

A) I am studying abroad this semester at the Copenhagen Business School (CBS) in Denmark. As an International Management student at the Telfer School of Management, this exchange is mandatory in order for me to graduate from my program. At CBS, I am taking 4 courses total this semester including: Danish Integrated Skills (2<sup>nd</sup> language course), Consumer Behavior and Qualitative Methods, Pricing Management in Theory and Practice, as well as International Economics. The semester here is split up into 2 terms. Therefore, students have a choice between taking quarter classes (Q3 and Q4 for the spring semester) or semester long courses which are spread out over a longer period of time, but require less time commitment on a weekly basis. I personally chose to take 2 Q3 courses, one semester course and one Q4 course to give myself more free time during the warmer months of my exchange. My semester course requires roughly 3.5 hours of lecture per week while my Q3 courses each require about 4 hours of lecture per week. I personally find that courses at CBS require more preparation than at the Telfer School of Management. Professors may not choose a specific textbook for the course, but will usually upload about 60 pages of required readings every week for their course. In general, I'd say the academic approach here is much more laissez-faire than it is back home. For example, you do not have to submit any assignments or take any midterms for your courses at CBS, your final is worth 100% of your grade. All assignments and other learning tasks are meant to prepare you for your final exam, but are usually completed on a voluntary basis. You should however consider that completing these assignments is often necessary if you want to stay up to date with the course. Some courses are offered online as well, which is the case for my Consumer Behavior and Qualitative methods class. I have found that all my courses focus on collaborative learning and student engagement during lectures. My finals all have different formats. I have one research paper (Pricing Management), one take-home exam (Consumer Behavior) one an oral exam (Danish Integration Skills) and one regular sit-in exam (International Economics).

B) **November: Housing application and course registration**

The housing application process was rather simple. Everything is clearly communicated through the CBS email you will receive upon acceptance. Course registration also took place in November, but the course schedule isn't available until December. Therefore, you should look at the course catalog from previous years to see when the courses are offered (Q3, Q4 or semester). Once your courses are approved, you have to wait until the end of December to get your schedule. If there are any time conflicts or if you simply want to change your courses, you have about a month to do so before classes start and one additional week after classes begin.

**December: course schedule posted**

**January 12<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>: Mandatory arrival at your residence if you apply for housing through CBS**

**January 15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>: Danish crash course week (not mandatory, costs about \$300)**

**January 22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>: Introduction week (mandatory information sessions, optional social activities which costs about \$100)**

**January 29<sup>th</sup>: beginning of classes**

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>: Exam schedule posted**

**March 26<sup>th</sup>-April 1<sup>st</sup>: Spring Break**

**Mid-March to Mid-April: Exam period for Q3 and some semester courses**

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>: beginning of Q4 courses**

**June 1<sup>st</sup>-June 30<sup>th</sup>: Exam period for Q4 and semester courses**

- C) Upon arrival, your buddy, automatically assigned through you by Copenhagen Business School's Buddy Program, will pick you up at the airport and take you to your residence. Depending on the time of your arrival, you may have some free time before the beginning of Introduction week activities. I recommend you arrive only a few days in advance to get settled in, but I personally found the first week quite difficult. The sooner you meet people, the better you will feel so try to put yourself in a situation where you can meet other students shortly after your arrival. I arrived a week before Introduction week, but did not participate in the crash course week. Looking back, I

wish I had arrived 3-4 days before introduction week instead. You will have to attend mandatory information sessions during the day for Introduction Week. I strongly suggest you participate in the social activities as well (similar to 101 week at the University of Ottawa). That is most likely how you will meet other students and find your group of friends for the semester. It costs around \$100 and includes a large number of activities (bar nights, canal tour, city tour, Danish folk dancing, etc.)

D) It is quite difficult to come up with a budget for exchange as your expenses will depend on how much you choose to travel abroad. Here are some of the expenses every student on exchange at CBS will most likely incur:

Residence permit: everything included, almost \$900

Flight: \$1200

Housing: \$5000 + \$1000 security deposit

Bike (You have to get a bike in Copenhagen!): \$150

Groceries: \$1500 (\$300 a month approximately)

Metro pass: \$90 a month for a monthly pass or you can put money on a travel card. Single rides cost about \$3.

Flights around Europe: you can fly to a lot of destination around Europe for around \$100 from Copenhagen. The cheapest flights will be around \$65 and the most expensive around \$150. You can also visit a few cities (Oslo, Berlin, Stockholm, etc.) by train or bus which is usually a cheaper alternative to flying.

Hostels and AirBnb: you can usually get away with \$15 to \$30 per night.

**Note that eating out in Copenhagen is super expensive, a cup of coffee will never cost you under \$5. However, food prices at the grocery store are quite similar to Canadian prices, if not cheaper when shopping at discount chains.**

E) I received my residence permit within 2 weeks of submitting my application in person at the VFS Global office in Ottawa. However, the Danish embassy says it can take up to 2 months to get your permit and I know some students who did have to wait 2 months. Therefore, I recommend you apply for it in October to be safe. You need to have a valid passport (expiring 6 months or more after your return to Canada), enough money in your bank account to prove you can cover your expenses on exchange (around \$7000 is the required amount), letter of acceptance from CBS which you will receive at the beginning of October and a form you will receive from the school. Keep in mind that it takes about 2 weeks to get an appointment to submit your application.

I had to pay my housing deposit before December 5<sup>th</sup> (security deposit and half of the housing fees). I chose to pay for the entire semester all at once, but you can pay for the second half of your housing fees mid-semester as well.

F) As mentioned, housing at my residence costs about \$1000 a month and I had to pay a security deposit of \$1000 that I should get back at the end of the semester. CBS offers a few housing options. They do not own the accommodations, but deal with private owners to rent spaces for exchange students. My residence, Kathrine Kollegiet, is exclusive to exchange students. It is located about 10 minutes from campus by bike or 10 minutes by metro. I chose to share my room with another student, not only because shared rooms tend to be cheaper, but because I wanted to have a roommate to share my experience with. I live in one of the cheapest dorms at CBS, some of them cost of to \$1500 a month. You can easily find more information about each residence online.

G) Not applicable.

H) Copenhagen is a great city to live in on exchange. The transportation system is easily the most efficient I have ever experienced, the city is clean, safe and well maintained. You don't really encounter any bad neighborhoods like you would in any other large

city which is incredible as an exchange student trying to familiarize yourself in a new environment. The city offers a wide range of cultural events, is located near 3 Danish castles and is home to a number of great museums. The night life is also much more lively than it is in Ottawa. The city also has a number of different neighborhoods for you to explore. Old Copenhagen is home to the famous colourful houses (Nyhavn), and several great restaurants, bars and night clubs. It is located on the harbor so you can also walk by the water on a sunny day or visit the royal palace. Nørrebro is a great shopping area and home to a lot of coffee shops, street art and colourful streets. Vesterbro is famous for its art galleries and vintage shops.

The weather in Copenhagen is quite different from Canadian weather. During the winter months (January-March), the temperature usually ranges from -2 to 2 degrees Celsius. By the end of your exchange in June, the temperature should range between 15 and 20 degrees Celsius. Be aware that the winter months are quite grey and sometimes rainy. You will not experience a lot of snow here, and when you do, it's usually gone by morning (though exchange students from warmer countries are amazed by the sight of any snow).

If your budget allows it, I strongly recommend you take this opportunity to travel around Europe. Some of my favorite places so far have been Berlin, Iceland and Norway. I also recommend you chose a dorm that offers a lot of rooms for exchange students, since you'll probably become closest with the people who live in the same building and exchange students are always up for a weekend trip to another country.

- 1) So far, my exchange experience has been incredible. I have made friends from nearly every continent and sharing this experience with people who come from such different backgrounds is what makes it so unique. The opportunity I have to travel here is also such a privilege, but I have also really enjoyed learning more about Danish culture and discovering a new approach to post-secondary education. However, the thing that shocked me the most on exchange was definitely how difficult I found my

first week to be. I'd like to tell next year's exchange students that it's okay to feel out of place in the beginning, and that it all falls into place once you start building relationships here. Remember that this is a time to learn more about the world, others, but mostly about yourself. Your first day here most likely won't be your best, but this experience truly is what you make it, so get out of your comfort zone and adventure a little (a lot)!