

# City University London, Cass Business School

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BBA Finance & Information System

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**Cass Business School**  
CITY UNIVERSITY LONDON

## Monthly Activity Log

### January

The semester began at 18<sup>th</sup> Jan with two days of induction. I arrived at London together with other HKUST exchange mates a week before the orientation date, and started to get myself familiar with the living area. On the first weekend we went to Oxford, which was on the coldest day I could recall during the whole exchange; and also the Harry Potter Studios. Soon we met the other exchange students on our floor (I lived in City accommodation- Liberty Hall). Classes started from 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan, and at the end of this week it was Chinese New Year. We celebrated the day with exchange friends, and we went to Chinatown in London to enjoy a sense of holiday. (But sadly I have lost my phone the other day, so warm reminder here: always be alert on your personal items (in your pockets), especially when in crowded places.)



### February

I went to Cambridge to visit some friends on the first weekend. Besides that, I spent most of my time exploring London, visiting places of interest such as the tower of London, the Big Ben and Parliament House, the Hyde Park etc. Because of the course I took, Performing Arts in



London, I got the chances to visit some famous theatre such as the Shakespeare's Globe, and watched some performances. I personally highly recommended the course, since it will be a good way to see the performing culture in London. At the end of the month I visited Bath and Bristol.

## March

Midterms and presentations were coming up in this month, however I still seize the time to visit Scotland---a 4-day trip to Highland and Edinburgh. Later in the month I mainly focused on coursework. Though you could always get relaxed around London, since there are so many to explore. Some of my favorites including the Sky Garden (must visit!!), the highest restaurant Duck & Waffle, and museums and parks. Or you could go to a city nearby, such as Brighton and Seven Sister.



## April

Semester was coming to the end and some of the exchange mates were leaving once the semester finished. We spent some time saying goodbye, and had farewell dinner with each other. Instead of final exams, exchange students can choose for alternative assessment, which are usually essays or case studies. So I brought the assessments with me along my first trip to Europe. (Yes, I finally started my trip to Europe! Many others started that earlier during semester, which was also good.) I traveled to Amsterdam, Cologne, Brussels and Paris.

## May-June

With all the academic tasks being completed, the last one and a half month was completely for traveling. I flew to Budapest from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 4<sup>th</sup> May, then after one day's rest in London I headed to Barcelona. From 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> I stayed in Barcelona and Lisbon. Later I had a week's time in London meeting friends, and then traveled to Stockholm and Copenhagen. Before the last trip in June, I revisited some of my favorite places in London. And the whole exchange ended right after my last trip to an Island of Spain, Ibiza. I flew back Hong Kong at 16<sup>th</sup> June, which was the last exchange student left the student hall!



## **General Exchange Information**

### **1) Visa Procedures**

As a Chinese passport holder, I have to apply for a short-term visa in order to study and stay in the UK. Cass Business School will provide you the necessary document for application via email, and a link will be given where you can find more details. You have to make an appointment with the visa application center online, and prepare the supporting documents including financial proof, acceptance letter, accommodation proof etc. (Details: <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk> )

If you are planning to travel around Europe, in my case, I have to also get my Schengen visa before I left. You are not allowed to apply for the visa when you are in the UK since our stay of study is less than 6 months.

### **2) Orientation Activities**

There weren't a lot of orientation activities. We had 2 days of induction before semester started, mostly they were welcoming and introduction talks guide you through the useful learning system online, facilities and buildings in the campus and there was an optional tour guided by Cass students. There were some parties and activities organized by ESN, a student society, and you will receive emails to sign up for the events.

### **3) International Services & Activities**

If you have any questions regarding exchange, you could contact Student Exchange Coordinator via [cass-ug-incoming@city.ac.uk](mailto:cass-ug-incoming@city.ac.uk). They are very helpful and responsive.

### **4) Accommodations**

I am lucky to have a hall place in the Liberty Hall. It is located between two stations, Angel and Old Street, which the hall is around 10-minutes' walk to either station. It is very close to the main campus (I have all my class in the city campus instead of the business school building, even though it is just a few minutes' walk to each other).

It is a single room with ensuite bathroom. You will share the kitchen and common rooms with people on the same floor. The contract period is fixed, even you planned to leave early you have to pay the full price. There is a double bed with two pillows and a quilt, and they will provide you with one set of bed sheets.

### 5) Courses Registration

Clear instructions will be provided through email. They have a webpage where you can check the timetable before you go to UK, and you will be asked for preference for the first time in September. But it will not be your final decision, it just helps them to estimate the numbers for the class. (Although it might give you an advantage to get a seat in some popular classes.)

The first week of schools you can sit around the classes, and at the end of the week you will fill in a form indicating your final decisions, as well as your preference for taking alternative assessment.

### 6) Teaching & Assessment Methods

At the beginning of the semester, exchange students can opt for alternative assessments, which will be handed in during April, instead of the sit-in final exams in May. I have chosen the following courses:

Course	Assessment methods	Details
FR2203 Company Valuation	Midterm (30%) Alternative Assessment- Case Study (70%)	The alternative assessment is a case study, and you have 3 days to finish it. It is intense.
FR2210 Alternative Investment Management	Trading Game (30%) Alternative Assessment- Essay (70%)	It covers a wide range of topics and the instructor will invite speakers for sharing. Company visits are included in the syllabus, but some of the visits were cancelled due to changes.  For the trading game you are required to frequently monitor your trades, and a report will be assessed at the end.

IF2210 Asset Management	Midterm (30%) Alternative Assessment (70%)	The contents are not too difficult. Midterm is multiple choice questions and alternative assessment is an assignment where you have to analyze financial data and answer questions.
LA2017 Performing Arts in London	Presentation (50%) Final Exam- Sit-in test with essay type questions (50%)	You have to pay £50 for tickets of 5 performances, which is way cheaper than you bought tickets yourself.  The course introduces the performing culture transformed over history. There were 2 tours to visit theatres and the city, and there were 5 performance including plays, operas and ballets.

### **7) Finance & Banking**

There is a Santander bank located inside the University. You will need a proof from the student center in order to open an account. Wait for about 7 working days you will receive the cards. It is convenient once you have the debit card from Santander since it is widely accepted.

### **8) Cautionary measures**

It was dangerous during the time I stayed in London and Europe. There were attacks happened twice near city center, luckily we were all safe. Keep yourself updated with local and international news.

Pickpocketing is common in Europe. Be aware of personal items in your pockets and bags. When traveling, you could bring a bag lock or bag cover so as to reduce the chance for being stolen.

## **9) Transportation**

Oyster card for transportation is like the Octopus card used in Hong Kong, and it helps saving money. Register for a 16-25 railcard and linked it with your oyster card can reduce 1/3 fare for non-peak hour trips. You could only use contactless credit/debit card or Oyster card on buses, cashes are not accepted. A standard rate is paid on bus at £1.5, and it would charge you once only within 60 minutes, even you take multiple rides. The 16-25 railcard is very helpful on money-saving for train tickets as well, remember to bring it with you when you are on trains to other cities in UK.

## **10) Climate**

I think the weather in London is very good overall. Sunshine are more than what I expected. It is cold during Jan-March, gloves and scarfs are handy when you are outdoor for a long while. There are heaters in buildings so it won't be a problem when you are indoor. Jackets with hood or water-proof are convenient too since soft rains are common.

## Items to Bring

- ✓ Passport, ID Card, acceptance letter and visa documents
- ✓ Cash (GBP+EUR), credit cards
- ✓ Medicines
- ✓ Warm clothes, hats, gloves, scarf, waterproof jacket or hooded jackets
- ✓ Laptop, Camera
- ✓ Charger and adaptors (Europe)
- ✓ Umbrella
- ✓ Stationary
- ✓ Bag locks or bag cover (Protect your items when traveling)

## Useful links and Contacts

Visa information

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk>

London Transportation

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/>

Travel by trains within UK

<https://www.thetrainline.com>

useful Apps in UK (and traveling)

Citymapper



You are more than welcome to ask SBM for my contact if you have any questions ;)