Hello!

I attended the Copenhagen Business School in Denmark this Summer 2019 semester. I took two courses: Undergraduate Corporate Finance, and Applied Statistics for Business and Economics during the six-week program which ran from June 25th to July 25th with final exams ending on August 2nd.

**Preparation for Exchange**

*Valuable Information & Academic Details*

When planning my exchange, I narrowed my top 3 exchange locations down by sorting out which schools would actually offer courses that could potentially count as credits towards my BBA at SFU. Also, I narrowed down my location choices by the course offerings by semester. Since I am already in my last year of my degree, it was tricky to plan around various exchange university’s course offerings and timing the courses I was taking to fit with the courses I needed to take back at SFU. Starting early and taking it one day at a time definitely is the way to go. Taking a look at previous student’s courses and credits awarded back at SFU is worthwhile. This also allowed me to go in to see the Study Abroad Advisors with questions or concerns all in a timely manner during the application process and after my nomination in preparation for pre-departure.

Prior to actually leaving to go on exchange, I started all of the “pre-departure” items listed on the International Exchange checklist that SFU provides to students nominated for exchange. The earlier this is completed, the less of a headache it will all be. Leaving the country more prepared is much better than leaving underprepared in case of an emergency.

**Packing**

When packing, remember most of the items you would need (ie. Toiletries) can be purchased once you get to your exchange country. To avoid extra baggage fees, pack light and only bring the essentials especially if you’re like me and like to shop. I had so much stuff that I had to leave stuff behind in Denmark as donations to be able to bring back new clothes and souvenirs for friends and family back home. Also, if you’re like me and want to make trips to surrounding countries such as Sweden, Czech Republic, France, or the United Kingdom, consider bringing a cabin sized backpack or luggage that is travel friendly to avoid check-in baggage hassle or extra fees on those short trips. Small airline flights within Europe are cheap but will add up if you’re not prepared. Packing cubes are a great way of making sure your luggage/bags stay organized and underweight.

**What to bring**

- personal items: hairbrush, toothbrush, nail cutter face wash/moisturiser, special creams or prescriptions
- travel sized gravol, tylanol or advil for your bag when traveling
- Drivers Licence or Services Card to use to get into clubs rather than bringing your passport when out in the city
- Ankle rain boots, light rain jacket, runners and footwear for the beach/canal (weather changes a lot like Vancouver)
-calculator you already own (especially if you’re taking a quantitative class)
-charging adapters with surge protector (get these off amazon)
-packing cubes (look on amazon)
-headphones that you’re not too attached too in case they get lost or broken
-water bottle that you’re not too attached too in case they get lost or broken to take on your travels

**Travel and Transportation**

Denmark has a wild biking culture so if you already know how to bike, it’s the best (and cheapest) way of getting around the city. If you don’t already know how to bike/don’t have experience biking, it’s safest for you and the people around you to just take the metro or bus which are both very efficient.

If you want to rent a bike for a month or more, it’s approximately 150 DKK ($30.00 CAD) a month through Swapfiets. They are a great company so check them out if you’re interested in renting instead of purchasing a bike.

If you want to rent a bike or scooter for an hour or less, consider Donkey Republic bike rentals or Lime electric scooters that activate the bike or scooter renting process through a mobile app whenever you need a bike or scooter.

For the metro, bus, and trains in Denmark you have to get a Rejsekort card which is a reloadable card that you can purchase at any metro station. The card itself has a non-refundable deposit of 70 DKK for the card and must have 70 DKK as a minimum balance on the card at all times for you to be able to tap in and tap out before and after a trip. If you’re going to use the bus, make sure you always have spare change with you to ensure you won’t be denied entry in the case your card might not have enough. If you’re going to use the regional trains, give yourself enough time to find your track number, buy tickets, and find a seat on the train. The Danes are always, and I mean **always** on time so plan accordingly!

**Financial Details**

Denmark and the city of Copenhagen is comparable to the costs of living in downtown Vancouver. The Copenhagen Business School (CBS) campus is actually in Frederiksberg (15 min bike-ride to the heart of the city) but groceries are still quite pricy. Consider doing your grocery shopping at Fakta or Fotex and cooking your meals at home to save some money. CBS also has a cafeteria on the main campus that has a cheap lunch and dinner time! Inquire about it when you get there 😊

Since my trip was just shy of 3 months, I just used my Canadian credit card and Danish Kroner cash I purchased in Canada and brought over to Denmark. All places take card so consider getting a credit card with no foreign transaction fees for your trip and just bring a small amount of cash for the bus, food trucks, or small vendor shops.

**During Exchange**

**Arrival and Orientation**

I actually arrived in Denmark 2 weeks before the school semester started. During these two weeks I lived with a friend who had an apartment in the city this allowed me to travel and sightsee a bit
before school started. If you don’t have these arrangements made before-hand with friends or family, I suggest just booking your flight into Copenhagen when your student accommodation is ready for you to move into. I say this because finding good and affordable accommodation in Copenhagen is very hard so make sure you plan your itinerary ahead of time.

**Accommodation and Living**

There are a handful of choices that CBS has to offer. I lived in the Kongens Tvarvej accommodation which was very close to a grocery store (less than 7 min walk or 3 min bike ride) and to the CBS campus (less than 15 min walk or 7 min bike ride). I did my comparative research on the prices and decided for the 6 weeks the KT house would be the best option. I had my own room, shared the kitchen (which included all appliances) with 5 other students on my floor, and shared a washroom with one other student. There was a washer and dryer in the cellar and the house had a backyard too! Its best to look at the choices before the housing application period so you can compare prices and living layout. If you are planning to attend CBS for a full semester, consider looking into the Porcelænshaven accommodation which is just as close to campus and the grocery stores but has your own personal kitchen and washroom.

**Academic Details**

Danish professors are a lot like the professors at SFU. They expect you to work and study hard, attend lectures, ask questions, be engaging, and open to learning. They want you to try your best and get the most out of your courses at CBS. They speak good English but sometimes you may need to clarify that what you perceive to be is in fact correct.

I took Undergraduate Corporate Finance (SFU BUS 312) and Applied Statistics for Business and Economics (SFU BUS 336) which were heavy quantitative courses. Regardless what courses you plan to take, review any prerequisite information and start the pre-course assignments right away so you’re not behind.

Lectures for both my courses were much like lectures at SFU. Most professors will give a 10-15 min break half-way through a 2 hour and 35 min lecture. Class never ends early (if it does..5 mins max) and always starts on time. Classes in the summer program are twice a week for 6 weeks.

**Grading is on a 7 step scale.**

Country Information
The great thing about Denmark is that almost everyone can speak English! They may start to just automatically speak to you in Danish but if you kindly tell them you don’t speak Danish, they will happily repeat it in English. It’s helpful to know simple words and pronunciations before arriving and learning some along the way while you’re there. Also, the Danes love their biking, their flag, and hygge (cozy, contentment, calmness) so stay clear of the bikes and learn hand signals and biking etiquette if you’re going to attempt to bike in Denmark, don’t be shocked at how many flags you see…there is a story behind the love for their flag, and embrace the hygge culture!

Weather
Like I mentioned above, the weather in Denmark is a lot like Vancouver but windier! Pack smart or be prepared to go shopping for appropriate clothing.

Places to Visit
Tivoli & the Tivoli Food House (try the Danish Smørrebrød, open face sandwiches) amusement park in Copenhagen
Lego Land – Danes invented lego so you have to go to the original Lego Land in Billund, Denmark.
Bornholm – Island in Denmark, super cozy, relaxing, and gives you “Tofino, BC vibes!”
Viking Ships in Roskilde, Denmark
Rosenborg Palace
Amalienborg Palace
Kronborg Castle
Louisiana Museum
Amager Beach Park for beach volleyball and a swim
Islands Brygge for a tanning session, picnic and a swim
Glyptotek Museum

Social and Extra-Curricular Activities
CBS has a “Social Program” that includes BBQ’s, bowling nights, board game nights, beach activities, comedy shows, and other fun social activities of that nature. Be sure to sign up for the social program so you can meet new people and explore the city!

Reflection After Exchange

Things I’ve learned and challenges I faced
When in Europe, you need to learn to take things with a grain of salt and not expect everything to be the same as back home...even if people speak English or have similarities to you, some things that are communicated aren’t always in the way you’re used to back home. Prepare for those cultural differences and be open to new cultures and ways of life.

What I wish I knew before I left
Pack light, especially if you like to shop for clothes, souvenirs, and gifts for people back home. Also, buy all your surge protectors and adaptors for your electronics before you leave. Different European countries have different outlets.
**Advice**
If you're ever feeling homesick, always know your friends and family are only a text or phone call away. There is a time difference but if you have a set day and time set aside to talk to people back home, it will be an easier adjustment and will be a nice way to keep them updated about your time abroad.

Also, try to bring light items like photos or cards to decorate your bedroom to make you feel more at home.

Most importantly, have fun and don’t be afraid to explore the city, meet new people, and immerse yourself in the culture.

**Photos**

Me out and about exploring the city all day!
Visiting family and friends in Denmark…they put up the Canadian flag to welcome me!
Danish Smørrebrød is a traditional Scandinavian open-faced sandwich - a must try if you’re there! This was at the Tivoli Food House.
Delicious cake that the Copenhagen Business School had to welcome all the exchange students on the first orientation day.
It was so so yummy!!
Amalienborg Castle where the Danish Royal Family lives.
Some of the exchange students enjoying the canal at Islands Brygge.
Yes even the Danes celebrated with us! Thanks to everyone who came out! Cheers 🍻

Celebrating Canada Day in Denmark!
Trying on some Viking attire at the Viking Ship museum in Roskilde, Denmark.
Found my café in Denmark

CAFÉ MØNS KLINT

@sfuceedie
@beedieabroad
Go Boating on the canal in Denmark with some fellow CBS mates…repping my SFU Beedie crewneck!
4 day trip to Paris, France with new friends I met on exchange.
The Kongens Tvaervej student housing I lived in for 6 weeks.
LET'S TAKE A SECOND TO APPRECIATE HOW BEAUTIFUL THIS CAMPUS IS