

Exchange Report



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Copenhagen Business School, Denmark

Exchange Semester: Spring 2024/25

Part I: Monthly Activity Log

January

I arrived in Copenhagen on January 16th, 2025, and spent the first few days settling into the city. Shortly after, I made a short trip to Malmö, Sweden, to visit a close friend. One of the highlights was visiting the Disgusting Food Museum, which was a fun and unusual experience that set the tone for my time in Scandinavia.

Back in Copenhagen, I participated in the university's comprehensive introductory week, which included both academic guidance sessions and plenty of social activities. This was a great way to meet other exchange students and start building friendships. I also joined a city excursion with some new friends, where we explored famous spots such as Nyhavn, which immediately gave me a strong first impression of Copenhagen's charm and vibrant atmosphere.

Traveled countries: Denmark and Sweden



February

The semester officially began in the first week of February. I enrolled in four courses: Family Business Management, Macroeconomics in a European Perspective, Emerging Markets in Europe, and Global People Management. The classes were structured differently compared to HKUST, with more emphasis on discussion and participation. One of the highlights was how professors often tied theory to European case studies, giving me a new perspective.

Outside of class, I attended a home game between FC Copenhagen and FC Midtjylland with a Hungarian friend, which was my first exposure to Danish football culture. The atmosphere in the stadium was electric and unforgettable.

Later in the month, I traveled to Finland, visiting both Helsinki and Rovaniemi. Rovaniemi, located in the Arctic Circle, was especially memorable. We enjoyed reindeer rides, skiing, and the winter wonderland atmosphere. The experience of being so far north, surrounded by snow and wilderness, was unlike anything I had seen before.

Traveled countries: Finland



March

March was filled with unforgettable travel experiences. Early in the month, I went on a trip to Iceland with friends, where we explored glaciers, soaked in breathtaking natural scenery, and witnessed the Northern Lights. While the landscapes were stunning, sharing the experience with friends made it even more special.

Academically, I completed the final essays for my Emerging Markets in Europe and Family Business Management courses. Since these were quarter-based, the workload wrapped up earlier, giving me more flexibility.

Later, I flew across the Atlantic to visit my girlfriend in Boston. From there, we traveled to New York City, where I visited the Empire State Building, Central Park, the Brooklyn Bridge, and Wall Street. Visiting iconic landmarks I had only seen in movies was surreal. I also visited MIT, Harvard, and NYU, gaining perspective on how education differs across the US, Europe, and Asia.

Traveled countries: Iceland, United States



April

April began with a slower pace in Copenhagen. I immersed myself in local culture, often sitting in the park at noon with a beer, and cycling around the city to explore neighborhoods and landmarks like the Little Mermaid.

Later in the month, I embarked on a solo trip to Prague, Vienna, and Budapest. Traveling alone gave me the freedom to discover at my own pace, and I met new people along the way. In Vienna, I spent time with a solo traveler from the UK, exploring the city together. One highlight was listening to live music by the river in Prague, which gave me a new perspective on enjoying a laid-back lifestyle.

I also traveled with friends to Germany and the Netherlands, exploring the history of Berlin, the canals of Amsterdam, and the modern architecture of Rotterdam. Each city offered something unique and deepened my appreciation of Europe's diversity.

Traveled countries: Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Germany, Netherlands



May

May was one of the most memorable months of my exchange, as I shared it with family and friends. My mom visited me in Copenhagen, and I showed her around the city, including Reffen Street Food, one of my favorite spots. Together, we traveled to Switzerland, where we visited Interlaken, Jungfrauoch, Lake Montreux, and the Matterhorn. The views of the Swiss Alps were breathtaking.

Later, I traveled with a friend to Greece, visiting Athens, Mykonos, and Santorini. The trip combined cultural exploration with the relaxed island lifestyle.

To finish the month, I reunited with a high school friend in Italy. We explored Milan, Florence, and Rome, where I experienced iconic landmarks like the Colosseum and the Duomo di Firenze. This final trip felt like the perfect conclusion to my European adventures.

Traveled countries: Switzerland, Greece, Italy



June

June marked the end of my exchange journey. After packing up my housing and saying goodbye to friends, I flew back to Hong Kong with a short interchange in Turkey. Though it was difficult to leave, I felt grateful for the experiences I had — from immersing in Copenhagen’s lifestyle to traveling across Europe and beyond.

Traveled countries: Turkey (transit)

Part II: General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

For non-EU students, a residence permit is required to study in Denmark. The process involves paying the fee online, submitting documents, and recording biometrics at the immigration office in Copenhagen. Processing usually takes a few weeks.

Orientation Activities

CBS organizes an introductory week with academic guidance and social events, which is a great way to meet people and adjust to Copenhagen.

International Services & Activities

Exchange students are paired with local buddies who assist with settling in and often organize dinners or trips.

Accommodation

I stayed in external student housing referred by CBS, about 10 minutes by bike from the city center. It had a diverse international community and was convenient for both studying and socializing.

Course Registration

CBS uses a quarter system alongside semester-long courses. I took Family Business Management (Q1), Emerging Markets in Europe (Q1), Macroeconomics in a European Perspective (semester), and Global People Management (semester).

Teaching and Assessment Methods

Attendance was not mandatory, but participation was encouraged. Assessments were mostly final exams or essays, with lively class discussions.

Sports and Recreation Facilities

Private gyms are affordable, and Copenhagen offers excellent outdoor options like cycling and jogging.

Finance and Banking

Most transactions are cashless. I used international credit/debit cards and didn't open a Danish bank account.

Climate

Winter is cold, windy, and wet, so waterproof clothing is essential. The weather becomes pleasant from April onward.

Health & Safety

With a CPR number, students can access Denmark's healthcare system affordably.

Food

Eating out is expensive, so most students cook at home. Supermarkets like Rema 1000, Netto, and Føtex are common.

Transportation

Cycling is the best way to get around. The metro is clean but costly. Rejsekort cards make public transport cheaper.

Communication

I used Vodafone, topping up plans as I traveled around Europe. It provided reliable coverage across countries.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

CBS offers a wide range of clubs and societies, and the international community is very active.

Part III: Checklist of Items to Bring

1. Passport and residence permit documents
2. Debit/Credit cards (international cards are widely accepted)
3. Warm winter clothes (waterproof jacket, gloves, scarf, sturdy shoes)
4. Power adapters (European type)
5. Backpack or small bag for weekend trips
6. Medication & personal health supplies
7. Euros for travel around Europe
8. Reusable water bottle & tote bag
9. Laptop & portable charger
10. Noise-cancelling headphones or earplugs
11. Locks for luggage/backpacks

Part IV: Useful Links

- CBS Portal: <https://studentcbs.sharepoint.com/>
- CBS Exchange Courses: <https://www.cbs.dk/en/study/internationals/exchange-students/undergraduate-courses-exchange-students>
- CBS Housing Info: <https://www.cbs.dk/en/study/internationals/exchange-students/housing>
- Skyscanner (flights): <https://www.skyscanner.com/>
- Omio / Trainline (train & bus): <https://www.omio.com/> | <https://www.thetrainline.com/>
- ISIC Card: <https://www.isic.org/>
- Hostelworld & Booking.com: <https://www.hostelworld.com/> | <https://www.booking.com/>
- Rejsekort info: <https://www.rejsekort.dk/>