

Summer Study Abroad Report



Atay Chokmorov

David Lovejoy

Keke Sun

INTRODUCTION

The three of us are in our second year of the PMBA program at UBC and went to Copenhagen Business School (CBS) for the first summer exchange since lockdown. The exchange program at CBS is called the International Summer University Program (ISUP). We each chose their three-week program in June/July of 2022, and we will talk about it a bit more in depth as well as introduce ourselves below.



Our first meeting in Copenhagen at one of the many Michelin restaurants in town

Atay Chokmorov (seated on the right in the photo above) — It has always been my dream to experience what an exchange study abroad was all about. And this dream came true while pursuing my MBA program. The reason I selected to do my exchange program at CBS was to learn about Denmark, its rich history, and understand how people live and work there. CBS is a very reputable university and being able to be there for three weeks was an opportunity to study along with very smart and diverse students and see why Danes are the happiest people on Earth. In the end, I think I was able to get familiar with the concept of “hygge” and why Denmark is the happiest nation in the world while being very innovative and having one of the best economies in the world. It is all about feeling of joy in the moment, and I can definitely say that it was quite a journey of three weeks where I was able to live in the moment to fully immerse myself in the academic and social lives of the exchange.

David Lovejoy — I applied to attend summer courses at CBS for a few reasons. Primarily, I wanted to see what graduate school was like in a different country and CBS has a good reputation. Second, a good friend of mine in Japan studied there and said it was a highlight of her life. Finally, the course offering looks to be the most comprehensive of all the universities

accepting international applicants at present, and there are a number of courses that I would be eager to take. Blockchain, data science, digital business transformation, and entrepreneurship are all exciting subjects with increasingly broad application and while I have pursued independent study in each of these areas through massive open online courses, I wanted to seize the opportunity to learn in a more formal school setting to network and collaborate with similarly ambitious professionals from around the globe.

Keke Sun — I see summer study abroad as one of the most valuable things to do throughout the MBA program. I had time and chance to do some self-reflection, meet people from different cultures and even just tour around and enjoy the vacation with a good excuse. I have been studying and living in Asia, North America and Western Europe. To recall one of the articles that I read few years ago: both the US and China have reached the same point where classes among rich and poor are significantly enlarged, and people live along their comparative advantages and fight for the limited resources (even through one is capitalism and the other one is socialism). Whereas Nordic countries are highly democratic, and people enjoy better education and healthcare system. So, I really wanted to come and study the policies, history and culture of Northern Europe.

ORIENTATION

Upon arrival at Copenhagen Airport, we were greeted by volunteers who had prepared transport for those staying in student housing. Some of us brought family with us and booked separate accommodation accordingly through Airbnb and hotels, so we just said hello and asked the student volunteers for tips and directions.

There is a 2-hour comprehensive orientation on the first day of class which will bring students up to speed on facilities, resources, policies and help them make the most of their time in the program.

COURSES & REGISTRATION

Each of us was able to enrol in the course that we wanted. Since we each opted for the 3-week program, we were only permitted to take one course. However, we were strongly encouraged to select two courses in the event CBS were forced to cancel our first selection due to low enrolment.

The course schedule was clear, and the registration system was reasonably efficient, but students will want to read emails from CBS carefully and spend time familiarising themselves with the school website and resources, as there is a fair amount to digest. Those interested can apply to receive a CBS student ID card for memories and 24-hour access to the CBS library. Step-by-step instructions are included in the welcome emails.

The three of us had slightly different experiences in our respective classes, but the school tries to keep the workload similar across the 10 short (three-week) courses. Students can expect to spend

5-6 hours each day on coursework, which includes class time and homework. Participation is not mandatory in Denmark and many local students left early or skipped several classes. Whether or not students pass the course is determined entirely on the final exam, which in the case of the short (three-week) courses is a 15-page paper due the day after classes end. CBS is quite particular with respect to formatting and character count (note: not word count). All of the requirements can be found on the CBS Canvas site which students will receive access to upon enrolment.

GRADUATE SHORT COURSES				
TEACHING PERIOD: JUNE 28 - JULY 14, 2022				
	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
Morning Slot 8:00 - 10:35 Keke	CCMVI2008U Financial Statement Analysis	CCMVI2008U Financial Statement Analysis	CCMVI2008U Financial Statement Analysis	CCMVI2008U Financial Statement Analysis
	CCMVI2057U Internationalization of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises	CCMVI2057U Internationalization of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises	CCMVI2057U Internationalization of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises	CCMVI2057U Internationalization of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
	CCMVI2080U Blockchain and Sustainable Digital Infrastructures for Business	CCMVI2080U Blockchain and Sustainable Digital Infrastructures for Business	CCMVI2080U Blockchain and Sustainable Digital Infrastructures for Business	CCMVI2080U Blockchain and Sustainable Digital Infrastructures for Business
	CCMVI2081U Sustainability in the Nordics	CCMVI2081U Sustainability in the Nordics	CCMVI2081U Sustainability in the Nordics	CCMVI2081U Sustainability in the Nordics
	CCMVI2103U Causal Data Science for Business Decision Making	CCMVI2103U Causal Data Science for Business Decision Making	CCMVI2103U Causal Data Science for Business Decision Making	CCMVI2103U Causal Data Science for Business Decision Making
Atay Noon Slot 10:45 - 13:20	CCMVI2106U Global Innovation: Strategies, Processes, Cases	CCMVI2106U Global Innovation: Strategies, Processes, Cases	CCMVI2106U Global Innovation: Strategies, Processes, Cases	CCMVI2106U Global Innovation: Strategies, Processes, Cases
	CCMVI2109U Energy Economics, Environment, and Policy	CCMVI2109U Energy Economics, Environment, and Policy	CCMVI2109U Energy Economics, Environment, and Policy	CCMVI2109U Energy Economics, Environment, and Policy
	CCMVI2108U Advanced Topics in Corporate Financial Reporting	CCMVI2108U Advanced Topics in Corporate Financial Reporting	CCMVI2108U Advanced Topics in Corporate Financial Reporting	CCMVI2108U Advanced Topics in Corporate Financial Reporting
Afternoon Slot 13:30 - 16:05 David	CCMVI2115U Social Entrepreneurship and Business Model Innovation	CCMVI2115U Social Entrepreneurship and Business Model Innovation	CCMVI2115U Social Entrepreneurship and Business Model Innovation	CCMVI2115U Social Entrepreneurship and Business Model Innovation
	CCMVI2116U The Changing Nature of Work: Towards a Digital Future	CCMVI2116U The Changing Nature of Work: Towards a Digital Future	CCMVI2116U The Changing Nature of Work: Towards a Digital Future	CCMVI2116U The Changing Nature of Work: Towards a Digital Future

Source: <https://www.cbs.dk/en/study/international-summer-university/courses-and-exams>

TEACHING

The professors and students are all friendly and helpful, but UBC students may need to take some initiative if they want to make friends and network in class, as Scandinavians tend to keep to themselves otherwise. In terms of calibre, pace and difficulty, CBS is broadly comparable to UBC, with the noted exception that student discussion and participation may be less than what UBC students are used to due to cultural differences, but this may also vary by course and teaching styles, which can vary between seminars, lectures, case studies and group projects.

LANGUAGE COURSES

Everyone speaks perfect English, but if you want to learn Danish pronunciation for place names and simple greetings, check out this YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/MicsLanguages>

CAMPUS FACILITIES

CBS campus is smaller and less defined than UBC. There are a few beautiful buildings scattered about Frederiksberg, with a nice library where students can study. Campus, and all of Copenhagen is very safe.

HOUSING FACILITIES

Student housing was organized by CBS. It is a great way to meet students from around the world by living in a dorm. There are a few residences available for students to stay in and students are able to prioritize their ranking during the application process. It is important to fill out the application as soon as you get the link from CBS. I would recommend staying at Nimbuspark residence as students get their own rooms with private bathrooms. Also, it was built in 2018 which is relatively new compared to other dorms, and it is for graduate students only.

Nimbuspark is equipped with all the facilities students require. Kitchens have all the necessary appliances (stoves, ovens, microwaves, dishwasher), cooking tools (pans, pots, cutlery, etc.), and cleaning supplies as well. All students have to do is to buy groceries. A laundry room is in the basement and has eight washing machines and eight dryers. The laundry room is an automated system which is quite simple to use with a separate key tag. Rooms are quiet and students follow all the rules established by the housing facility. All rooms have Wi-Fi and have keyless entry. Key tags are used for entrance to the building, rooms, and laundry.

No meal plans are provided at the housing facilities as it is expected that students would cook themselves or eat out. There is a cafeteria at the main academic building “Solbjerg Plads” which provides a good variety of dishes. Food prices at restaurants or cafes are a bit more expensive than in Vancouver. It can get quite expensive if students eat out for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. There are eight grocery stores within a 1 km radius of Nimbuspark which is very convenient and provides options.

COSTS/EXPENSES

- a. Accommodation: \$200/day for private accommodation (hotel/Airbnb) in a convenient area.
- b. Textbooks: N/A
- c. Local transportation: Approximately \$50/week, mainly subway. Highly recommend purchasing the *Rejsekort* from the DBB counter at the airport or central train station for convenience when taking public transport—just remember to tap when entering and exiting stations, or when boarding and exiting buses (2x). This card is easy to top-up at train stations, as the ticket machines have an English option.
- d. Food/groceries: Comparable to Vancouver.
- e. Other: We were able to use a credit card everywhere we went.

STUDY TOURS/FIELD TRIPS

There is an optional social package students can purchase to get a deeper appreciation for Danish culture and facilitate mingling with exchange students from other classes as well. There are 3-week and six-week options, and the prices as of 2022 are: DKK 600 for the three-week program, and DKK 800 for the six-week program.

The social programmes include a couple of field trips.

The three-week package includes a two-hour canal tour which gives students a guided tour of Copenhagen on a boat and provides a brief history of the city. There is another day trip to Møns Klint and Roskilde Viking Ship Museum. Møns Klint is two hours away from Copenhagen and is a very scenic place in the Baltic Sea. This day trip is a full-day event which also includes different activities such as tree climbing, ziplining, and mountain biking. Transportation is organized by CBS.

The six-week package includes a three-day Tour of Denmark in addition to everything mentioned above.

WHAT TO BRING

Bring a laptop and plug converter for type E/K outlets. Since the weather is more changeable than in Vancouver—it is possible to experience three seasons in one day—it would be a good idea to pack short and long sleeves, a light jacket and rain gear.

GENERAL IMPRESSIONS

Copenhagen is an amazing city, one of the world's best without a doubt. Take a bike or walking tour early on to get acquainted and enjoy all the great restaurants and sightseeing. The most rewarding aspects of our summer study abroad experience was having the time and space for new thoughts and reflections. One thing to keep in mind is that most PMBA students will have more professional experience than the CBS graduate students, who are essentially in their fifth year of undergrad, as is the European way.