Hi everyone, this is a Post Exchange review report for my exchange program. I participated in the Fall 2016 business exchange program with Copenhagen Business School. I chose to do my exchange in Denmark during my 4th year undergraduate degree!

The preparations for my exchange were smooth and easy and I appreciate SFU study abroad for guiding me through the process. If I had to go through the entire process again, I would not worry as much because SFU helped me with things like Visa documents and applications.

I travelled to multiple destinations during my stay. I travelled to Italy, Germany, France, and UK. Most exchange students at CBS travelled constantly, some not coming back until final exam! I think it is wise to save up for travel expenses before you come to study abroad because from my experience, the more you travel the more wonderful memories you will bring back with you. When I look back at my exchange time, I mostly think about the times I travelled. I did not get to see Norway and Iceland in particular, but I heard it is absolutely beautiful up there. If you study in countries like Denmark, you can take a boat to Norway for a weekend trip with your friends.

In terms of packing, I researched how the weather is like in Skandinavia and packed warm for the winter. If you are going to Denmark, it is VERY windy and rainy, so it would be great to pack accordingly. For travel and transportation, the Copenhagen Airport and train transportation is fairly accessible to everyone and there should be no problem getting around. You would probably need to fly to London first then get a flight to Copenhagen because there are no direct flights from YVR.

When I got to Denmark, I opened a local bank account near campus. Most shopping transactions are made on debit or credit cards. In the first month of your arrival, the city will send you a social security number and health card. You need to register yourself at a city office. Once you get these cards, take care of them because this is your identity in Denmark. If you lose it, it will be a tiresome process to apply for another one. You will also need these cards to sign up for University exams and even get a school ID card. The reason why my study visa for Denmark was as high as $800 is because it included health care cost for the 4 months I was there. Remember, that you can only get this when you live there so you will have to cancel your registration as soon as you leave the country.

The cost of living is high and you will be spending quite a lot in Copenhagen, so I recommend getting the Amazon visa card with no additional foreign transaction fees or bring cash and open an account there. Eating out in Copenhagen is very
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expensive (one of the most expensive in the world) and one small meal will start around $20-30 CAD. Also, the housing is a big program in Denmark. Try to get into school residence or find a reasonable landlord who can accommodate your needs. I paid $1500 for a really small room because I could not find anything else. I met multiple exchange students looking for housing even when they arrived. They lived in a hotel for weeks until they found a house they could switch to. So, my advice is to do a lot of research on housing. If you are looking for private housing, airbnb is probably one way to go. I heard that websites like craigslist have a scam rate of 99% so I would avoid it. Please note that if you need help with anything related to housing, there is a housing department at CBS to help you look for one. There is no guarantee for a spot as they need to help 800 exchange students each semester but if you contact them early (a month before your exchange starts) they may be able to get you in touch with a landlord.

The exchange program started off with an introductory orientation. The first week, students got together and participated in activities ranging from dining out and movie nights. The introductory activities helped us find friends that lasted throughout the exchange semester. In terms of adjusting to the culture, it took around one month for me. If you want to experience local life, I recommend getting a bike and biking your way throughout the city. Biking is very common in Copenhagen. The city is relatively small so it is faster to bike than take transit. And yes, locals bike in the snowstorm, too.

There are four business campuses at CBS. Lecture is similar to Canadian style, but there are no assignments or midterms like SFU. Instead, your entire grade is based on the final exam mark. For me, this was great because that meant I could travel freely throughout the semester and study during exam time. Another interesting fact about CBS is that each of their semesters is 1.5 months long. So, I took 2 courses in the first 1.5 months, then 3 courses in the following 1.5 months. It was not difficult to manage 5 courses as long as you study smart. CBS is a public school and students usually self-teach themselves by keeping up with the daily reading. If you want to do well in exams, you need to master/memorize the textbook because professors don’t teach what is on the exam. The exam is written by the city and teachers don’t know what will be tested. If you have questions about the course, you will need to email the study board instead of the teacher.

My experience in Denmark was great! I recommend everyone considering an exchange to study abroad during their university degree because you can meet so many new friends! There are definitely challenges that can be mitigated by doing sufficient research ahead of time, choosing the right school, and choosing the best destination for you. I recommend reading reviews posted on SFU abroad webpage.

Thank you for reading my post and I hope it helps.
Have a good time on your exchange!
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