

Exchange Report

City University of London, United Kingdom

Cass Business School



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Finance and Management

Fall 2017

Part I – Monthly Activity Log

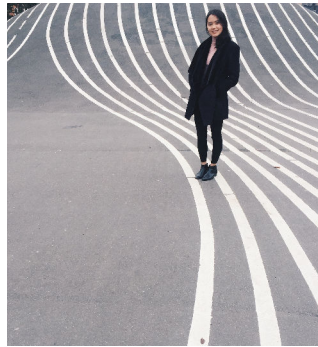
September 2017

I arrived in London on 25 September 2017. The semester in the UK starts pretty late – the first day of orientation was on 27 September 2017 and classes started on 2 October 2017. I did not get hall offer from the university so I rented a room in a shared flat. On the 25th, I arrived in the morning and later joined a welcoming event for international students organized by City University of London in the afternoon. The event took place at Mansion House, where the Lord Mayor of London resides. It was a very memorable event for me as I got the opportunity to listen to the speech of the Lord Mayor of London and met a lot of new friends. For the rest of the week in September, I joined few orientation activities organized by the university and explored around London. As this was my first time in London, I was grateful to be able to see Big Ben before it was fully covered by the construction materials (it is currently under renovation until 2021).



October 2017

All classes started on October. I took 6 courses in total – 5 for my major requirements and 1 optional course for exchange student (the course was about exploring London’s history, so we visited various historical places every week). Although it is quite uncommon to take 6 courses (normally people just take 4 or 5 during their exchange program), I have made a special request because I needed more credits in order to graduate on time as I had taken a gap semester to do an internship previously. This month, I did a solo trip to Copenhagen and went to Paris to visit my high school friend who is currently studying there. I also did a day trip to Oxford with my friends.



November 2017

My days in November were all about meeting people, travelling, and watching theatres. I had catch-up dinners with some of my colleagues whom I had known from my previous internships. For travelling, I went on a day trip to Dover, Canterbury, and Greenwich with my friends. Then I also went to Edinburgh (and a short trip to Glasgow). Some of my projects were due by the end of November, so for this month I had to manage my time well between doing assignments and travelling. Finally, the highlight of the month was that I watched the theatre which has been my dream for a long time: HARRY POTTER AND THE CURSED CHILD!



December 2017 - January 2018

December was a particularly hectic month for me. Group projects, alternative assessments, and final exams were all due on December. At the university, exchange students are given the option to take an alternative assessment (which all take place on December) instead of the normal final exam on January. The alternative assessments can differ depending on the courses and professor. Some of my alternative assessments were like homework or report, but some were final exams which we had to attend on a particular day in December. Despite all of these, I still managed to do a day trip to Cardiff and travelled to Slovenia. I was extremely grateful and excited after I finished all of my assignments and tasks as it marks the beginning of my 3-week trip to Scandinavian countries with my family. We went to Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Iceland. We also spent New Year's Eve in London and travelled around until 5 January 2018 before finally going back to Indonesia.



Part II – General Exchange Information

1. Visa Procedures

As an Indonesian passport holder, I need a short-term study visa for my exchange in the UK. We can start applying for the visa up to 3 months prior to our date of arrival in the UK. These are the required documents for the visa application:

- a current passport or other valid travel identification
- evidence that you can support yourself during your trip, for example bank statements or payslips for the last 6 months
- details of where you intend to stay and your travel plans
- your tuberculosis (TB) test results if you're from a country where you have to take the test
- contact details for at least one parent or guardian in your home country (if you're under 18 years old)
- Letter of acceptance from the educational institution (City University will send you the original hardcopy of the letter through HKUST SBM and a softcopy to your email)

For more information, please visit <https://www.gov.uk/study-visit-visa>

2. Orientation Activities

City University offers various orientation activities – both compulsory and optional – around 2 weeks before the first day of class. In my case, the first day of class was on 2 October 2017 and compulsory orientation activities started from 27 September 2017. Some of the activities are welcome meeting, campus tour, fresher's fair, welcome reception, ID card collection, and language fair.

3. International Services and Activities

City University provides services and guidance for international students to adjust to living in London. It also has a number of student societies which organize activities and events throughout the semester.

For more information, please visit <https://www.city.ac.uk/international>

4. Accommodations

City University offers limited hall places for exchange students. I did not get hall offer, so I had to find accommodation by myself. There are several private student accommodation options, but it is difficult to find one which offers a 3-month stay (usually they only offer 1-year stay). For the first month, I lived with a host family from HFS London (<https://www.hfslondon.com/>), which was recommended by City

University as an alternative accommodation. For the second and third month, I rented a room in a shared flat through <https://uk.easyroommate.com/>. Some private student accommodation options:

- Acorn London: <http://www.acorn-london.co.uk/study-abroad/>
- Unite Student Accommodation: <http://www.unite-students.com/london>
- Nido: <http://www.thenidocollection.com/>
- Pure Hammersmith: <http://purestudentliving.com/our-properties/hammersmith>
- Stay Club @Camden: <http://www.thestayclub.com/camden/>
- International Students House: <https://www.ish.org.uk/accommodation>
- Britannia Student Services: <http://britanniastudents.com/halls-of-residence/>
- Touchstone Student Living:
<http://www.touchstonestudentliving.co.uk/accommodation/london>
- IQ Student Accommodation: <http://www.iq-student-accommodation.com/studentaccommodation/london>
- Mansion Student: <http://www.mansionstudent.co.uk/london-student-accommodation/index.html>

5. Courses Registration

Courses registration at City University is very simple and easy. City University will send us an email with a link for courses registration around 1-2 months prior to the start of the semester. Once we pass the first week of school, we will have to confirm the courses that we want to take via another link.

6. Teaching and Assessment Methods

At City University, students are not graded on a curve. I think the grading system here is very lenient because first class honors only require you to have a 70% score. Typical components of a class include coursework, midterm, and final exam. As exchange students, we can choose to do an alternative assessment instead of final exam. Alternative assessments vary depending on the professors – some are take-home exams, but some are final exams that we have to take on a particular day (but before the real final exam date for full-time students).

7. Sports and Recreation Facilities

City University has a sports centre and gym called CitySport that is located outside of but near the campus (it is not free). For more information, please visit <https://www.city.ac.uk/sport-and-leisure> and <https://www.citysport.org.uk/>

8. Finance and Banking

If you want to set up a bank account here, you have to get a letter from the school beforehand. However, I heard that the overall process could take around 1 month, so I decided not to set up one.

9. Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities

There are various student societies in City University, but I am not sure if exchange students are eligible to join. The university also offers numerous events which provide good networking opportunities.

10. Health and Safety

Since exchange students will study for a period of less than 6 months, we are not entitled to free healthcare in the UK, so we have to obtain health insurance by ourselves. The university provides a nurse-led Health Centre for all students (please note that there is no doctor). There is also a counselling service available.

11. Food

School cafeterias mostly serve Western food. Since I prefer Asian food, I often eat outside of campus. Average price for eat-in at restaurants is around 10-20 pounds, while for takeaway stores is around 5-10 pounds.

12. Transportation

Transportation in London is pretty convenient – there are tubes, buses, and taxis everywhere. Similar to Hong Kong, London has Oyster card (instead of Octopus card) for travelling by tubes and buses. We can choose whether to buy a travelcard (unlimited daily/weekly/monthly rides) or pay-as-you-go for the Oyster card. Taxi is very expensive, but an alternative to this is Uber.

13. Climate

When I arrived in London on late September, the weather was pretty cool (around 15 degrees Celsius). It got colder and colder towards December (around -2 to 5 degrees Celsius) and it snowed this year. London is also generally windy, so make sure that you wear thick jackets (preferably those with hoodies), scarf, and beanie.

14. Communication

Students use email for means of communications for university-related matters. For SIM card, I recommend to buy EE. With 15 pounds, you get unlimited texts and calls (I am not quite sure about this, but it is definitely a lot so don't worry about running out of these) and 12 GB of data and you can use it in all EU countries.

Part III – Items to Bring

Some important must-bring items:

- Passport
- Sweaters, coats, jackets (preferably those with hoodies)
- Heat-tech long johns
- Scarfs
- Beanies and hats
- Gloves
- Body lotion, hand cream, lip balm
- Camera (and its charger)
- Laptop (and its charger)
- Adaptor (for travel around Europe)
- Medicine
- Umbrella

Part IV – Useful Links and Contacts

1. Undergraduate Modules

<https://www.cass.city.ac.uk/intranet/student/undergraduate/modules>

2. Short-term Study Visa

<https://www.city.ac.uk/international/visa-immigration-advice/short-term-study>

3. Accommodations

<https://www.city.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/accommodation/international-and-exchange-students>

4. Nurse-led Health Centre

<https://www.city.ac.uk/current-students/health-wellbeing-sport/student-health-service>

5. Important Phone Numbers in London

Emergency services (police, fire, and ambulance): 112 or 999

Gas emergency: 0800 111 999

NHS Direct (24 hour health helpline): 0845 4647