

# UNIVERSITY OF EXETER



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Spring 2018

To Yee Man  
FINA & IS (Year 3)

## MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG

### January

15 January is the Orientation Day of the University of Exeter and I can only move in to the accommodation on 14 January. Therefore, I decided to spend 4 days in London and go to Exeter on 14 January. After taking almost 3 hours train, I finally arrived Exeter and moved in to my residential hall, James Owen Court. Since most of the exchange students live in JOC, you can easily make friends from all over the world.

On the Orientation day, I had a tour around the campus and got my student card. During the orientation, I met some exchange students from Hong Kong who also lived in JOC. We decided to cook together throughout the exchange so as to save money.

Since it was not really busy in January, we went travelling during each weekend. We visited Oxford, Bristol and Bath during January. Coach tickets to other cities in England are reasonably priced, I recommend you to take buses rather than trains.



◀ Exeter Cathedral

The weather is rainy, we can barely see the sun.

### February

This month, I have visited to Iceland. Iceland is a beautiful country while every scenery is spectacular. However, we were not luck enough to see the Northern light. In addition, when we were going to come back to Exeter, our flight was cancelled because of the severe







weather. There was no accommodation offer for us, leading us have to sleep at the airport. This was the first time that my flight was being cancelled, I was quite panic. Fortunately, I had my friends accompanied me, and everything went right, and we came back to Exeter safely.

### **March**

This is the busiest month among the exchange in Exeter so we did not go travelling that much. We only went to Cardiff, a city near Exeter to take a break after midterm and assignment deadline.

Midterm exams always take place at night. Students should collect their candidate numbers before entering to the exam venue. The candidate number can be found in iExeter. Submitting assignment is quite different from that of UST. We need to print out a specific front page with barcode and name and student no. on it first and staple it with the assignment then submit to the front desk. After handing in our works, we would receive a receipt as a confirmation.

### **April**

April was a travelling busy month. There is a one month Easter break in UoE every year, students will always go travelling in this holiday. In this month, I have travelled to more than 10 countries, which I believe will not happen in the next 10 years. The most memorable city that I have been is Santorini. I will never forget the blue sky there and the hotel that I lived in. The sunset there is definitely worth to wait almost 1 hour. Going travel for more than a month was





quite exhausted for me but I really enjoyed it because it is a great opportunity for me to explore Europe and learn many different cultures from the world.

## May

After travelling, we finally backed to Exeter and it was time for us to study. The exam period was from the beginning to the end of May. It was lucky for me that my exams ended on the mid of May, thus I had another opportunity to go travelling before I came back to Hong Kong. Therefore, I went to Spain and Portugal where we did not have enough time to go in April.

## June

I decided to come back Hong Kong on 10 June with my friends. Before we came back, we had a short trip to travel around London again. London will never bore us. Although I have visited London for four times, I still found it beautiful and attractive. I will definitely go to London again.





After the 5 months exchange, I have visited 15 countries, 32 cities, learnt many different cultures and values. I found this exchange is far more meaningful than I expected. I will never regret that I have joined this exchange program.



## GENERAL EXCHANGE INFORMATION

### 1. Visa Procedures

Hong Kong passport holders do not need to apply visa to study in the U.K. as long as you are not going to study for more than 6 months. When you first arrive U.K., you should show your acceptance letter issued by UoE and you will get a stamp for “Short Term Study Visa”, which is valid for six months. Remember to bring along your acceptance letter whenever you travel to other countries during exchange period.

### 2. Orientation Activities

There are several activities in the first week to help international familiarize themselves with the university and city, such as campus tour and visit to Exeter Cathedral. You will receive email introducing the events and asking you to register.

### 3. International Services & Activities

#### Airport Collection Service

If you are going to exchange in Fall Semester, you can reserve a place on Airport Collection Services provided by UoE from Heathrow International Airport in advance. For more detail, please find below:

<http://www.exeter.ac.uk/internationalstudents/newstudents/airportcollectionservice/>

#### Societies and Clubs

There are variety of societies in the university which students can make join and make friends from different countries.

### 4. Accommodations

International students are usually being sent to James Owen Court, which is 10 minutes' walk from the city main street and 20 minutes' walk from the University. James Owen Court consists of more than 200 rooms arranged in cluster flats for 3 to 8 residents sharing kitchen and common area. All rooms inside the flat are en-suite, residents do not need to share toilet with the others. The receptionist is really nice and willing to assist whenever you have any difficulties so please feel free to ask for their help.

### 5. Course Registration

Before going exchange, you need to submit a study plan in the process of application. The maximum number of courses that you could take during exchange period is four. University staff will help you to register for the course and ask you to make changes of choice if you are not allowed to enrol in some courses. There is a 2 week period for you to make adjustment of the courses after the orientation day. Please make sure the courses you take in UoE are eligible to transfer credits.

## **6. Teaching & Assessment Methods**

Courses in UoE always consist of lecture and tutorial, some lecturer will even organize seminar too. The teaching style in lecture is quite similar to that in UST, you do not need to be afraid that you will be unfamiliar with that. However, tutorial in UoE are usually taught by the professor rather than the teaching assistant. Therefore, you can directly ask them questions if you face any difficulties. In addition, lecturers will usually give you some practices and ask you to prepare for them before tutorial. I found the exercises are very useful and worthy because they can help you to prepare for the examinations.

This semester, I took 4 courses in total. There is only one course that I took have 2 exams, while the others ask students to submit essay in midterm for grading.

## **7. Sports & Recreation Facilities**

There is a sport center in the university but it is quite expensive for students to join the membership. However, if you live in James Owen Court, you can play table tennis for free. There is a cinema beside JOC, you may enjoy the movies when you have time.

## **8. Finance & Banking**

There are a number of banks in the city center that you can choose to open an account in Exeter, for example HSBC UK, Barclays, Lloyds Bank, etc. Before you open the account, remember to generate a letter from the university by using SRS in iExeter so that you are able to open a bank account in the branch.

I found the Debit card very useful when you are living in the UK and travelling in Europe. Most of the shops in Exeter accept Debit card so you do not need to carry change when you go out.

## **9. Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities**

There are lots of societies for students to join and make friends. You may find more information in the Facebook pages. In addition, there will be some society booth and activities in the Forum, you may ask their members for more details.

In James Owen Court, there is a notice board in every common area, you may find some resident activities in the poster, such as 1 day trip to other city and residence quizzes.

## **10. Health & Safety**

There is a clinic in university that you can see the doctor when you are sick. Moreover, you may go to Boots "Health Care" section to seek help and buy medicine.

In terms of safety, Exeter is a safe city because most of the local residents are retired. You do not have to worry about your safety.

## **11. Food**

There are variety of food in the city, such as Chinese food, Thai food, Mexican food. Also, there are some food trucks in the city center during weekdays and weekend. In the campus, there are a number of restaurants you can enjoy the meals. They usually cost 5 to 7 pounds, which is relatively cheap in the UK.

If you are going to cook by yourself, I will recommend you go to Iceland Supermarket to buy the ingredients because food in there usually are cheaper than other supermarkets. In addition, there are 3 Asian markets in the city center selling Asian food. Staff in there can speak Chinese and even Cantonese, you may ask them for help too.

## **12. Transportation**

Exeter is a small city which you seldom need to take public transportation but there are buses around the city. If you want to travel to other cities by coaches, you may go to Bus & Coach Station, which is just 5 to 8 minutes walk from James Owen Court.

## **13. Climate**

Weather in Exeter is quite comfortable but like many cities in UK, it always rains in the winter. You may need to bring umbrella with you in January and February. The weather will get better in March.

## **14. Communication**

There are different service providers in Exeter and I chose Three UK. You could get a sim card and top up every month for data usage. Most of the service can use in the European countries too. There are different plans and you may go to the shop and ask the staff for advice.

## **ITEMS TO BRING**

- ✓ HKID Card
- ✓ Passport
- ✓ Acceptance letter from the University of Exeter
- ✓ UST Official Transcript
- ✓ Cash
- ✓ Chargers and Adapters
- ✓ Warm Clothes, Scarf, Gloves
- ✓ Sunglasses
- ✓ Medicine

## **USEFUL LINKS**

<http://business-school.exeter.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/modules/>

<https://i.exeter.ac.uk/campusm/home#menu>