

# 2016 Fall Exchange

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**CASS**  
**BUSINESS SCHOOL**  
CITY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON  
— EST 1894 —

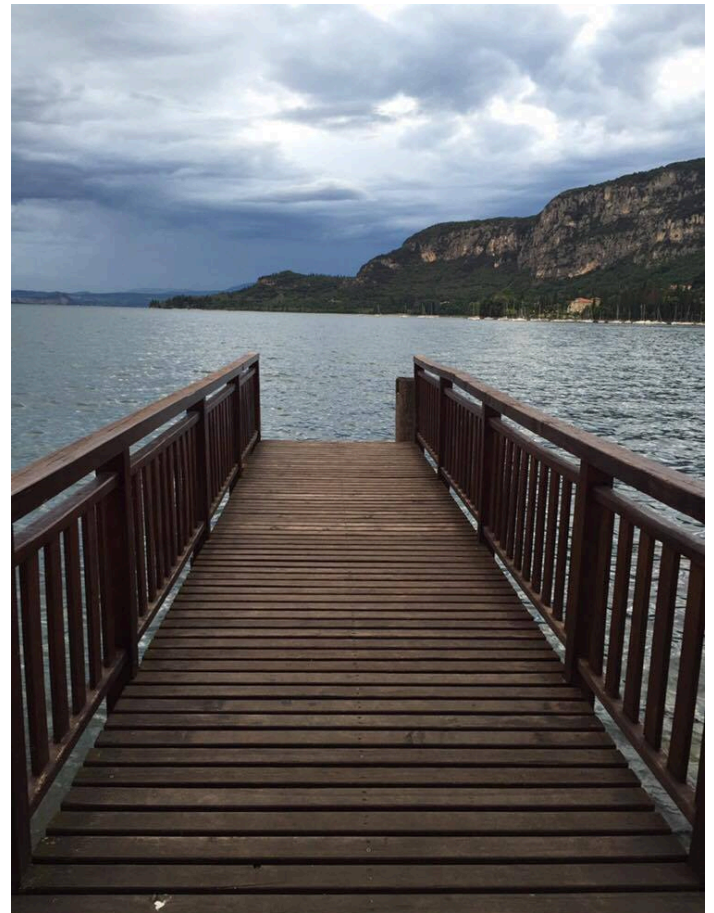
Kirill Tasilov (Fina & Mark)

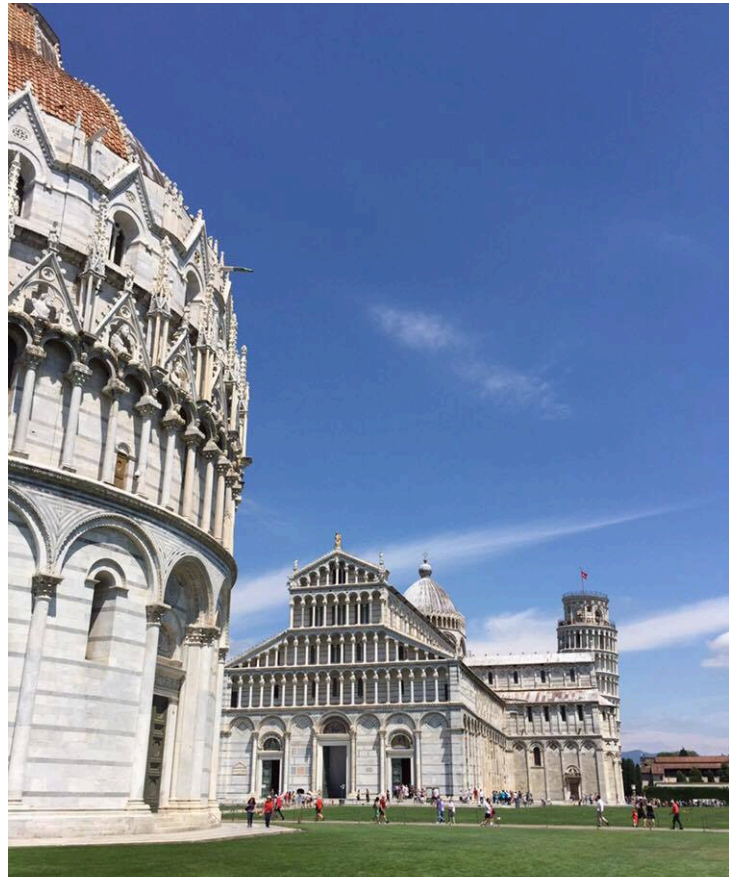
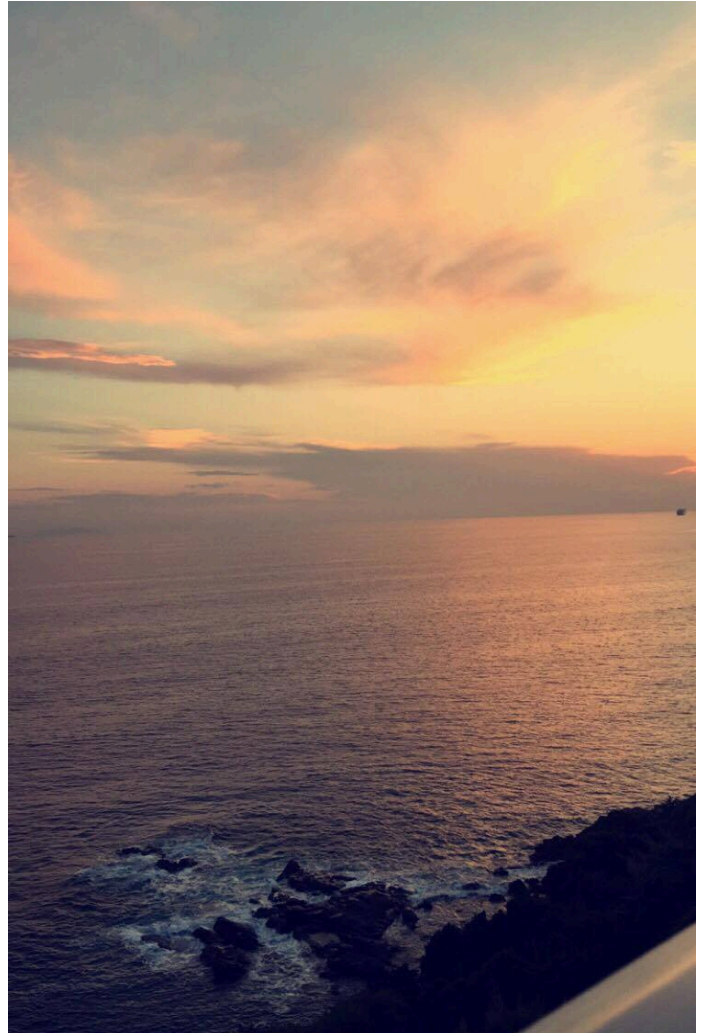
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## Monthly Activity Log

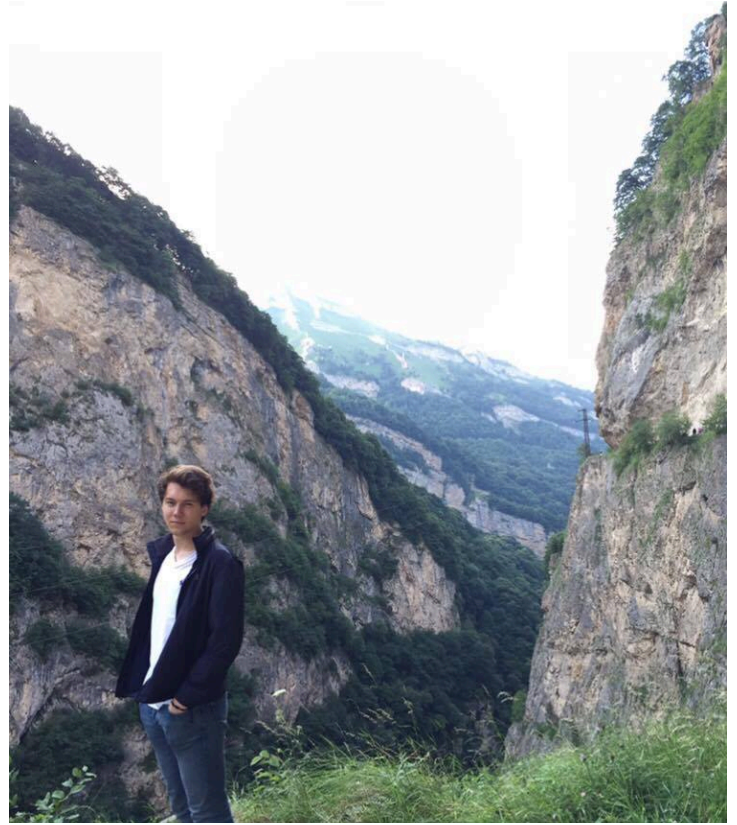
I decided to do the majority of traveling around Europe in end of May and beginning of June, as it was the only month in summer when I was free. I returned to my home town, Prague, in May and went for a 3 weeks road trip around Europe during which I went: Prague – Munich – Innsbruck – Bolzano – Trento – Lago Di Garda – Verona – a ton of small cities in Italy (Mantua, Montecarlo, Massa Marittima etc.) – Florence – Pisa – Livorno – Siena – Venice – Ljubljana – Vienna – Prague. After that, in the mid June, I went to Lyon and Saint-Etienne to support the Czech Republic national football team at Euro 2016. At the very end of June, prior to my internship commencement in London, I flew to Moscow and certain parts of Caucasus (south of Russia).

## May – August



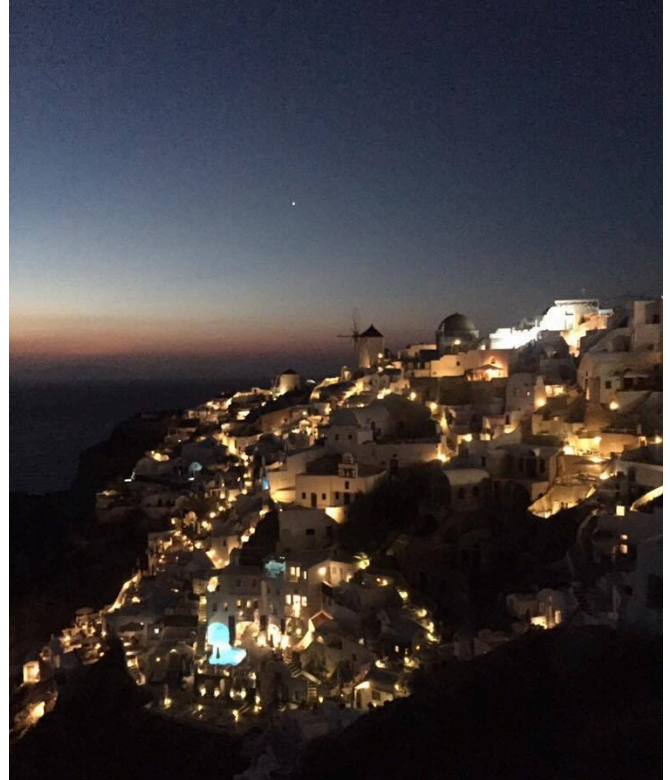






## September - October

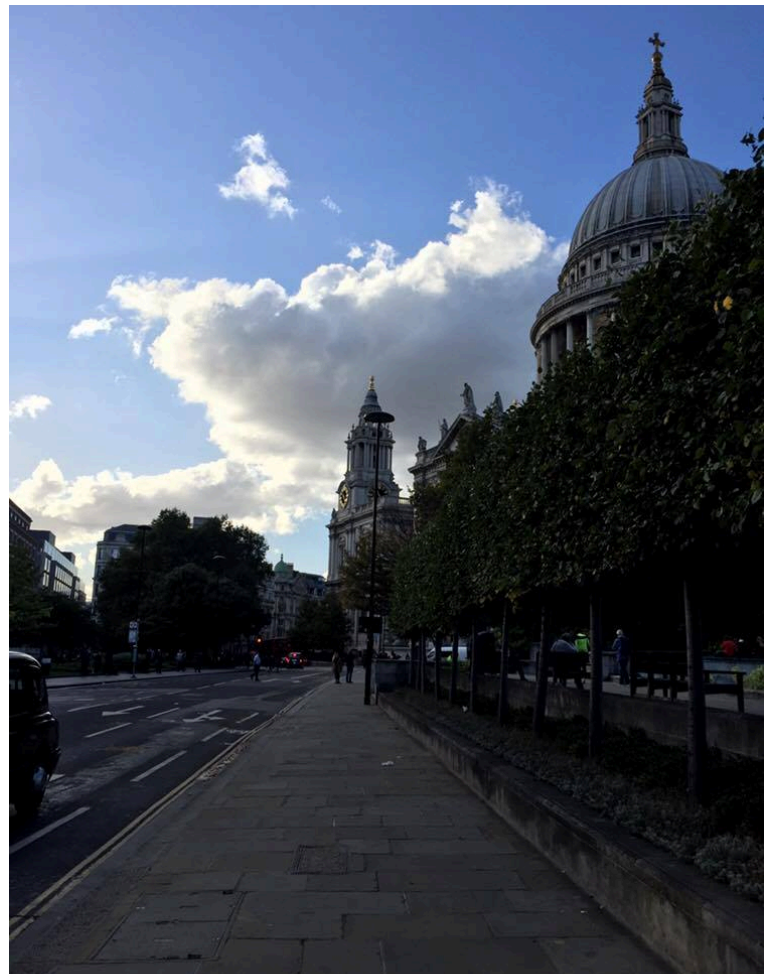
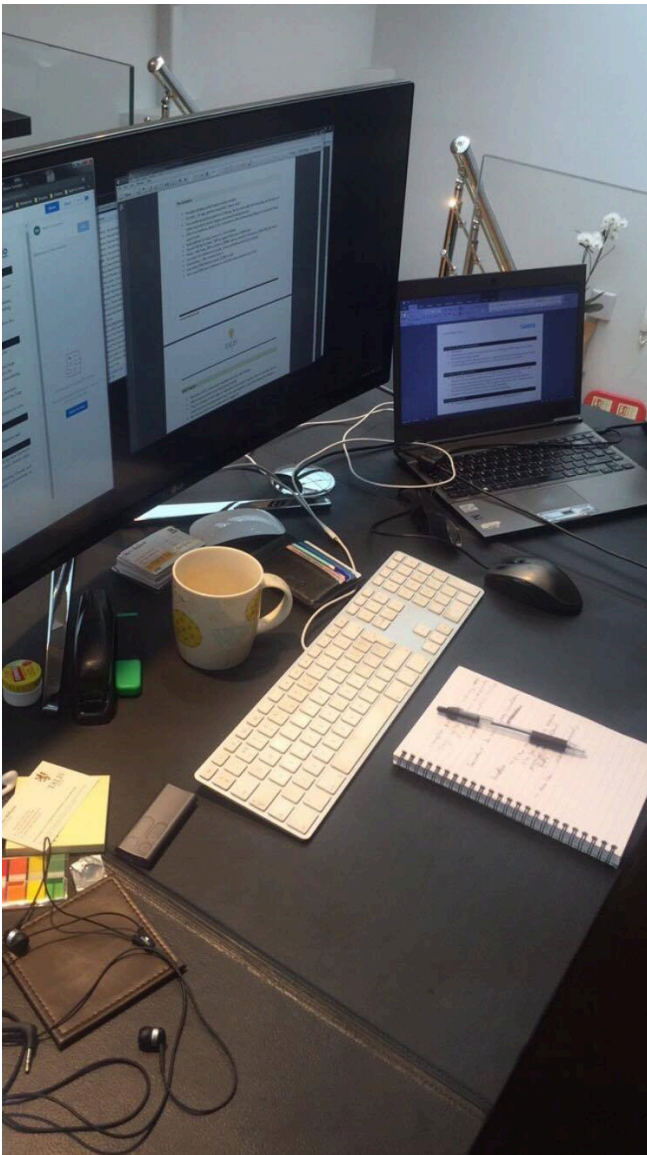
I decided to go to Oia in Santorini in Greece in the beginning of September as the semester in the UK starts at the end of September.



Wine was better than Italian

I arrived at London on the 20<sup>th</sup> of September a few days prior to the beginning of the semester. I did not live in the University accommodation and instead I co-rented a private student accommodation near Liverpool Street (around 15 minutes walk to the University). Over the summer I had a chance to work at a private equity and venture capital firm in London and when the semester started I continued to work there part-time on Mondays and Tuesdays as I had those days off. Universities in the UK are not as hard-core as in Hong Kong and as such I had plenty of free time to wander around, travel, work and attend conferences / hackathons / meetups.

My desk at work



## November

In November I had a chance to attend Amplify Trading one-day programme about trading the fundamentals. Afterwards I connected their managing director

with HKUST finance faculty as they wished to expand into Hong Kong. After that I went to Madrid, Spain for a weekend and also attended Accenture Global Hackathon, a global hackathon with 60+ teams from 8 countries. Our team won the UK round and advanced to global finals where we finished amongst top 8 teams globally (unfortunately I did not bring my HKUST hoodie with me).





## December

As an exchange student I was not required to sit the final exams and I have chosen to do a so-called alternative assessment, which was typically an essay on the topic provided. The school finished on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December and I stayed in London until the 15<sup>th</sup> due to interview for a position in Hong Kong (which, I have to brag, I secured). After that, I went back home to Prague and travelled a bit more around Europe until finally flying to Hong Kong on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January.

### Visa

As a citizen of Czech Republic I did not require a visa to study or work in the UK.

### Orientation Activities

City University had a number of orientation activities for exchange students including a campus tour and a buddy that helped you around.

### Accommodations

I was offered an accommodation from University, however I eventually decided to co-rent a flat with my girlfriend in London. The flat was located at a private student accommodation between Old Street and Liverpool Street and was a much cheaper choice than University accommodation.

### Courses Registration

Course registration was fairly straightforward, as we had to choose the subjects prior to even leaving HKUST. Once at City University we only had to confirm the choices and I have received all of the subjects that I requested.

### Teaching & Assessment Methods

Similar to HKUST, teaching method varies from one professor to another. However, assessment methods and grading are far easier as getting a c. 70% earns you first class honours. Typically, a class would consist of a coursework and midterm, and attendance was not required. At the end of the semester you could chose whether you wanted to take the final exams or alternative assessments.

**AF2101** – Financial Accounting (required for Fina major)

**FR2100** – Security Analysis (Fina elective) – Trading / Asset Management

**FR3110** – Technical Analysis (Fina elective) – Pure Trading

**IF3207** – Corporate Strategy (Fina elective) – really good if you want to do IB/PE

All of the courses except for the technical analysis were relatively easy and did not require much studying. Exams were generally much easier than at HKUST and you were not graded on a curve.

### Finance & Banking

You can set up a bank account in the UK if you want to. I have used my Czech bank account, as it was more convenient for me.

	Cost in GBP
<b>Accommodation</b>	c. 2000
<b>Monthly Expenses</b>	c. 1200

<b>Air Ticket</b>	500
<b>Travel</b>	Varies

### **Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities**

There are a ton of networking opportunities in London as long as you subscribe to WSO or download the Meetup app. At City University there was not so many opportunities for Undergrad students but you can easily go directly to Cass Business School and attend the events for grad students. There is also a great app called Shapr, which is basically Tinder for networking.

### **Food**

Restaurants and bars in London are priced similarly to Hong Kong. If you really like to get some nice cocktail / wine then be on lookout for happy hours. I mostly cooked for myself as it was way cheaper (and sometimes nicer). You can purchase 3 different types of meat in Marks and Spencer for 10 pounds.

### **Transportation**

London's public transport is fairly expensive. You need to get an Oyster Student card via an online application and after that you can either purchase a monthly/ weekly pass or use the card similarly to Octopus as pay-as-you-go. However, the public transport in London lags far behind the Hong Kong's one and is a bit inconvenient. You would also prefer not to use any kind of transportation from 5PM until 8PM because its overcrowded and some stations are closed.

### **Climate**

Typically it does not snow in London but it did this year, so be prepared for everything. Generally though, it is very windy in London so be sure to bring a scarf and a hat.

### **Communication**

Everyone speaks fluent English (obviously). I also purchased a Vodafone pay as you go SIM card and paid GBP 20 per month for unlimited calls and texts in UK as well as 8GB of data. Generally, you can find a cheaper alternative.

### **Items to bring**

1. Scarf (and maybe a hat) – really though it is the most important thing, I got sick immediately when I arrived in September
2. HKUST hoodie – really though, represent the University
3. Adapters in case you plan to travel in Europe
4. Cash / Credit Cards
5. Leather shoes and umbrella – although it only rained 5 times when I was there I would still advise to bring those
6. Useful apps – Fever (events); Dojo (events / places nearby); Ubereats / Deliveroo (when the hunger strikers); Shapr / Meetup (for networking); Citymapper / Transit (convenient for public transport)