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Copenhagen Business School
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1. *Arrival Overseas / On-Site Orientation*

If a student is going to live in CBS housing, I recommend the building that I stayed in, Peder Skramsgade. It was very expensive to stay there, but all of the CBS locations are. It is one of the most centrally located dorms. It is a 3-minute walk from Kongens Nytorv, which is the city center and no more than a 15-minute walk from most other places around the city where you are likely to spend most of your time (other than CBS). To get to CBS, it is about a 30-40 minute and a very easy ride on the metro system. Typically, if you take the metro system, it will take approximately 10-15 minutes to get to where you need to be on campus. And, living near the metro system is very convenient in getting to and from the airport. It is a short and easy ride to the airport from Kongens Nytorv.

The school offered two forms of orientation: Crash Course and Introduction Week. I did not attend Crash Course as it was not mandatory and I had other obligations back in Seattle during that time period. Introduction week was good because it introduced you to all of the other international students (instant friends), your CBS buddy (very helpful in times of confusion), gave you a tour of the city (including entry into a couple of attractions), and held some sessions of what to expect over the course of the semester. The sessions were helpful to a slight extent, but they could have been a bit clearer in CBS expectations and classroom culture. Introduction Week was mandatory, and overall a good experience.

2. *Academics*

Overall I prefer UW's system (and the American system) to that of CBS. As this is a socialist country (meaning Danish students get paid to go to school) and it is a public institution, there are more students than the faculty can efficiently support. The class sizes are large, instruction is done entirely in lecture format, you have utterly no relationship with the teachers (they are inaccessible), grading and exams are more cut and dry, school administration is stretched thin (and tough to get their attention), and the libraries are always very full. It's not all bad as you do get used to it, but the system at UW is much better in my opinion.

The quality of instruction is okay. As a business student, I prefer to learn more practical information in my classroom experiences. I felt (minus one very technical course), the classes were based more on theoretical knowledge than practical. I believe that theory is important to know and understand as it allows for better informed decisions, but I do not believe the lectures prepare you to walk into a job and hit the ground running on day one. Be prepared for professors that are academics (or researchers) and not former or current business people. Also, the coursework was not nearly as challenging overall.

3. *Housing*

There were plenty of student housing opportunities available to me in the study abroad via CBS, but again, they are very expensive. There is a give and take to living in student housing. While, on one hand it is very expensive (you can find much cheaper housing on your own upon arrival), it is stress-free knowing that you will arrive in Copenhagen with housing set up. In addition, it is great to live around so many other study abroad students from all over the world. It makes of the process of meeting people and getting acquainted that much easier. But, be informed that if you are a graduate student, the dorms are mixed with grad and undergrad students (primarily undergrads). I would say that the average age in my dorm must have been 22 / 23. If you prefer living with older people, perhaps the dorm setting is not for you. Despite the expensive, I would have chosen the same arrangement if I had to do it all over again.

4. *Program / Exchange Site*

This is nothing like an American university campus. The school is literally 4 buildings that are slightly spread out in a one part of Copenhagen. The atmosphere is nice and the area is beautiful. It feels like a very calm part of town.

5. *Health and Safety*

I had no health or safety concerns during my time over in Copenhagen. I did hear of some violence (gang wars) taking place in Norrebro, so please be prepared, but overall, it is a very safe city.

In regards to health, you receive the benefits of the Danish health care system while you are there, which is a universal system. Once you arrive, you must go to get a CPR card (the equivalent of our social security card). On the card, there will be information of your assigned doctor. It is all very easy.

6. *Cultural Aspects*

I tried integrating by starting conversations with people. This is a bit more of a challenge than anticipated. As I am a very outgoing person, this is typically the approach I take. I found Danish people to be friendly and helpful when you had a question about this or needed directions somewhere, but in trying to get to know Danish people, they were a little more guarded. The culture is different in that it seems like Danish people do not go out and actively try to meet new people. My fellow international students and I found that when we approached Danish people, unless they were active as CBS buddies, they were difficult to connect with. I should note that not all Danes were like this. Perhaps we just could not fully understand how to connect with Danes in their cultural preference.

7. *Financial*

The scholarship money received goes a very long way, but it is also much easier to plug through than anticipated. The scholarship should cover all of your expenses if you plan out accordingly. I did not do a specific budgetary breakdown, but you want to be cautious throughout as it is an incredibly expensive city. You can go through money much quicker there than most places.

Copenhagen was the most expensive city I have ever been to in my entire life. The only city that I've heard is more expensive in Europe is Oslo.

You can create a bank account when you arrive there, but I found it easiest (as I was only there for 4 and a half months) to use my atm card and suffer the fees. I would suggest that you take the max amount out each time you withdraw money to minimize fees. Just hold onto the extra cash back in your dorm or apartment. Also, be prepared that most place in Denmark do not accept international credit card. This was a huge shock for me. You will find places here and there that accept credit card, but for the most part, be prepared to pay for nearly everything in cash.

8. Program / Exchange Administration

I thought that IPE did a wonderful job in the administration of my exchange. Anni Fuller is an incredible source of help and information for the study abroad. She took me through all of the steps in the necessary fashion to prepare me as much as possible. Then she was there to answer any questions that I had along the way. I studied abroad in my undergrad, and I must say that I was more impressed with the administrative approach by UW than by my undergrad.

9. Program / Student Type

This program is best suited for someone who wants to experience life, culture, and history; someone who is open-minded and seeks to gain new perspective. There are going to be challenges along the way (i.e. language and culture), but you learn from them. You will meet new people that will completely disagree with everything you believe in, but you talk to them and begin to understand who they are and why they believe what they do. You should be someone who wants to see things and go places. If you want to go solely for the academics, that is fine, but you miss out a great deal if you do not go explore Copenhagen, explore Denmark, explore Scandinavia, and possibly explore some of Europe. It isn't often people have the opportunity to live somewhere so different like this. If you want to experience something different than what you're used to, study abroad.

10. Overall Experience

I believe that if I went into the exchange entirely focused on the academics, I would have been disappointed. Solely based on academics, staying at UW for the quarter would have been the right choice for me. However, education is more abstract than simply textbook, classroom, and professor. I have learned so much in my life by meeting new people and seeing new places. I have a much better understand of the ways of the world from having gone to experience life outside the classroom. I though the overall experience was incredible because I received an education in my favorite sort of way (as outlined above). I would do the exchange again in a heartbeat.