Exchange report

I am a third year Beedie student majoring in Accounting and MIS. During Fall 2019, I went on exchange to Copenhagen Business School, Denmark.

Courses and Academic details

I first looked at Beedie exchange credit database for course reference, and then looked through CBS’s website for available courses. CBS has three different courses – Q1, Q2, and semester. The first two with Q means that they only last half a semester, either the first half or the last half. Semester means that they last the whole semester. Courses may vary regarding credits (they call ECTS), but the maximum course load is 30 ECTS. CBS has a different course system. Instead of planning your own schedule while choosing courses, you are only allowed to choose your courses. Then you submit your courses via the link that they send through email. You are allowed to submit more choices than the limit and give preference to each one, as there are no guarantees that you will be enrolled in all the courses that you want. Several weeks later, they will notice you via email which courses you are enrolled in. At this time, you are allowed to switch courses, drop courses, and add courses. Then, approximately late August, you will receive your course schedule, which is arranged by CBS. You can then switch sections if you would like to, which can be done by either emailing the international office or dropping in their office.

I took four courses on exchange: two Q1 (International Business and Corporate Governance), one Q2 (Human Resources), and one semester (Marketing). Usually I have classes three days a week, leaving me enough time to travel and explore Copenhagen. The grading system and the exam system are also different. Except for certain courses which have midterms, generally all the courses depend solely on
the final exam. And the common types of exam include home assignment, oral exam, sitting-in exam, and written assignment with oral defense.

**Housing**

I lived in KK during my exchange, which is a student dorm located 10 minutes away from the main campus by bike. CBS has very limit spaces for dorm and the process is very competitive. There are 6 dorm choices and three different room types, and all the details are illustrated clearly on CBS’s housing website. When it is the application time, you will first be placed in the application line based on order. When it is your turn, you can submit your housing application and rank all your choices based on your preference. Later, they will email you whether you get your room or the dorm is full. One tip is that making sure your Internet connection is great so that you can stand in front of the line to submit your application sooner.

I lived in a single room with own bathroom and kitchen. The building is pretty new and the room is equipped with basic furniture. Besides, the dorm provides all the Kitchen supplies such as bows, spoons, and kettles, and all the bed liners such as sheet, pillow, and a duvet. Plus, we had dorm group chat in Whatsapp, enabling us to make friends and hang out. In KK, our manager would arrange special celebration events on special occasions such as Welcome party and Christmas decoration.

**Transportation**

I flew from Beijing to Copenhagen and it took me 15 hours including transfer. I bought my plane ticket early so the cost was about 400 CAD. In Copenhagen, there are three ways that you can take the public transportations. The first way is pay as you use and it is suitable for those who rarely use. You can just buy single trip ticket every time you take the metro or bus. The fare depends on how many zones your trip will cover, which is usually about 5-6 CAD. The second way is buy a metro card which costs 15CAD. By depositing money into your card, you can buy the ticket with discount. You can return your card at the Central Station when you finish your exchange, and you can get the remaining money back. The third way is buy monthly pass, which is suitable for those who live far away from campus.

Additionally, In Denmark, there are more bicycles than people, and the most common means of transportation is cycling. I rent a bike during exchange and it was really convenient and cost-saving. Thus it is really important that you master cycling before your exchange term.
Financial

As I only stay for one semester, I didn’t apply for a credit card at the local bank. I brought one Visa and some cash and it was totally enough. Copenhagen is pretty much a card-based society. Most of the places take multiple types of credit cards such as Visa and Mastercard. Only few places are cash only. I would suggest taking 2000-3000 Danish crowns and using credit card mainly. But be sure to check with your bank whether or not they charge service fee every time you pay in a foreign currency.

Country information

Denmark is famous for its high cost of living. Thus I would suggest taking enough clothes, stationary, and shoes if you want to save some money. The food there is pretty much Nordic food: open sandwiches, cold meals, and different type of fish dishes. Also, Denmark is a great choice to experience the Nordic culture and Andersen’s Fairy Tales. The climate there is close to Vancouver, but it is very windy.

Reflection after exchange

Studying abroad is really a precious experience that worth to be cherished. If I didn't come to exchange, I wouldn't have the chance to be immersed in the Danish cultural and study in CBS while travelling around Europe. Also, studying European business cases in lectures really widened my horizon and it provided me with new perspectives when dealing with similar business issues. Some travelling tips I would provide are checking out the website of Norway tourism and booking the trip “Norway in a nutshell” to explore and see the Fjord; going to The Munich Oktoberfest – the largest traditional and authentic beer festival in the world – if you are going to Europe in the fall semester; eating classic seafood rice and drinking Spanish sangria in Barcelona; going to Sweden in October to experience its wonderful golden autumn and try its yummy meatballs; checking out Brussel’s main square and eating lots of chocolate there.😊