

MY STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

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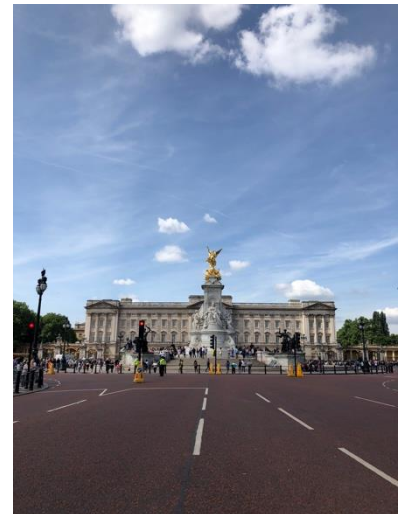
Dennis Y.M. Ching Scholarship Reflection

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My Study Abroad Experience

This past summer, I had the amazing opportunity to study abroad at Copenhagen Business School. The experience taught me so much and I am so thankful that I had the privilege to be immersed in different cultures, view my field of study through an international lens, and make lifelong friends while doing so.

During my study abroad experience, I decided to visit four countries around Europe. My travel route started in London, England. This city was one of my favorites because everywhere I turned, there was a diverse amalgamation of people, cultures, and religions. I was amazed at the fact that every ethnicity, culture, and disability was represented in the crowds of people that I passed in the street. Even the architecture of the city was a juxtaposition between historic and modern buildings. I also appreciated the fast pace of the city; its energy seemed to be contagious.



Next, it was time to begin my studies in Copenhagen. This city took me by surprise with its charming personality. At the university, I took Consumer Behavior and International Marketing Management, both of which greatly increased my excitement about studying Marketing. It was an entirely different experience to learn Marketing concepts while in a different country and while being surrounded by students from all around the world. It definitely helped me to realize that in order to be effective in this field, it is vital to be aware, open, and accepting of other cultures.



With iconic pastel buildings lining a peaceful canal and clear blue skies to match, Copenhagen was nothing short of

breathtaking. My favorite part of this study abroad experience was actually living in a foreign country and developing a routine – grocery shopping, cooking dinner with friends, and taking part in the night life. It gave me an entirely different view of Copenhagen. Not only did I get to see the city as a tourist, but I also got to discover the city as a local. To top it all off, I made friends from all over the world who shared their own stories and experiences. Some advice I would give to future students going to Copenhagen are to explore everything the city has to offer, watch the sunset while sitting on the canals, and have the willingness to learn about other people and where they come from – you may find that people are more similar than you think.

Sadly, all good things must come to an end, and it was time to say goodbye to my time at CBS. After lots of hugs and tears, I made my way to Italy with three other students from UH Manoa. We spent three days in Rome and saw monuments I thought I would only see in art history class. I was completely blown away at the sheer size of the

Colosseum, and the serene beauty of the Trevi Fountain. Not to mention all the amazing pasta we ate! One of the coolest things about Rome was that there were public drinking fountains that poured out ice cold spring water non-stop all around the city. Since temperatures rose to 97°F this summer, those fountains were definitely useful.



The very last stop on this journey was to Paris, France. I have been to this city twice before and it has quickly become one of my favorites. I spent a full week here and it still wasn't enough time to do everything I wanted to do. From fresh croissants to amazing shopping on the Champs Élysees, we took advantage of every moment we had. My absolute favorite places to go in Paris are the Marais, Jardin du

Luxembourg, and to watch the Eiffel tower sparkle. During this trip, the most memorable night was spent at the very top of the Eiffel tower where I watched the sun go down over the city. Although we had a lot on our to do list, I was thankful for the time we spent just wandering and aimlessly exploring , because getting lost really allowed me to notice the personality of the city.

This summer not only allowed me to deepen my understanding of Marketing with a global perspective, but it also helped me to grow personally and find comfort in change. Traveling to four countries in two months forced me to be open to new environments, new customs, and new people. This gave me a hunger for knowledge of what this world has to offer.



Ultimately, this program was an opportunity to exchange stories. I was able to learn about what it was like to grow up in Croatia, and what a millennial had to say about the political climate of the UK. Furthermore, telling my story gave me a stronger appreciation of where

I come from, and my Native Hawaiian heritage. I believe that listening to and sharing stories is the cornerstone of what it means to be human. Continuing this conversation across seas and borders is the future of Hawaii, and the world at large.

