

# My Study Abroad Experience in Europe

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Returning to school and seeing my friends again I constantly get asked “What did you do this summer?”. Up until this year, I never really had anything exciting to say. However, the summer of 2018 was a summer to remember. I was blessed with the opportunity to travel and study abroad in Europe.

It always was a dream of mine to study abroad while I was pursuing my undergraduate degree. Due to timing and financial issues, I was not able to make it happen. As graduation was coming closer and closer, I had to start taking my dream seriously. With months of planning and a generous helping hand, I was able to make my dream come true and attend summer school in Denmark at Copenhagen Business School.

Although Copenhagen was my “home base” in Europe, I decided to travel with friends to three other countries. Our first stop was London, United Kingdom. London is a world-renowned city and houses incredible monuments such as the Big Ben, Tower Bridge, and the London Eye. This was a teaser to the rest of Europe. It was nice to start off in an English-speaking country that was not too far off from many cities on the mainland. It made easing into the culture slightly easier than expected. I enjoyed the energy residing in the city and appreciated the mix of historical landmarks sitting across of huge modern skyscrapers. The contrasting architecture was like nothing that I have ever seen before. We stayed in an Airbnb not too far from the city center and used public transportation to get around. This was my first experience using such transportation and I have never walked so much in my life. The people were surprisingly nice and they city was filled with such diverse characters. On the other hand, the food was nothing amazing, except for the classic English breakfast of beans and



eggs. After eight days of sightseeing, shopping, and exploring we moved on to the “meat” of our trip: Copenhagen.



Upon arrival, we were greeted nicely by Copenhagen Business School volunteers who gave a slight introduction to the city and showed us to our dorms. Up until Copenhagen, I never experienced living in a dorm. This experience alone was eye opening. I never understood how important privacy was until I shared so many things with strangers. But within a day or two, those strangers became friends who I enjoyed seeing every day. It was an amazing experience to meet students from countries such as Denmark, Germany, Croatia, Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, Italy, and France. I was enlightened by these students when I would hear their different perspectives on topics that I saw

differently. We connected and formed bonds over meals, and extracurricular activities. I still keep in touch with a few of the friends I met

while studying abroad and almost all of them are planning on coming to Hawaii! It was an

adventure to explore the city with these people and appreciate the vibrant buildings, beautiful

canals, and bubbly personalities that

Copenhagen has to offer. Even something as mundane as going grocery shopping was an

adventure on its own. I also learned to be more independent by exploring the cities by myself.

It was an adventure to figure out where to go and what train to catch without any help. I would highly recommend studying abroad in Copenhagen to anyone with an itch to travel and broaden



their perspective of the world. The summer semester flew by faster than expected and it was time for me to travel to another country.

The next stop was Rome, Italy. I thought London's historical landmarks were amazing, but the monuments in Rome took my breath away. It's one thing to experience these places through photographs, but to truly embrace the caliber of these treasures, you have to see it in person. After four rough days of nonstop sightseeing, we flew to our last destination: Paris.



Like London, Paris shocked me with the mixture of modern beasts and classic architectural wonders. It was a thrill to adapt to another culture and embrace such a foreign lifestyle. I finally got to visit the Eiffel Tower in person and watch the sunset from the top deck. After draining ourselves for a week, it was finally time to return to Hawaii.

I never truly appreciated the beauty of “home” until I finally came back to it. This whirlwind of a trip opened my eyes to so many things such as hearing the perspective on Brexit from a Brit or talking about wine and cheese with a Parisian. All of the people I met had their own unique story to tell and it was an honor to hear each one. Traveling with friends is such an amazing experience especially when you are living together in a foreign country. I will always remember this trip and the information that I gathered from studying at CBS and the stories I heard from other international students.