



## Exchange Report

University of Warwick  
Warwick Business School

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Spring 2020

## Monthly Activity Log

*December* | Hong Kong | London | Munich | Frankfurt



I arrived at the London Heathrow International Airport on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2019 where I stayed in London for 3 days in my friends' dorm and enjoy the Christmas atmosphere there. I was amazed by the decorations and the Christmas markets! Then, I went to Germany on the 26<sup>th</sup> December for a short trip with my friend. I suggest spending more time in Munich as the winter scenery in Königssee and Neuschwanstein Castle are stunning! On 31<sup>st</sup> December, we count down along the Frankfurt lakeside and celebrate the new year eve with the locals.

*January* | Berlin | Hamburg | London | Coventry | Exeter | Bath



We continued to travel in Germany until 5<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Then we go back to London and commute to Coventry by train, it only took 1 hour 15 mins so it was very convenient!



I settle down in my house in Canley and attended some orientations as well as getting my student ID card in the Senate House. I have met some of my friends in HKU (1-year exchange programme) and they had given me some useful tips about Warwick and Coventry. After that, me and other exchange students went grocery shopping in Ikea.



During one of the weekends, me and one of the exchange students went to London for the masterpiece Phantom of the opera. We were totally impressed by the performance and stage design, it is one of the MUST SEE item in London! After that, we went to some tourism spot for example, London eye, borough market and the British museum.



During Chinese New Year, my friends brought me to the New Year's Eve dinner organised by the Hong Kong Society. I have also invited some friends to eat Chinese New Year dinner in my house.



Before the start of the lessons, there was a week of free time for you to travel around. I visited my friends in the University of Exeter & Bath

**February | Bristol | Coventry | Brighton | Rovaniemi | Helsinki | Copenhagen | Lund | Interlaken | Zurich | Lucerne | Grindelwald | Basel**

There were a lot of unforgettable memories and fruitful experiences in February.



During the first 2 weekends, I visited Bristol and Brighton where my secondary school friends were studying, they showed me around their city and took a lot of photos.



On 14<sup>th</sup> February, I have started my 17 days trip. I first visited Finland, it is bone-chilling as it was -8 degree Celsius. We visited the Santa Claus Village in Rovaniemi, not only we saw Santa Claus, we have also experienced Husky & Reindeer ride, Reindeer feeding and Northern light chasing. It is surprised to know almost every household in Finland have sauna in their own bathroom.



For the second stop of the journey, I went to Denmark and Sweden. I have tried one night of Couchsurfing in Copenhagen which it quite fun and the host is very nice and friendly (please bear the risk yourself and be careful of your own safety!). Then I visited my friends in Lund which is 1 hour train away from Copenhagen.



After that we went to Switzerland, one of the most beautiful (and expensive) countries in Europe. If you want to take a glance of the breath-taking scenery in Interlaken, you should definitely go for paragliding, I joint it through KLOOK and the coaches are very professional. We also went to Jungfrauoch, the highest point you can reach in the Europe. Despite it is very expensive to go up, it is a once-a-life-time experience which is very worth-while to visit.



We were planning to go back to Copenhagen for a few days before going back to UK, however, since me and my friends accidentally missed the flight, we have decided to go back UK

### **March | Dublin | Coventry | London | Hong Kong**



During early March, I have visited Ireland with some of the UST & HKU exchange students, we have spent 4 days there.



The spring term will end in mid-March and the Easter holiday will be around 1.5 months until late April. Originally, I have planned and paid to the trip to Belgium, Slovakia and Serbia from 18<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> March & the trip to London from 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>. However, due to the outbreak of COVID-19, some of the countries' border are closed and we have decided to return Hong Kong earlier. So, I have decided to visit the Warwick Castle.

Ultimately, I have changed return ticket to 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Then I was quarantined in a hotel for 14 days after arriving Hong Kong.

### **April – June | Hong Kong**

Returned to HK due to COVID-19 ☹️

I took the examinations online through Warwick Alternative Exam Portal.

## General Exchange Information

### *Visa Procedures*

As a Hong Kong citizen, if you are staying in the UK for less than 6 months, you can apply for a short-term study visa when you arrive UK border.

You should bring the following documents for short-term study visa:

- Passport
- A letter of acceptance from the institution
- Short term study Visa letter from the institution
- Bank statement to prove your financial ability
- Prove of your return ticket (if any)

At the same time, the university will send you an email which requires you to attend the IN-PERSON visa check event on the first week of arrival. Details of this event can be found at: <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/academicoffice/ourservices/enrolment/immigrationevents/>

### *Orientation Activities*

Warwick Business School organized the introduction session and social event for international students.

### *International Services & Activities*

For general inquiries, you can go to the office in the University House on campus. Besides, the general issues about studying abroad 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 with my secondary school friends in Canley. The environment is pleasant and convenient, it is 20 mins walk to the WBS campus and 10 mins walk to the nearest supermarket, Tesco and Aldi.

## *Courses Registration*

Warwick Business School (WBS) has its own system to enrol in classes, view your grades and access to course materials. It is different from the system that is used by other schools of the University. You can easily register business courses by using the WBS portal if you are a Business School student. However, if you would like to take non-WBS modules, you are required to enrol in person and fill in the Unusual Option form. You could get more information during the orientation events. Remember that you must finish enrolling in your courses before the deadline of the add/drop period.

I had taken the following 6 modules:

IB3E60 Ethical Issue & Social Responsibility in Contemporary Business

IB3960 Financial Statement Analysis & Security Valuation

IB2470 Improving Process Performance

IB2440 Managing Customer Service

IB2190 Quantitative Method for Multivariate Analysis

IB3A70 The Practice of Operational Research

## *Teaching & Assessment Methods*

In general, it is very similar to the teaching style in HKUST. You will have lectures and seminars for each module. WBS will provide online recording for you to review the lectures while you must attend the seminars in-person. And you will be mainly assessed through tests and exams. Unlike HKUST, most of the business modules there will require you to write an essay as part of the assessment.

Under COVID-19, they changed all the assessments to online where they also provided a 24 hours time limit for students located in different countries to start the assessment in their preferred time.

## *Sports & Recreation Facilities*

The sports centre in the University of Warwick allows you to play different kinds of sports. There are basketball courts, football fields, a swimming pool, a gym room, etc.. Unfortunately, you have to pay before enjoying these sports facilities. I have visited the sports centre where the facilities and equipment are very new and well-equipped.

## *Finance & Banking*

UK accepts pounds only. Bringing some pounds and euros for travelling is advised. Contactless payment is supported almost everywhere so having mobile payment/ a credit card is also advantageous. You can also apply for a mobile credit card called Monzo (virtual bank) so you do not need to exchange Euro when you are travelling as the rate Monzo Bank provided is very good!

## *Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities*

There are many social clubs in Warwick, and they will organize activities regularly. There are many sports club and members will have discount on sports facilities membership discounts.

## *Health & Safety*

There is a clinic on campus, but people usually buy their own medicine instead of going to the doctor. As for safety, it is safe as long as you do not stay out too late and be aware of your surroundings.

## *Food*

Every Wednesday, there will be a few food trucks parked near the campus bus stop, the food is delicious and worth trying. At the same time, there are several restaurants in-campus, but I usually cook as eating out is quite expensive. There is Tesco and Aldi in the shopping park near the university and students usually go there for cookery and food.

## *Transportation*

There is a central bus station in the main campus. There are buses going to Coventry, Leamington Spa and other places. The 12X and 11 routes will stop at the Coventry train stations and you can take the railway to Birmingham, London or other major cities. I would recommend buying the 16-25 railcard for travelling in UK to save 1/3 of your ticket fees and it could break-even quite easily (you can also link the railcard to London Oyster card). You should also buy your train tickets as early as possible for more discounts.

## *Climate*

January is very cold and windy, but it was getting warmer in the following months.

## *Communication*

Everyone can speak and understand English in Warwick, so there should not be any communication barriers.

For SIM card, I used giffgaff, it is the cheapest mobile service provider in UK as far as I know. It covers most of the countries in Europe.

## *Cautionary measures*

Beware of your personal belongings especially when you are travelling to other places in the Europe. Bring a waist bag for your personal belongings like passport and cash

### **Items to bring**

- Passport
- Identification documents
- Cash
- Letter of support from Warwick
- Laptop
- Chargers
- Clothes
- Medications
- Camera
- Heat-tech

Please be aware of the maximum luggage allowance of your air ticket!

## Useful contacts and links

### *Detailed visa procedure*

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

### *University of Warwick accommodation*

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

### *WBS Undergraduate Programme*

[undergraduate@wbs.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate@wbs.ac.uk) (Point of contact regarding modules and enrolment)

### *Warwick Immigration Services*

[immigrationservice@wbs.ac.uk](mailto:immigrationservice@wbs.ac.uk) (answers visa procedures)

### *Warwick Business School study abroad team*

<https://warwick.ac.uk/study/studyabroad/>

### *Map Information*

<https://warwick.ac.uk/about/visiting/maps/interactive/>

### *Emergency Contact*

+44 (0)24 7652 2083