



EXCHANGE REPORT SPRING 2018

CASS BUSINESS SCHOOL, CITY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

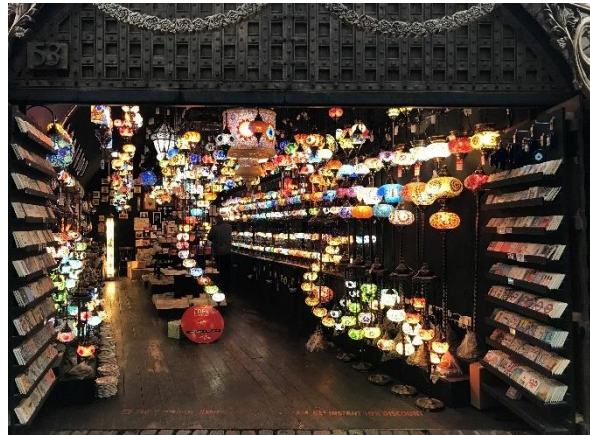
CHUNG WING YUN

ACCOUNTING AND ECONOMICS YEAR 3

PART 1 MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG

JANUARY

I arrived London on 20th January, which was few days before the semester began. Carrying two large luggage and a heavy backpack, it was lucky that my brother picked me up in the airport and brought me to the accommodation after buying necessities. I got an accommodation offer of Liberty Hall with en-suite facilities. It takes around 10 minutes to the university, which is very convenient. The orientation day was held on 24th January, there were three parts, including ID card collection, welcome meeting and City University's Study abroad Office welcome meeting. It provided clear introduction of the course registration and it was great to meet other exchange students on that day. It would be easy to meet other Hong Kong exchange students and made friends with them. For the first month, I went to the Oxford Street and Camden Market with friends and spent my other time to settle down first.



FEBRUARY

Spending a week to attend the lessons, the final module selection was confirmed and I was enrolled into four courses, including one course which is specially designed for exchange student. For each course, you only have one 2-hour class per week and some of the courses may have one tutorial session which lasts for 50 minutes. The university had held a campus walk at the beginning of the semester. However, I usually only went to the main building for lessons. As I have been to United Kingdom for several times before the exchange semester, when my friends who were also an exchange student in Europe visited me in London, I had brought her to lots of tourist spots including Big Ben. In this month, I took much time to get familiar with the places nearby and I also visited other cities such as Windsor and Cambridge. I also spend one weekend in Norwich as my brother lived there.



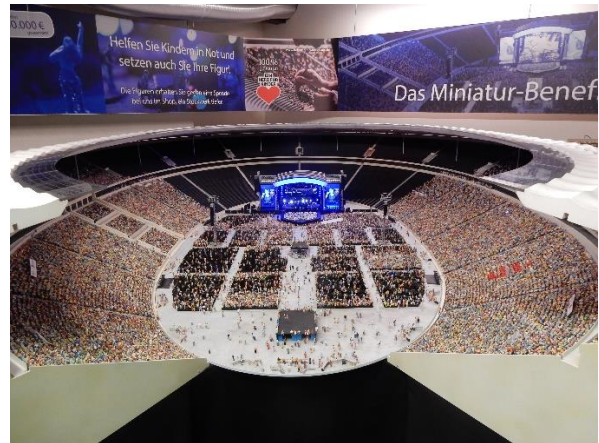
MARCH

I had never imagined that it could be freezing cold in London. The incredibly cold and snowy weather hit Europe and some of the classes were cancelled because of it. It was a new experience to me and we usually wore a lot when going out. Some of my classes have project presentation. Therefore, we still needed to meet up under such cold weather. In this month, I started to travel around Europe. Although there was a mid-term examination, but I could manage the time to finish the study and also start my journey. The first stop is Lake District. Our train was cancelled because of heavy snow at first, but it was glad that we could reach the destination on the same day. I also travelled to Iceland, Ireland and Morocco with my friends. Sceneries in these places are stunning, Morocco, being part of my solo trip, would definitely be one of my unforgettable trips!



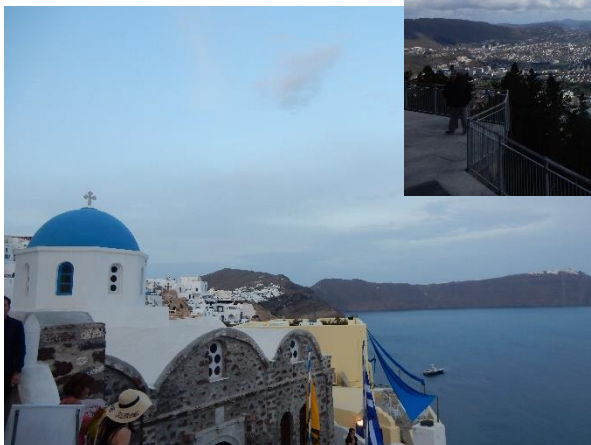
APRIL

The semester ends in middle April and every of us stayed in hall and worked on our assignment. Most of the courses could be graded with alternative assessment. However, one of my courses was required to take examination. Therefore, I spent the first half of April in my room and studied a lot for it. In addition, I continued to work on my group report and essays, trying my best to finish all of them before my trips. Finishing my only examination on 18th April, it also marked the end of the semester. And I started my long journey on the next day. First, I visited my friends in Denmark. We went to Copenhagen and Odense, then I travelled to Amsterdam and visited my other friend. It was surprising that I could experience the festive atmosphere in Amsterdam because of the King's Day. Whole cities were celebrated with the colour of orange and I had great time in the stay there. After that, I went to Hamburg and Berlin, which also marked the beginning of my solo trip.



MAY

My solo journey continues with my must-go place, Norway. I have been to Oslo and Bergen in the beginning of May. Then I went to Stockholm, Riga, Tallinn, Vilnius and Budapest. Travelling alone is must more exciting than I expected as I met lots of people. After that, I joined my friend in Greece and continued our Europe journey. We have been to Athens, Kalambaka, Santorini and Mykonos. It was exhausting but yet fruitful experience. We then took flight back to London in late May and went to Brighton before ending my whole exchange journey.



PART 2 GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

VISA PROCEDURES

You do not require to have a visa if you are a Hong Kong citizen and stay in UK less than 6 months. The university would give you a short-term visa after showing your acceptance letter. Remember to bring the visa whenever you travel around Europe and back to London as you will be asked and showed proof for your long stay in UK.

ORIENTATION ACTIVITIES

The orientation day was held only for a day. There would be 3 compulsory sessions including ID card registration and 2 introduction sessions. It provided detailed explanation on the course selection process and also introduction of the university.

ACCOMMODATIONS

There were two accommodations choices provided by the university. You should check your email frequently and fill in an online form to inform the university if you would like to apply for the official accommodation. The cost of Liberty Hall is 4185 pounds with en-suite facilities.

COURSES REGISTRATION

The university would send you an email 2-3 months before the beginning of semester. You just need to fill in the online form for your course preferences. You can make your final decision after arriving London as the university would give you time to take the first lesson of each course, then you would need to submit your final module selection form online to confirm your choice.

TEACHING & ASSESSMENT METHODS

The assessment method is different from HKUST. You could choose to take the alternative assessment instead of final examination. However, for cultural modules, Historic London or Performing Arts, these two courses are specially designed for exchange students and you are required to take examination. You could choose four academic courses and one cultural module in total. The courses I took were as follows:

IF2200 Economics of FOREX	Equivalent to ECON4000LEVEL 4000-level Course in Economics (Number of transfer credits will be determined per number of credits earned upon presentation of official transcript after studies.)	The course has one group project and one alternative assessment. Both are not difficult and you could prepare for your alternative assessment with sufficient time given.
AF3203 Advanced Financial Accounting: Theory & Practice		There is one midterm examination and one alternative assessment. The assessment is a bit difficult as you need to write 4000 words by comparing two cases, which has relatively little information related to the topic.
LA2017 Performing Arts in London	Equivalent to HMCCUCORE Common Core Course in Humanities (4 Credits)	You will need to pay 50 pounds for watching 5 shows such as drama and ballets in different theatres. During class session, you will have one group presentation which is quite easy. For the final examination, you are required to be very familiar with the shows you have watched.
AF2202 Principles of Taxation		The course has one group work and one alternative assessment. As the UK taxation system is different from HK, me and my group mate spent quite a lot of time working on the group work. For the alternative assessment, it is similar to the group work and you can do it much earlier before the deadline.

COST AND EXPENSES

Accommodation: 43,000HKD

Transportation: 4,500HKD

Living Expenses: 20,000HKD

Travelling: 40,000HKD

ITEMS TO BRING

Adaptor

Medicine

Passport, acceptance letter and other important document

Thick clothes

Scarf

Gloves

Body lotion, hand cream

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

The university has provided guidelines for international students such as information about living in London and some upcoming events. Details can be found at <https://www.city.ac.uk/international>.

SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES

City University of London has a sports and fitness center named CitySport with over 3000m² of floor space. However, it is not free of charge. You can obtain more information at <https://www.citysport.org.uk/>.

SOCIAL CLUBS & NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

There are numerous social clubs in the university. However, it is not sure whether there is recruitment of members in Spring Semester. For networking opportunities, you will receive information about school events and you can choose whether join them or not.

HEALTH & SAFETY

Student health service is provided on campus for advice on minor illnesses, accidents and general advice on health matters. If you are feeling unwell, there is a walk-in service in Ritchie Street Health Centre with walking distance from the university.

FOOD

There are several restaurants providing sandwiches and pizzas in the university. There are also numerous restaurants including Asian food nearby, you could have many choices and the price for a meal in London is around 13-20pounds.

TRANSPORTATION

Oyster card is a must in London as you can use it for taking public transport including undergrounds and buses. If you have a National Railcards - 16-25 Railcard, you will receive 1/3 discount on off-peak pay as you go fares on all rail services in London and 1/3 discount on daily caps when travelling after 09:30 Mondays to Fridays, anytime on Saturday, Sunday and on public holidays.

CLIMATE

It was extremely cold in London when I arrived there in late January, around -4 degree Celsius to 5 degree Celsius. It is a must to bring scarf and gloves when going out. When it comes to April, the weather is much warmer. However, there is huge temperature difference during daytime and at night. It is better to prepare few of summer clothes as well.

COMMUNICATION

As I lived in Liberty Hall during my stay, it provided a SIM card named giffgaff in the giftbox. You can choose any plan as you like and it costs 25 pounds for a always on data plan. It covers most of the EU countries and once you use up the first 9 GB of data outside UK, you will be charged for the additional usage of data

USEFUL LINKS AND CONTRACTS

Undergraduate Modules

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

Accommodations

<https://www.city.ac.uk/international/exchange-and-study-abroad/study-abroad-programme/fees-and-dates/study-abroad-accommodation>

Pre-arrival Guide

<https://www.city.ac.uk/international/pre-arrival-guide>