Exchange Report

Copenhagen Business School (CBS)
Denmark
Business Administration
Fall 2015

Preparation For Exchange:
One of the key things that I would highly recommend before an exchange is to plan some of the big trips you want to make before you leave. The 4-month exchange in Copenhagen goes very quickly, so make sure you at least have an idea of some of the things you want to do before you leave. Travelling throughout Europe is very easy once you get to the continent so I would highly recommend leaving Denmark for a few weekends and seeing some other places. I personally made it to Spain, Sweden, Germany, France, Austria, and Germany during my exchange.

People in Denmark speak Danish and it is the conversational language; that being said absolutely everyone speaks English so don’t worry at all about the language barrier. If you visit southern Europe English is less common.

Packing:
Copenhagen’s climate is very similar to Vancouver’s so bring your usual wardrobe. It’s wet and doesn’t get that cold. Black clothing is very fashionable and you will probably be biking everywhere you go so make sure your clothes are decently comfortable.

Travel:
One cool opportunity I had when travelling to Denmark was taking an extended layover in Iceland. If you fly with Iceland Air you can take a 48-hour layover in Iceland at no extra cost. This is a great opportunity to see a really cool country.

Within Copenhagen there is an extensive metro, train, and bus system but it is quite expensive. All most everyone in Copenhagen rides a bike. I would highly recommend buying a cheap used bike on Copenhagen’s most popular classified dba.dk (be careful that the bike is not stolen, like buying on any classified you are taking a risk). Bikes are by far the most convenient mode of transportation in the city, there are bike lanes everywhere and there is a bike path that goes right through the CBS campus (the green path). I would recommend living near the CBS campus and bike to class. If you are not comfortable riding a bike do not try to learn in Copenhagen.

The train system webs out from Copenhagen’s city center and is a great way to see some of the outlying cities. I knew a lot of people on exchange who had never left
the city, there is a lot more to Denmark than Copenhagen so hop on a train and go see some of the other communities. Some easy to get to cities (1 train) are Hillerød, Helsingør, Roskilde, and Frederikssund.

Hillerød is home to Frederiksborg slot, and amazing castle on a lake. Helsingør is home to Kronenborg slot another great castle that looks over the strait towards Sweden. Roskilde has a great Viking museum and old Viking ships in the tiny harbour, there is also a massive music festival there if you’re in Denmark for the summer. Finally, Frederikssund is just a tiny coastal town that is quite beautiful.

**Financial Details:**
Denmark is expensive; there is no escaping it. Denmark uses the kroner (Crown) which as of right now 1DKR = 0.2CAD roughly. So 25 DKR is about $5. Most places take cash or card.

I was lucky enough to live with family but I have heard that rental prices are comparable to Vancouver’s. Food from a grocery store is usually fair pricing and comparable to Canada but eating out is extremely expensive. Coffee is very expensive; get your last Starbucks in Vancouver unless you want to pay $10 for a coffee in Denmark. The local coffee shops are the best way to go and the cafeteria on campus at CBS is one of the most economical places to get lunch.

**Arrival:**
CBS has a buddy program, I would highly recommend being a part of this as you get to meet a Danish student who will meet you at the airport and help you get settled. For me it was a little different as I was visiting family and I am already quite comfortable with Danish culture but having a buddy was still a great way to meet friends at school.

**Academics:**
CBS is very different academically. All of my classes were based 100% on my final exams. The lack of weekly assignments meant most of the learning was each student’s responsibility and classroom time was mainly used for discussion. Classes I had a presentation in most of my classes where I worked with other students. Final exams were also very different. I took 4 classes on exchange, 2 had finals exams that were a take home written report assignment, 1 was a 4 hour in class written essay final exam, and the last was a written report followed by a 20 minute one-on-one oral exam with the professor. The oral exam was a little scary as 100% of your mark is based on a 20 minute discussion with you professor about the course.

**Food:**
Denmark has its own unique food. Pork, potatoes and fish are traditionally Danish. Some of the key things to try are:
- Flæskkesteg: Roast pork
- Brun kartofler: Danish potatoes
- Ristet Pølser: fancy fully loaded hot dog
- Smørrebrød: Danish open faced sandwiches

Another special experience is to try a Jule Frokost (Christmas Lunch) if you can get a local Dane to invite you.
Social:
Drinking is a big part of Danish culture. The local campus bar, Nexus, is very popular and every Thursday turns into a nightclub. The downtown Copenhagen nightlife is very fun, just being conscience that the Danes know how to drink so know your limit. Smoking is much more wide spread in Europe so be ready for that especially if you are going out at night.

In regards to extra curricular events there are many clubs at CBS and they have a club’s day at the beginning of the semester, very similar to SFU. I love sports so got involved with a group of guys who played soccer every week and I trained with a local track and field team. There is also a Crossfit club and gym in the basement of the main campus.

What I wish I knew:
- There is no public transit card for exchange students. You have to pay the regular fee.
- 4 months of exchange feels like 4 weeks. I’m glad I planned ahead or I would’ve blinked and missed it.
Frederiksborg Slot - Hillerød

Parken – Watching FC København play as part of my Sports Economics Class
View of Copenhagen