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## My Experience in Atos Worldline

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Three months of internship gave me an opportunity to know what it is like to be part of a project team, a team that makes real applications to serve clients. I worked on three different projects during my internship. The one that I would like to mention is the Hardware Security Module (HSM) project. This project required me to write an API and a network gateway for other developer to know how to program and control the HSM which was different from the functional-oriented project I had done in the past. I have learnt a lot of technical skills that are not covered in the university, such as the software and programming framework the industry is currently using. Once you know that you can use auto-formatting in ‘Eclipse’, you will never tap the ‘Tab’ button to do the indentation of your code. There are a lot of frameworks that facilitate fast and efficient programming and can only be learnt from work. Knowing the new knowledge has sharpened my edge for my future career. The internship also gave me good opportunity to test if I like to stay in this area for my career. The last thing I must say is that the working experience in a large-scale software company like Atos has added value to my resume. I strongly recommend students joining IPS to earn this once-in-a-life-time experience.



## Exchange Study Programme

### My Valuable Exchange Experience in Technical University of Denmark (DTU)

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#### My Blog

I would like to say participating in the student exchange programme is the best decision I have made to conclude my whole university life. This is a very wonderful and fruitful experience to learn and stay in an extremely different country from Hong Kong. I have gained a lot in aspects of technical knowledge related to my studies and tasted the living as a local Dane in Denmark. I have made a lot of friends from all over the world; we studied and played together. I travelled around and enjoyed the days with the local people there. European culture is so different from Asian's. I love this experience and all the people I have met were so sweet!

#### My Pre-departure Checklist

Before departure to Denmark, a Residence Permit (long-term stay visa) is needed. When applying for the visa, your bank account should show a saving of at least HKD\$25,000 for 3 months. Since the Consulate General of Denmark in Hong Kong was closed down two years ago, I needed to go to Guangzhou Visa Application Centre to arrange for my visa (around HKD 4200 in total). An Acceptance Letter issued by the host university is required.

It is supposed to spend quite a lot of money during exchange. Please bring enough cash (Danish Kroners, Euros and HK dollars), credit cards and ATM money withdrawal cards (Most European countries can accept cards with PLUS sign, and it is not common for UnionPay. There is even no UnionPay ATM in Denmark).

I have also prepared some small souvenirs (chopsticks to represent Chinese culture) for my buddies and other new friends I would meet during the exchange period.

#### Just Arrived

After 14 hours of flight, I eventually arrived in my exchange destination — Copenhagen of Denmark. The host institution had a good arrangement for all new students. There were student

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ambassadors picking us up at the airport. Since I arrived there in late January, the freezing weather and my pieces of luggage made me very clumsy in walking under the snow. I was so lucky to have met two new exchange students from Korea outside the accommodation office. They helped me carry the linen bags from the office to our hostel and we became close friends later as well.

### **Orientation**

The university's International Office launched a Buddy scheme every semester. Each senior student from the university joining the scheme would become buddy of a group of 10 new students. We attended a 4 whole-day orientation programme, and have received some important messages, learned about the Danish culture as well as the university activities.

There were some ice-breaking activities (e.g. Scavenger hunt, Marshmallow Challenge, and Local Dance experience) to let us know each other. We made friends and met every week for lunch with our buddy. It was good to have friends and buddy to share with, making me less anxious about the new life in Denmark.

My buddy told me on the first day that campus of DTU was divided into 4 quadrants, and the buildings of each quadrant were numbered in coordinates. The campus map I always brought along helped me a lot in directing ways.

### **My Place**

I lived in Campus Village, which is on campus, explicitly shown by its name. The rooms are built typically in a container and not like the normal dormitory or apartment. This makes the accommodation so particular. There were 10 single rooms in a container and we all shared a bathroom, toilet and kitchen. We held container dinner every two months and we all enjoyed maintaining good relationships in our living environment. It was so sweet to meet them all and stay together for 5 months. The monthly rent was about DKK 2350 (all inclusive). It is safe and very convenient to go to the school buildings within walking distances. However, it takes nearly one hour to go to the City Center by public transport.

### **My First Class**

I was so excited about my first class, and that was a tough course of 10 ECTS. Students always raised questions whenever there were things they did not understand or did not agree with the professor.

They would not hesitate or feel shy in asking questions! There were no stupid questions as everyone could learn from each other through asking. So I am now becoming more confident in asking any kinds of questions. There were feedback sessions after every lecture in all courses to cultivate interactive atmosphere between lecturers and students. Students were identified in the beginning of the class to give feedback to the lecturer after the class finished.

The Danish government offered free Danish courses for newly-arrived foreign students within the first two years. Therefore I had a chance to learn Danish in school during the exchange study as well. I was with 9 more foreign students in the Danish class; some were exchange students while others were master students. We all thought that Danish is a very difficult language because most of the words and grammar could only be learnt from daily conversations through listening without a clear structure.

In DTU, the timetable arrangement of classes is very different from Hong Kong. All course sessions are 4 hours – morning class from 8am-12pm while afternoon class from 1pm-5pm. That explains why the canteens are that crowded between 12pm-1pm. Normally, each class session for 5-ECT courses includes a 2-hour lecture, and 2-hour tutorial or laboratory, while the duration doubles for 10-ECT courses. They have a lot of group projects so we could always have communication with the local Danish and other foreign master students. They do not have mid-term exams so everyone is motivated to do a lot of self-learning by themselves just for better understanding and learning. The learning habit is totally different from the spoon-feeding and exam-oriented education style in HK.

### **People I Met**

Besides meeting new people in the buddy group or from the classes, people living near could be friends as well. We had some other Hong Kong people having exchange study there as well although we were living in different containers. Through meeting with them in different living places could know more other people from there. We chitchatted while eating in the dining table or rendered our greetings whenever we met. People are friendly to talk to you unless they are busy at that moment.

I have made a very close friend who came from Singapore. Although we were not in the same buddy group, nor in the same courses, nor living in the same accommodation, we first met because of one

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of my container-mates who was a Singaporean coming from the same school as her. We had a lot of common interests and ideas, so we had a lot of great time in travelling around Denmark together. She is so friendly and cute. Because of her, we always held Asian dinners among the Hong Kong people, Korean and Singaporean. We had a lot of cultural exchange in each dinner and it was fun to have such a good time with them!

### **Out of Classroom**

I joined a competition organized by European BEST, which is an organization offering students opportunities to improve their problem solving skills and preparing them to do careers in technological fields or pursue higher level education. It was fun to join a competition with the local students as I could learn from their presentation skills and their way of thinking.

The European Student Network (ESN) also organized a lot of activities for foreign students. Most of them were outdoor activities, sight-seeing and city tours around Denmark. My friends and I travelled to quite a lot of places during our holidays as well. We had so much fun in trying out different winter sports!

### **Money**

I was quite worried about high living expenses before departure. However, you could save a lot if you buy foods from supermarkets and cook for yourself. Though the cost still doubles that of Hong Kong, it is still acceptable. The public transportation is also expensive, so everyone owns a bike and the government supports green city biking.

### **Goodbye**

It was sad to say goodbye to my friends and teachers. I had a mixed feeling. I have gained a lot not only in my personal development but also on academic side. I really enjoyed my life in Copenhagen. I love the lessons, the teachers and everyone I met. Since I was the first one to leave right after exams, it was a bit rush to say goodbye to everyone. We held a BBQ night and mega dinner the night before departure as farewell. Everyone enjoyed a lot and missed Denmark such a lovely and peaceful city. We hope to see each other soon in their countries or go travelling together someday.

### **Home Sweet Home**

This exchange life has changed me a lot. After the exchange

study, I become a more self-motivated person in grasping different opportunities available to me. Never think you would be a loser. Instead, have a belief that one can always learn from trial-and-error. In Denmark, it is very difficult to get a high grade (A range), on the contrary, it is easy to fail a subject. There is no a week off for your revision. Everyone put a lot of effort to prepare for their exam in order to get a pass. Their learning attitude has changed me a lot as well. I am active in trying out new things and have better time management.

### **Sharing**

Time flies so fast. You would not know how long you need to adapt to a new environment. In Denmark, everything is written in Danish without English so you could hardly understand. So, get well prepared before departure. You may prepare yourself a list of English-Danish vocabulary list for the daily products in supermarkets, public transport signs and some food names that would appear on menus.

I did struggle whether to join exchange study before application. However, I did not regret after all! This once-in-a-life-time chance is not open to everyone but to those who want to broaden their horizons. Be proactive and brave! Why not traveling outside Hong Kong to see how big the world is! You can learn a lot from everyday adventures outside your home country.

### **Overall Rating**

5!!! The most satisfied!!!

