

**EXCHANGE REPORT /**

FALL 2017

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Minor in Entrepreneurship



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# Monthly Activity Log /

## SEPTEMBER 2017

I arrived in London on the 26<sup>th</sup> Sep, which was around 1 week before the term started. I checked into Liberty Hall, settled down and was adjusting to the time zone difference. Despite being shattered, I visited the St. Paul's Cathedral on the same day and it was stunning.



St. Paul's Cathedral during Sunset



Northampton Square in the University

## OCTOBER 2017

Thanks to the Historic London module I visited quite a number of touristy places in London. One highlight is the Tower of London, which had different usages over time in its history – from a secure fortress to a royal palace and then became an infamous prison and the habitat of the guardians of the Tower – the ravens.



A Glance at the Tower of London



The Traitor's Gate

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## **NOVEMBER 2017**

If you are a fan of natural landmarks or parks then you must not miss Hyde Park. I went there during mid November and it was freezing cold. However, the royal park was not a disappointment when I saw the spectacular and beautiful meadow. It was exceptionally relaxing to sit next to the lake and enjoy a cup of hot coffee.



Ducks living in Hyde Park



Lake in Hyde Park during Sunset

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## **DECEMBER 2017**

During Christmas time I went to Oxford Street, the well-known shopping area to see the winter lights. Although it did not snow but the coruscating lights were enjoyable enough to make my Christmas time in London memorable.



Christmas Lights in Oxford Street



Harrods

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## **JANUARY 2018**

Another way to enjoy winter time will definitely be ice skating. I went to Somerset House, which had a temporary ice rink allowing people to skate right in front of Somerset House. I also went to Southend-On-Sea in Essex which has the longest leisure pier in the world – Southend Pier.



Somerset House Ice Rink



The road to Southend-On-Sea



# General Exchange Information /

## Visa Procedures

Students on a one-term exchange programme (Non-EEA) can enter the UK under the **Short Term Study Visa**. If you're a **Hong Kong Passport** or **British Passport** holder, you will **NOT** need to apply for a **Tier 4 Student Visa**. More information can be found on <http://www.city.ac.uk/international/visa-immigration-advice/short-term-study>.

## Orientation Activities

There were a few orientation activities held before the term started. The very first one was the **International Students Welcome Reception**, which was a **night** welcoming event for new students at the **Mansion House**. **Fresher's Fair** was a two-day event held at the **Business Design Centre** in **Angel** in which you could find all the university societies reception counters. There were also **Language Fair**, which you could sign up for free language courses and **City Walk**, a free and quick tour around the vicinity of the University. More information can be found on <http://www.city.ac.uk/new-students/your-first-weeks/international-students-events>.

## Accommodations

Despite on the HKUST Business School website it says there is only two guarantee housing spots for exchange students per term, you can contact the **Study Abroad Office** at **Cass Business School** to indicate your interest in staying at a student hall. Note that the student halls are not managed by the University but a student accommodation provider. I got a **classic en-suite room** at **Liberty Hall** by Liberty Living and it was just **5-minute walk** away from the University. If you want to have a look at what the rooms are like, you can visit <http://www.libertyliving.co.uk/student-accommodation/london/liberty-hall/>.

## Course Registration

You should first check whether a course is offered in the term you are study at Cass Business School and the study abroad will send you a link later about the **Class Timetable** and you can check for potential class time clashes. At the end you will have to fill out an **online form** indicating what modules (courses) you want to take; and you are allowed to take up to **4 business courses plus 1 art / humanities course**, which is either **LA2017 Performing Arts in London** or **LA2018 Historic London**.

## Teaching and Assessment Methods

I took 8 modules in total at Cass Business School, of which 5 are business courses, 1 is art course, and 2 are language courses. I had made a special request to take one additional business course and got approval from the course officer at Cass Business School to do so, but normally students only take 4 courses in one term.

Cass Module	Equivalent HKUST Course	Equivalent HKUST Credits	Description / Comment
BS3111 Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice	MGMT 4220 Entrepreneurship and Small Business Studies	4	<b>Highly recommended.</b> Lots of <b>case studies</b> were provided and the professor often invited <b>guest speakers</b> who were entrepreneurs or alumni of the University to inspire students to learn what entrepreneurship was. Assessments were consisted of a group project and an essay.
FR 2100 Security Analysis	FINA 3000 Level	3	An integrated module on <b>stock, bond and company analysis</b> . Students were taught a wide range of skills of analysing whether a company was performing well compared to its competitors. Assignments included a group case study and an individual essay.
FR 2202 Financial Econometrics	FINA 4000 Level	3	A <b>challenging</b> yet practical module focusing on conducting <b>regression analysis</b> . Assessments were one group homework and one individual homework.
FR 3110 Technical Analysis	FINA 3000 Level	4	An intriguing and <b>very practical</b> module teaching <b>analysis on stocks</b> based on stock charts, stock trends and stock movements. Assignments included one group homework and one individual homework.
IF 3108 Corporate Finance	FINA 3303 Intermediate Corporate Finance	3	An essential and useful course concentrating on <b>capital budgeting, capital structure and dividend decision</b> . Assignments consisted of one mid term exam and one final exam.
LA 2018 Historic London	HMCC UCore	4	A <b>must-take</b> module. Every week students were brought different <b>tourist attractions</b> in London and could develop a better understanding of how London has become the London today. Assignments were one group project and one final exam.
LA 0021 French Beginner	/	*Non-Credit Bearing	A A1 level French beginner module focusing on Business French.
LA 0022 German Beginner	/	*Non-Credit Bearing	A A1 level German beginner module focusing on Business German.

## Sports and Recreation Facilities

The University Sports Centre, **CitySport**, is located off campus and is a fee-paying student facility. More information can be found on <https://www.citysport.org.uk/>. However, there are a few other gyms you can find around the University so it might be worth comparing them and choose the one that best suits your training needs. There is a wide range of sports clubs you can join in the University and I joined the Badminton Team and they held regular weekly practices.

## Finance and Banking

As a short-term visiting student, it can be very difficult to open a bank account in the UK because banks require students to be studying in the country for at least 1 year. Students should first obtain a **Letter of Introduction to UK Banking Facilities** from the study abroad officer before applying for any bank account, and then you can try to ask the bank staff members if it is possible to open a student bank account.

Regarding cost and expenses, since it fluctuates greatly among individuals depending on living styles and consumption patterns, I have only listed out the accommodation and flight costs below for reference.

Accommodation	£	3,425
Flight	£	644
<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>4,069</b>

## Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities

As mentioned earlier, university societies will have their reception counters during **Fresher's Fair** and students can join the clubs they are interested in. If you miss out the Fresher's Fair, sometimes the clubs will also promote around the campus throughout the term. For Cass Business School's Clubs and Societies, you can visit

<https://www.cass.city.ac.uk/student-intranet/cass-community/clubs-and-societies>.

## Health and Safety

If you are staying at one of the student halls provided by Liberty Living, you will be living in **Angel** or **Farringdon**, which is an area in Zone 1 Central London. Therefore it is very safe to navigate around these areas but be careful that sometimes there are people begging for money and you can simply ignore them. You can also download the **International SOS** app which comes in handy when there is any travel alerts.

## Food

It can be very expensive to eat out all the time as in general dining out can cost around £10 per meal. Takeaways are cheaper than eat-in because you have to pay **VAT** in the UK. I recommend preparing for your own meals as this can save you a lot of money, but there are a lot of lovely and cosy coffee shops around London so sometimes it is nice to sit down and relax to enjoy a cup of coffee.

## Transportation

The equivalent transportation card to Octopus Card in the UK is the **Oyster Card**. Unfortunately, students studying in the UK for just one term is NOT eligible to apply for a Student Oyster Card. However, you can purchase a **16-25 Railcard** and link the card to your normal Oyster Card, which gives you 1/3 off a ride on the **London Underground** during non-peak hours. All buses are of fixed prices at £1.5 regardless of where you go so it can be a cheaper option during peak hours. For more information about Oyster Cards, you can visit <https://oyster.tfl.gov.uk/oyster/entry.do>.

## Climate

Most of the times London is cloudy or raining so you should always bring an umbrella with you. The weather can drop to -1 degree Celsius during



January so make sure you have a winter coat to keep yourself warm.

### Communication

There are many mobile carriers in the UK and the most convenient one is **Giffgaff** because you can order a free sim card and have it sent to your home in Hong Kong before departure to the UK. All you need to do is activate the card once you have arrived in the UK.

### Cautionary Measures

Always stay alert and follow the news as there could be security alerts such as suspect packages. Stay away from the affected area and avoid going to crowded areas such as **Oxford Street**.

## Items to Bring /

Passport

Phone and Laptop Chargers

Camera

Letter of Acceptance

Winter Clothing

Personal Medication

## Useful Links and Contacts /

Cass Business School

<https://www.cass.city.ac.uk/>

Cass Undergraduate Modules

<https://www.cass.city.ac.uk/student-intranet/your-academic-journey/modules>

Transport for London

<https://tfl.gov.uk/>

Cass Business School Student Exchange  
Coordinator – Katie Hughes

[cass-ug-incoming@city.ac.uk](mailto:cass-ug-incoming@city.ac.uk)

TimeOut London

<https://www.timeout.com/london>