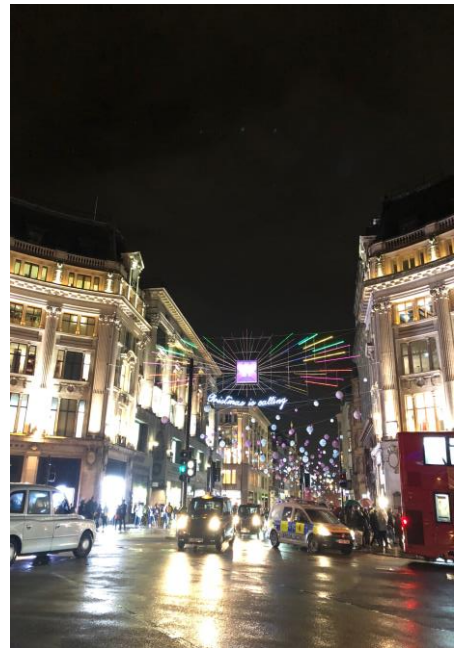


Exchange Report



CASS BUSINESS SCHOOL

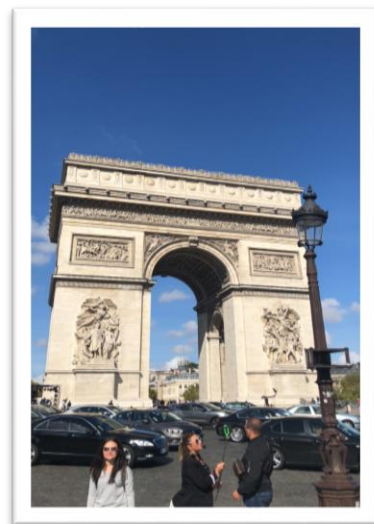
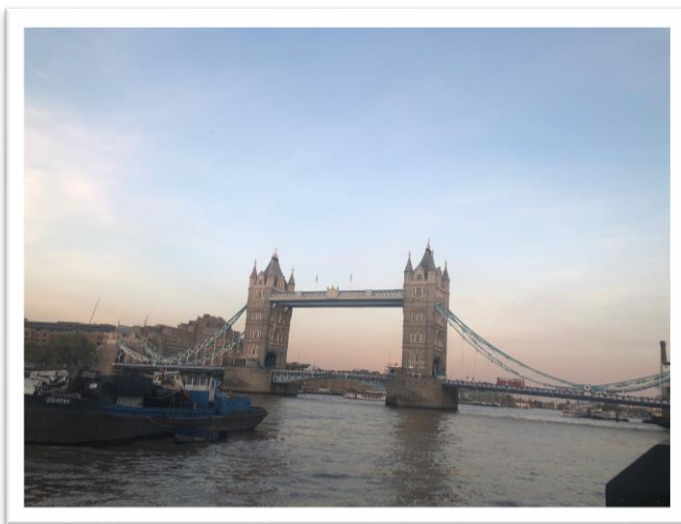
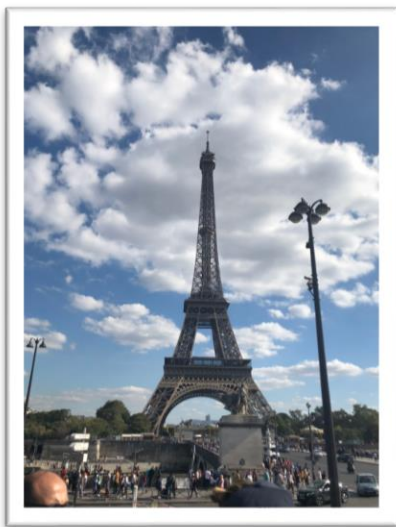
SO CHEUK YING, CHARMAINE

BBA in Operations Management and Management, Year 4

Part I – Monthly Log

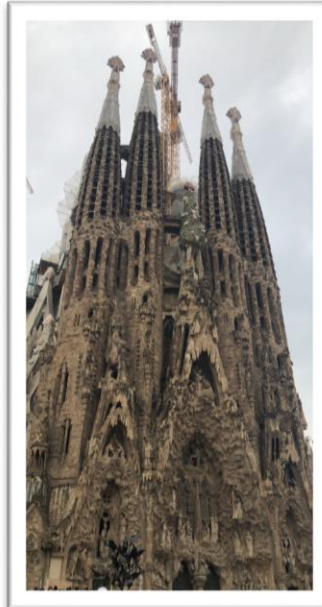
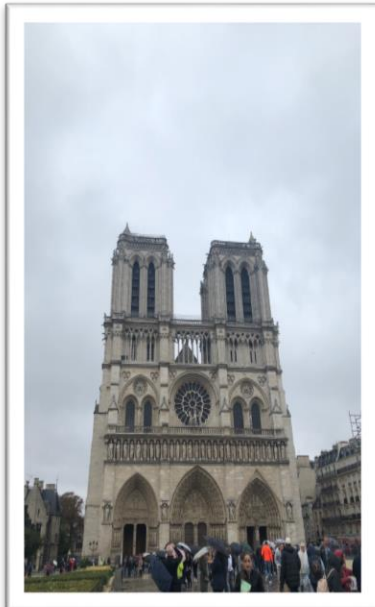
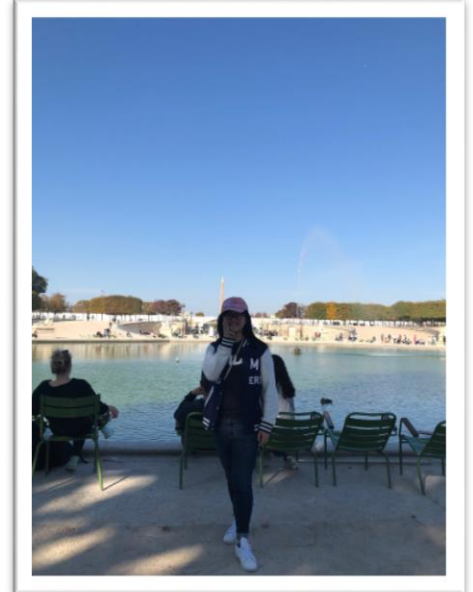
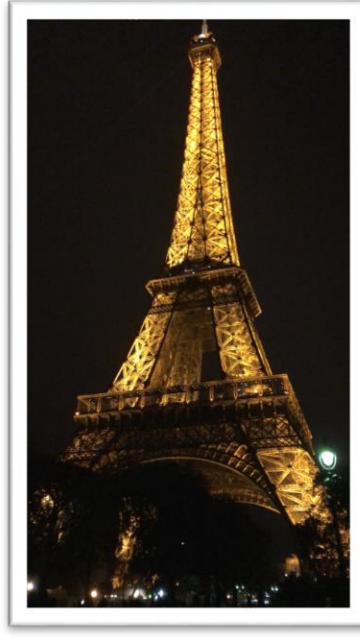
September

I departed from Hong Kong on 11th September for a pre-trip with my parents in London and Paris before the orientation program starts on 18th September. During the trip, I visited different tourist attractions in London and Paris such as Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe. After the trip, I moved into Liberty Hall, my “home” for the coming few months. During my first 2 weeks in London, I met some exchange students and explored London with them such as going to the Open House weekend and St. Paul’s Cathedral. Lastly, I spent Mid-Autumn Festival with other exchange students from Hong Kong in ChinaTown and had mooncakes with them.



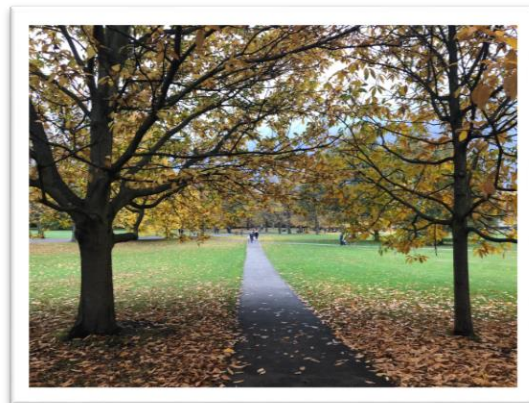
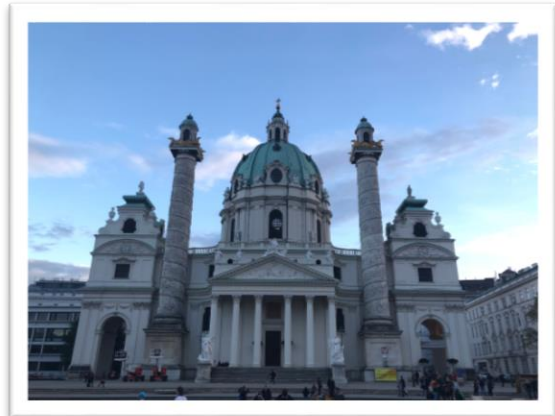
October

The add-drop period ended and I decided to take 4 CASS modules and 2 cultural modules as I found both cultural modules really interesting and would enable me to learn more about London. Since there isn't much coursework or assignment in October, I went to several places including Paris, Spain and Copenhagen. I loved all the places, especially Paris as I was able to go to Disneyland and saw the remarkable night view of the Eiffel tower. I also went to York to visit my friend and spent time exploring London and meeting up with high school friends who came to UK for their undergraduate studies. Moreover, I watched my first musical in London in mid-October, which was Matilda and the songs and choreography were really sharp and easy to remember.



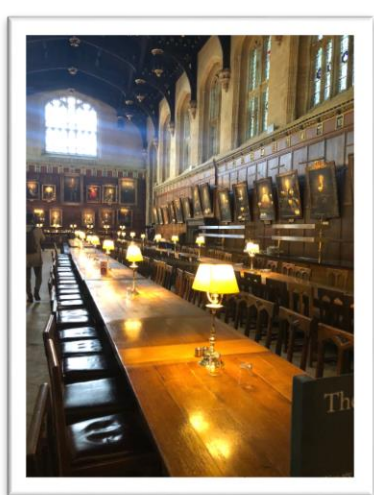
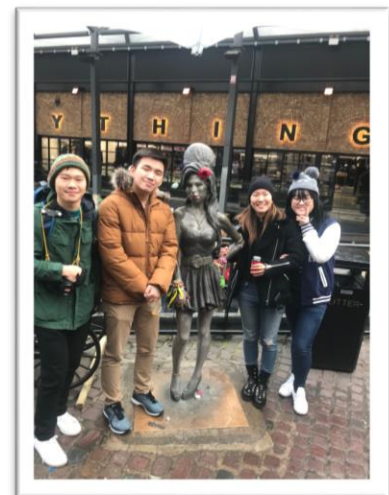
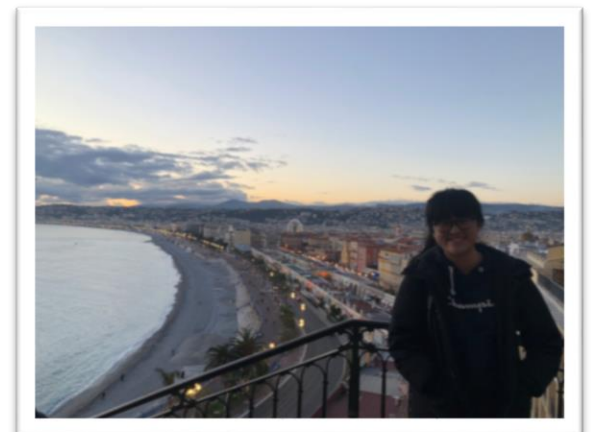
November

The weather in London started to get chilly and windy in November. At the beginning of the month, I went to Vienna with my friend and we had a great time there. However, we were not able to watch the orchestra concert there as we were only there from Friday to Monday but the concerts were on Monday night and Wednesday night. If we had another chance to go there, we would surely check in advance and book the concert tickets! As for the rest of the month, since there were a lot of project deadlines and meetings, I stayed in London and spent the time with my friends, as some of them came to London from Copenhagen and Edinburgh. I visited the Greenwich Royal Observatory, watched Chicago the Musical and went to Winter Wonderland as well. At the end of the month, it was Black Friday and Cyber Monday and I went shopping with my friends



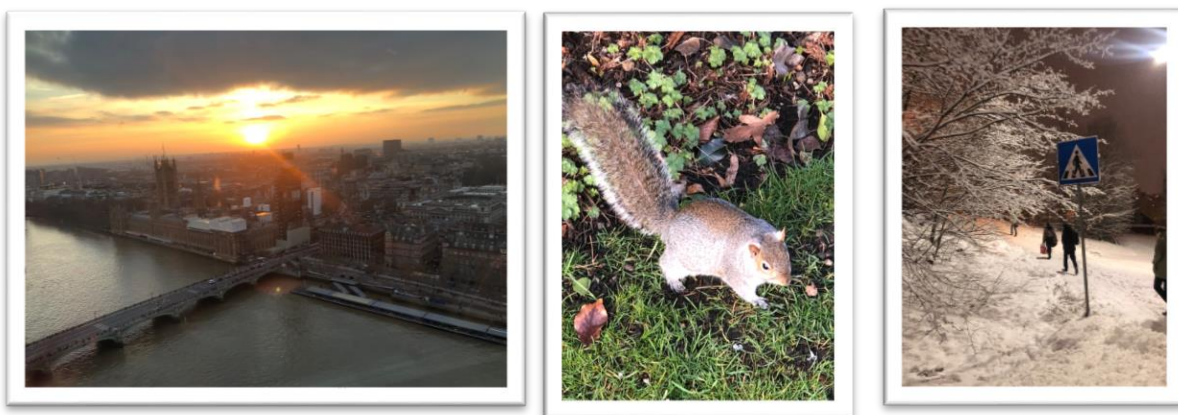
December

It was the last month of my official exchange period at CASS. I visited Oxford by myself and went to Camden Market with my friends. I had 2 final exams on the last day of the semester, which required us to write 2 essay questions per exam. After the end of the semester, I went to Nice and Monaco with several friends and after going back to London, we had a farewell dinner with other friends in CASS as some of us would leave on the 17th December. Also, I went to Germany, Prague and Stockholm with my friend from Hong Kong. We visited quite a lot of Christmas Markets and each of them have their own uniqueness and as for the Christmas Markets in Germany, they would have their own unique mugs. As for the last stop of the trip, I went back to London to countdown with my friends from City.



January

I continued to explore London with my friend and I went to Oslo as well. I had the chance to join Warner Bros. Studio Tour London and had a glimpse of the amazing Harry Potter set. Also, I went to The London Eye which I wanted to visit for a really long time. Moreover, I watched different musicals as well such as Kinky Boots, Dream Girls and The School of Rock. I visited York and met up with my friends in London once more before coming back to Hong Kong on the 11th January, which marked the end of my four months exchange journey.



Part II: General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

Hong Kong passport holders are not required to apply for any visa if they are staying in the UK for less than 6 months as we would receive a short-term study visa upon arrival in the UK Border. Just bear in mind to bring your original copy of acceptance letter and accommodation proof with you every time you leave UK as the UK Border may ask for proof when you enter UK Border again. As for myself, since I want to make the entire process more convenient and comfortable, I applied for the Short-Term Study Visa in Hong Kong before departure.

Orientation Activities

There were a lot of orientation activities in CASS during the first two weeks of school but only few of them are compulsory for exchange students to attend such as Moodle induction, which enables exchange students to know more about their online system (which is quite similar to Canvas in HKUST). Also, there were a session for Exchange students to collect their student ID card and two general introduction session regarding CASS and Study Abroad in City University of London. Some optional orientation activities include Campus Tour, City walks, Language fairs and Freshers' Fairs, which allow you to make some new friends and familiarize yourself with City.

Accommodations

I lived in Liberty Hall, an off-campus third-party accommodation for City, University of London which mainly accommodates First Year Students and Exchange students. Liberty Hall is around 10-15 minutes' walk away from the nearest Underground, Angel Station and around 8-10 minutes' away from the main campus. There are also multiple bus routes near Liberty Hall to major stations in London, such as London Bridge, Kings' Cross and Victoria Station. The hall is really convenient as it is located in Zone 1 which makes it easier for us to travel to major attractions with ease.

The room that I had in Liberty Hall was a single en-suite room with a kitchen that was shared among 10 students, which were mostly exchange students for my kitchen. Also, as we were staying there for short-term only, a set of kitchenware and beddings were provided. It was around 3700GBP for the fixed period from 15th September, 2018 to 22nd September, 2018.

Course Registration

You will be asked to fill in an online form right after you received the official offer from CASS in March indicating which courses you would like to study during your exchange. CASS Exchange students were allowed to take up to 4 CASS Modules and 1 or 2 Cultural Modules (LA2017, LA2018) which are for exchange students only. As the first week of school is the add-drop period, you will be asked to fill in another form and submit it by the end of the week indicating your final module choices so there are still opportunities for you to change your mind on what courses to study. After submitting the form to CASS Exchange Coordinator, you would be able to find your timetable and material on Moodle(which is similar to Canvas in HKUST).

Teaching & Assessments Methods

The teaching method in CASS is quite different when compared to HKUST. For each module, CASS only have one 2 hour lecture per week and for some courses, they would have one-hour lecture and one-hour tutorial. As for the course workload, for both CASS modules and Cultural modules, there will be one project and one final exam, which will be held in early-January. However, for exchange students, we will mostly take alternative assessments for CASS modules and the final exam for cultural modules will be held in mid-December.

I studied a total of 6 courses during my exchange and each of them consist of a group project/presentation and a final exam.

Courses	HKUST Equivalent	Credits	Assessment format
BS3100 Strategy for Business	MGMT4230	4	Project and alternative assessment (750 words essay)
BS3111 Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice	MGMT4220	4	Project and alternative assessment (3000 words essay)

LA2017 Performing Arts in London	1000-Level Humanities/Art course	3	Presentation and final exam (2 essay questions)
LA2018 Historic London	1000-Level Humanities course	3	Presentation and final exam (2 essay questions)
MS3102 Virtual Organization	3000-Level MGMT Elective	3	Project and alternative assessment (2500 words essay)
MS3109 Applied Systems Thinking	MGMT4250	4	Project and alternative assessment (3000 words essay)

Sports & Recreation Activities

There isn't any gym facilities inside Liberty Hall, however, you can go to Liberty Court to enjoy free gym facilities as long as you are a resident of Liberty. Or else, you can join CitySports for 23GBP per month like what I did for 2 months. After joining the membership, you can join the sports classes, which usually costs 4-6GBP per class, and use the gym facilities for free.

Finance & Banking (including currency/expenses)

I did not open any bank accounts in the UK as it is usually quite difficult for short-term study students like us to open a bank account for only few months. I used my Hong Kong HSBC card for withdrawal at HSBC and other ATM with UnionPay. For each transaction, it would incur a transaction fee of HKD20 and hence, I tend to withdraw 400-500GBP everytime. It would be more convenient if you have PLUS logo on your ATM card as not all of the ATM in the UK or in Europe would accept UnionPay.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

During the Orientation Week, there would be a Freshers' Fair where you can sign up for different clubs, either via email subscription or joining their membership. I signed up for a few email subscription, however, I never attended any of the activities.

Health & Safety

I personally find the area near campus and hall rather safe but remember to hold your phone tight when you go back to hall from Angel Station as there may be people on motorcycles trying to steal your phone. In other words, be aware of pickpockets. As for health services, there are nurses in City so you can go there if you find yourself feeling unwell. Also, for exchange students, you can sign up for a healthcare scheme, which a medical petitioner would be assigned to you and you can visit him/her when you are sick.

Food

There are a wide variety of food choices in London and you can always go to ChinaTown in Leicester Square if you are homesick and want to eat some Chinese cuisine. The area near Covent Garden also have a lot of nice restaurants. However, one would usually spend 20-25GBP per meal if you choose to eat outside. So, if you want to save money, cooking in hall would be a good alternative.

Transportation

The transport network in London is quite sophisticated as there are Underground (Tube), Overground and buses and it is quite easy for you to go to other parts of the city. The Oyster card is equivalent to Octopus card in Hong Kong and it can be used on all of the transportation I aforementioned. Sometimes, if you don't know which route to go for, you can always use 'Citymapper', which is a really convenient app for you to find out the fastest route to reach your destination.

I suggest you to buy a 16-25 Railcard for 30GBP per year if you want to go to other places in UK by train as it would give you a 1/3 prices off the train. Also, if you combine your 16-25 Railcard with your Oyster Card, you can get a 1/3 prices off the Tube as well in non-peak hours, which would become 1.6GBP instead of 2.4GBP.

Climate

The weather in London is quite pleasant when compared to other parts of UK or Europe, as it is warmer and did not snow during my stay. However, sometimes it would get really windy and rain quite heavily. Hence, it would be better if you have a windbreaker with you.

Communication

I used 3UK's pay-as-you-go sim card plan for 35GBP per month for unlimited data. You can use a maximum of 12GB in any of the 71 feel-at-home destination without paying any extras. Monaco is the only place that I have been which is not included in the list. However, sometimes, the reception of 3UK would be rather weak when compared with other companies such as Vodafone. Also, for Liberty Hall residents, you will get a free 6GB GiffGaff sim card in the welcoming box provided but I never used it.

Cautionary measures

Be aware of pickpockets and don't stay out too late in London as there would be a lot of drunk people during late night. Also, as Angel does not have night tube service, the tube service would no longer be available after midnight.

Part III: Things to bring

- Cash (HKD, GBP and EUR)
- Credit Card
- ATM Card with overseas withdrawal function
- Passport and HKID
- University Acceptance Letter
- Hall Acceptance Letter
- Laptop
- Medicine
- Coats
- Adaptor
- Portable Charger
- Slippers

Part IV: Useful links

City, University of London:

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

Railcard:

<https://www.railcard.co.uk/>

Skyscanner:

<https://www.skyscanner.com.hk/>