

A cheaper option would be to open an account in the local telecommunication company. However, I was too lazy to do that.

### **Cautionary measures**

Copenhagen is really safe and is just a more expensive version of Hong Kong. However, if you do intend to travel to other parts of Europe, be aware of thieves and travelling alone at night. It is far less safe in other parts of Europe compared with Northern Europe.

Moreover, if you travel to places like Italy, beware of people talking to you randomly. They are usually scammers who will force you into buying things. If you take photos of people wearing special costumes in the street, they may also charge you money.

### **Part III: Items to bring**

There are no special items that you need to bring apart from the usual items on your travel checklist.

### **Part IV: Useful Links and Contacts**

You can find all the links and information about CBS on their sharepoint:

<https://studentcbs.sharepoint.com/sites/Library>

You need a CBS account before you can log in.