



# Exchange Report

University of Warwick, United Kingdom

Warwick Business School

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Fall 2019

Finance and Economics

# I. Monthly Activity Log

## September

I arrived Warwick on Sep 23 as it is the first day of its Welcome Week. I was amazed when I arrived there. The university was so lively. The piazza and the student union were packed with fairs and society promotion. I settled down in my dormitory in Lakeside. It is a beautiful student accommodation as its name suggests – next to a lake and with waterfowl around. I met other exchange students in a Welcoming Party organized by the



Warwick Business School. We hanged around afterwards. The campus is compact and easily accessible. We went to the new sports hub for the sports and society fairs. There were food booths in the piazza on every Wednesday. We tried out a few of them and joined the local students to explore the campus. A week later, three exchange students and I went on a trip to Stratford-Upon-Avon, the birthplace of Shakespeare. My exchange life in Warwick kicked off with a warm welcome from Warwick and the friendly students.

## October

Since Warwick is located at the midland of the UK, it is not far away to travel to London. It only takes one and a half hour to get there. We spent our weekend break in there. It was a lovely trip. We got to see the British Museum, London Bridge, the Regent’s Park, Buckingham Palace. We had the best Fish and Chips there. Sure, a weekend wasn’t long enough to visit the whole London and we had missed out on a lot of famous tourist spots so we decided to visit London again. We also joined the tour organized by the “World at Warwick” to Oxford. The buildings are very historic and filled with the atmosphere of Harry Potter, which is so exciting. Later on, my friend and I went to the nearby IKEA in



Coventry just to see what’s so different in there. The last day of October is Halloween, so my friends and I went a Halloween Party at that night. It was fun to see people in different costumes and accessories.



## November

Although the coursework wasn't heavy, this month was quite hectic since we went a lot of travelling. We first went to Norway. It was super cold. We didn't visit many outdoor attractions as we really couldn't handle the cold weather. But it was still fun because there are some funky places that we don't normally see in the UK. As Christmas was coming, I was invited to have Christmas dinner. It was my first time to have such traditional dish. I also had my first Christmas market experience in Birmingham. Two weeks later, we went to Paris and Amsterdam for a week. Apart from its well-known tourist spots such as the Louvre Museum and the Eiffel Tower, the delicacies there you for sure don't want to miss out. It was eye-opening to visit the museums in Amsterdam.



## December

I had all my examinations in December. It was a tough month. I had not only the examinations to deal with, but I also needed to be prepared to leave this place and friends here. Instead of going to anywhere else, I chose to stay at Warwick for my last few days. My friend and I wandered around the campus and took pictures of it. I'm so grateful to have such memorable exchange experiences. I will surely miss those days in Warwick. After finishing the examinations, I stayed in London for a week. This time, I went to the East London. Unlike the West London, it's more arty and vintage. Graffiti was everywhere. The streets weren't decorated very Christmassy. But I still got fascinated by this mysterious city because I felt like there's always more and more to discover. Eventually, I returned to Hong Kong on Dec 18.



## II. General Exchange Information

### **Visa Procedures**

If you are staying in the UK for less than 6 months, you do not need to apply for a visa.

Check if you need a UK visa:

<https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>

However, you should bring the following documents for arrival in the UK:

- passport
- a letter of acceptance from the institution
- short term study Visa letter from the institution
- student ID (if any)

At the same time, the university will send you an email which requires you to attend the IN-PERSON visa check event. Details of this event can be found at:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/academicoffice/ourservices/enrolment/immigrationevents/>

### **Orientation Activities**

Warwick has its Welcome Week held on the first week of every academic year. On arrival, please report to the Senate House to collect your student ID card and the key of accommodation.

The university had over 1,200 activities for all first-year students during the Welcome Week in 2019. You will definitely get settled in and spend your time exclusively at the university during that week.

You can check out the activities on

<https://warwick.ac.uk/students/welcome/welcomeweek/>

It is also recommended to download “MyWarwick” or simply log in to “MyWarwick” on webpage to sign up for activities.

<https://warwick.ac.uk/students/news/newsevents/events?start=040119&view=monthly>

There should be orientation events held by different departments or dormitories. For example, Warwick Business School organized the introduction session and social event for international students. To me, they were great opportunities to meet new people and mingle with them. So, do check them out on WBS page and your email inbox.

## **International Services & Activities**

For general inquiries, you can go to the office in the University House on campus.

Besides, the general issues about studying aboard is posted on <https://warwick.ac.uk/students/opportunities/worldatwarwick/internationalstudents/>

For specific inquiries, there are different kinds of student services and supports that you can seek help with through sending emails or visiting their offices.

## **Accommodations**

Students are able to choose their residences and apply online based on their preferences if they want to live on campus. There are a wide range of choices on campus. The residences locate at different campus and they are basically all surrounding the main buildings of lectures. Most of them are single bedrooms, either in en suite bathrooms or shared bathrooms. The prices may depend on the types and location of the residences. You could also look out for off campus housing.

<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/accommodation/studentaccommodation/undergraduate/ugresidences>

I was living in Lakeside. It is in Lakeside village, therefore is very close to the WBS building and the sports hub but a little bit far away from the SU and Tesco. It is in a tranquil area of the campus. If you would like to stay in a relatively quiet environment and surround by the nature, Lakeside, Heronbank, and Sherbourne are definitely the go-to options.

## **Courses Registration**

It is reminded that exchange students from SBM is going to Warwick Business School (WBS). Students can only take one module outside WBS. If you want to have credit transferred for any Economics courses, you will have to apply for that module outside WBS, i.e. the Department of Economics as they are two separate departments of the University of Warwick.

It is relatively easy to register for modules from WBS as you can simply apply for them on the WBS website ([my.wbs.ac.uk](http://my.wbs.ac.uk)). Please note there are key dates for the module application system open and close date. You will receive an email regarding that from WBS. It is not operated on a first come, first served basis and all applications will be considered after the application close date. The application usually starts before the arrival at Warwick. Information such as how to access the system and details about the modules will be sent along the email from WBS.

Applying for module outside WBS takes more steps. First, you need to select the “Unusual Option” during your module application on my.wbs. Then, you can collect the “Unusual Option” form from the undergraduate office in the WBS building upon your arrival and fill it out. After that, you need to hand in the form to the department that offers the module. For example, I applied for the module “Econometrics” and I needed to hand in the form to the Department of Economics. It usually takes up to a week to approve your application. You will be notified via email if you are successfully registered in the module or not.

If you have any questions about the module application and credit transfer, you can contact WBS office and SBM office.

### **Teaching & Assessment Methods**

The modules basically consist of lectures and seminars.

For all of the modules I had, the lectures are a two-hour session per week while the seminars are a one-hour session per week. There may be variations between different departments. The teaching styles of the lectures are somewhat similar to the ones in SBM. Information and study materials of the module will be posted on my.wbs website. Some modules provide the printouts of the lecture slides that can be collected from the WBS UG learning space before the lectures. Some also provide online video lectures for students to revisit on my.wbs or the moodle website.

Attendance of seminars is compulsory. It usually divides students into small groups to discuss or do practices. If you miss a seminar, you are required to put in the absence reason on my.wbs. Frequent absence might result in a lower grade of that module.

Depending on the modules, the assessment methods can vary into essays, group projects, and examinations. Likewise, the assessment methods can be checked on my.wbs. Results of assessment are distributed through my.wbs for modules taken in wbs or through tabula for modules taken elsewhere.

### **Sports & Recreation Facilities**

The Sports and Wellness hub on campus is magnificent. It is recently built and consists of a number of sports facilities such as gym, fitness studios, swimming pools, climbing center, squash courts, sports halls, the list can go on and on. The inclusive membership for these facilities is quite expensive. But still, students are offered with options to join the membership or pay as you go. There are free Rock up & Play sessions of a variety of sports for students to stay healthy and meet like-minded people.

<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/sport/events/calendar?tag=Rock+up+and+Play>

If you want different entertainment or something artsy, Warwick Arts Centre on campus will be your choice. Different types of performance can be found in there. The arts center is still under construction and is expected to complete by 2021. Besides that, Warwick has its own student cinema. It runs the showing every day. Students can join the membership of WSC to enjoy discount of the films.

### **Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)**

Be prepared with some cash to cover the living expenses for the first few weeks. Don't carry too much cash. You could always withdraw money from ATM or bank. Prior to exchange, remember to activate your ATM card for transactions overseas. But be aware that some cards only work in ATMs with UnionPay network and there may be a surcharge for each withdrawal. Alternatively, you could open a local bank account upon arrival. There are two banks on campus, the Santander Bank and the Barclays Bank. To open a bank account, you will have to book an appointment and prepare documents including passport, student ID, and proof of UK address.

On top of these methods, since card payments are widely used in the UK, you could use your own credit card for transactions or get a debit card from the UK's digital banking. There are two common online banks, Monzo and Revolut. All you need to do is to download their free app and sign up for their debit card account, they will send you a physical contactless debit card for free in about a week.

### **Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities**

All sorts of student activities can be found in the SU. You can join a society, sports club or buy event ticket there. There are over 250 societies run by students. You can definitely find one to enrich your experience at Warwick. If you want to experience nightlife at Warwick, there are a nightclub and a bar on campus. There's a unique activity called "circling" that you literally go in circle from a society or sports club that you are apart of and play drinking games.

To live your exchange life to the fullest, you can go on trips organized by the "World at Warwick" team.

<https://warwick.ac.uk/students/opportunities/worldatwarwick/events/>

You could also meet new people in halls. The dormitories are usually offered to first-year students and international students. You will get to know people from different backgrounds and have cultural exchange. Emails sent from the residences will always keep you updated!

## **Health & Safety**

Bring your own medicine or take a list of medications to the hospital in case you are severely sick. There's a health center located near the "Jake Martin" residences. You can also buy the medicine in the chemist on campus or Boots in Cannon Park nearby. FYI: it's extremely hard to get a mask in the UK. You'd better bring some to there.

Call 999 in a real emergency. Be very careful when drinking especially when going out to a nightclub or a pub. Avoid going out alone. (Coventry is quite dangerous at night. Try not to go there on your own and stay very late.)

## **Food**

In the SU, there are several restaurants but they are nearly all western cuisine. I personally like "Canopy" the most, followed by "Dirty Duck". On the other side of campus, near to WBS, there's a pub called "Varsity". It is my favorite pub to go to. There are also cafes in different buildings on campus. Most of the time, I would prefer to cook because it is cheaper. You can do grocery shopping at Cannon Park or at Rootes on campus. It is cheaper to buy from Tesco superstore than from Rootes generally. If you want some authentic Chinese food, you can go to the China Town in Coventry. There are a wide range of Asian cuisine such as Korean BBQ or Hot Pot.

## **Transportation**

You can take bus in the University Interchange to travel to the nearby cities such as Coventry or Leamington Spa. You can pay either in cash or contactless card where paying in card offers a discount. There are taxis in the Interchange but usually I'd get an Uber ride as I think it is more convenient and cheaper.

For travelling to further cities in the UK like London or Birmingham, you will need to take train or coach. Train tickets can be booked on "trainline" while coach tickets can be booked via "national express" or "megabus". I highly recommend you to make a railway card or use the discount code from "unidays" to cut down travelling costs. Please be aware that the trains are delayed or even cancelled sometimes.

## **Climate**

The weather in the UK is relatively cold and rainy. Its temperature is usually at around 10°C, doesn't extreme between Fall and Spring. It might not be an issue though as there are heaters indoors. UK showers quite often and is humid. You may need an umbrella but in most of the time, it doesn't help much because it is too windy to open the umbrella. You can check the latest weather forecasts for UK in

BBC weather.

### **Communication**

I bought a Three sim card at the airport for £30. It was a pay as you go card that can be topped up value in every month. The signal of the network was quite good and it could be used in other European countries.

The Wifi is accessible in the campus area using “eduroam”.

### **Cautionary measures**

Never leave your belongings unattended. Keep an eye on your phone and wallet. Stay guard when travelling alone or to European countries.

### III. Items to bring

	Passport
	Letter of support from Warwick
	Cash
	ATM card, credit card
	Clothes
	Medications
	Laptop
	Chargers
	Toiletries
	Snack
	Umbrella

### IV. Useful Links and Contacts

Check if you need a UK visa: <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>

IN-PERSON visa check event:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/academicoffice/ourservices/enrolment/internationalstudents/>

Warwick term dates: <https://warwick.ac.uk/study/termdates/>

Welcome Week:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/students/welcome/welcomeweek/>

International students in Warwick:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/students/opportunities/worldatwarwick/internationalstudents/>

Accommodations:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/accommodation/studentaccommodation/undergraduate/>

my.wbs: <https://my.wbs.ac.uk/?event=login>

tabula: <https://tabula.warwick.ac.uk/>

moodle: <https://moodle.warwick.ac.uk/>

Warwick sports: <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/sport/>

Rock up & Play sessions:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/sport/active/rock-up-and-play>

Warwick SU: <https://www.warwicksu.com/>

Local tours by “World at Warwick”:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/students/opportunities/worldatwarwick/events/>

WBS email: [undergraduate@wbs.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate@wbs.ac.uk)

Warwick Accommodation: [accommodation@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:accommodation@warwick.ac.uk)