



EXCHANGE REPORT

The University of Warwick,
United Kingdom

Yuxuan Jiang (ECOF)
Spring and Summer 2022

PART I - Monthly Activity Log

January 2022

Hong Kong|Frankfurt|Birmingham|Coventry|Oxford|London

In late December 2021, I departed Hong Kong, transited through Frankfurt, and arrived in Birmingham to start a ten-day self-isolation. Birmingham is the second largest city in the UK and is very close to Coventry. It only takes about 20 minutes to travel by train between these two cities, which is quite convenient. Once the quarantine was over, I went to the University of Warwick to complete the check-in procedures and purchase accommodation necessities and groceries, and officially started my spring semester at Warwick Business School on January 10. This month had been a period of adjustment for me in both studying and living. I gradually explored the campus and practiced my cooking skills little by little. At the end of the month, I went to Oxford to celebrate Spring Festival with friends and watched the first musical in London West End, *Come From Away*, which marked the start of my theatre journey for these months.



February 2022

Coventry

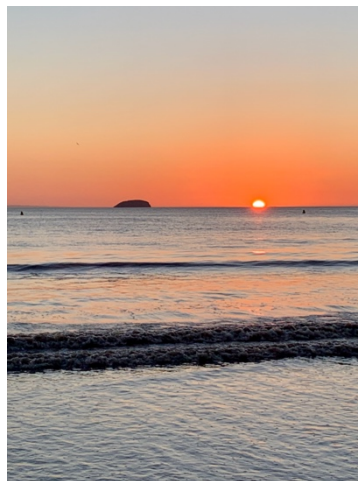
The main theme of February was getting into the swing of academic life. I had lectures and seminars almost every day, so it was hard to find time to travel around in the middle of the week. The group project topics for three modules I chose had been assigned, thus I had been meeting regularly with my group members each week for discussion, which made my study life really fulfilling. The cold weather continued, therefore I just hung out with friends in Coventry during the weekends. We are both foodies and we both agreed that the Korean barbecue and Pho in Coventry city centre were delicious!



March 2022

Coventry|Bath|Weston-Super-Mare|Bristol

March had been a busy month. I had a group project or presentation to prepare almost every week, so it's quite stressful. Fortunately, these days did not last long. In the last week, I finally completed all the presentations, and the ten-week intensive study schedule was gradually coming to an end. As the study pressure eased and the temperature warmed up, my friends and I had a three-days short trip, first to Bath to enjoy hot springs and appreciate sunset, then to Weston-Super-Mare to see the endless sea, and finally to Bristol for a delicious barbecue. Spring was just around the corner, and that made me incredibly excited.



April 2022

Coventry|Manchester|Liverpool|London

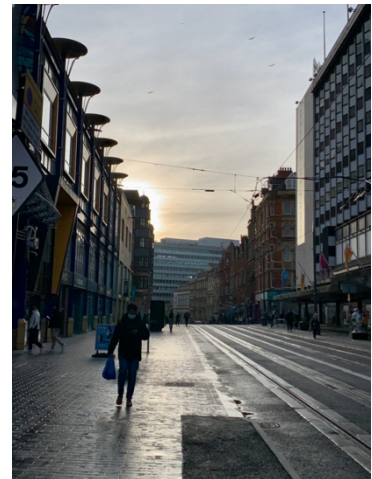
April is a month I look forward to. It represents the end of classes and the official start of the Easter break! In the first half of the month, I stayed in Warwick to complete various projects and individual essays, and at the same time, I was also making travel arrangement for the break. The day after I finished all my coursework, I went on a sightseeing trip to Manchester and Liverpool with my neighbor and visited many local museums about football and British rock bands. After that, I met up with friends in London frequently and went on to watch more musicals in the West End, such as *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Les Misérables*, *The Phantom of the Opera*. They enchanted me to no end.



May 2022

Coventry|London|Birmingham

May connected the end of holidays and the beginning of final exams. In the first two weeks, I made a "stage performance carnival" for myself, that is, to enjoy musicals and plays in London to the fullest. Especially on the weekend, I was able to see two shows in a row (both in afternoon and evening), which was very satisfying. The stage performances I watched this month includes *Wicked*, *Mousetrap*, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, *Hamilton*, *Chicago*. Also, I went to Birmingham again to experience the joy of shopping and sightseeing. Although reluctant, after the little binge of the holiday, the review sessions for final exams were scheduled immediately. I attended two revision sessions and started the intense final exams at the end of the month.



June 2022

Coventry|Edinburgh|Inverness|Hong Kong

June is my last month in the UK. Having booked a flight back to Hong Kong in mid-June, my main tasks this month were to wrap up my life in Warwick, prepare for finals and pack for my return trip. However, I did try come up with three days of travel with friends to Scotland and had a great time touring Edinburgh and the Highlands, enjoying the mountain scenery in Isle of Skye and customs that were so different from England. After I came back from Scotland, I took my final exam (which was also my first face-to-face exam) to completely finish my studies at Warwick Business School and returned to Hong Kong from Heathrow Airport the next day.



PART II - General Exchange Information

Visa Procedures

I applied for a Short-term Study Visa in the UK with a PRC passport in Hong Kong. This type of Visa is suitable for an exchange student, but it cannot allow you to apply for Schengen Visa in the UK. Hence, I highly recommend you apply for a Schengen visa in Hong Kong before departure as it allows you to travel to other places in Europe.

Orientation Activities

Both the university and WBS had relevant orientation activities. The activities of the university mainly focused on campus exploration and introductions of various departments. There were many students and staff as volunteers to help new students get familiar with the campus environment. Orientation at WBS was conducted online and aimed at helping students integrate into business school studies.

International Services & Activities

The University of Warwick has many international students and exchange students, thus it has detailed guidelines for new students who come each semester. For details, please refer to this website: <https://warwick.ac.uk/study/studyabroad/>

Accommodations

The hall application process in Warwick is quite similar to the procedure we had in UST. We first submit the form of preferences, then the accommodation team will make the allocation based on it. One difference, however, is that among the six hall preferences we submitted, at most three are en-suite, thus we should rank the preference wisely. The detailed description of rooms and halls can be found via this website:

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

I lived in Heronbank and I liked this place a lot. It's en suite, with single bathroom in each room, and a shared kitchen for the eight rooms per flat. Heronbank residence is near to Warwick Business School with about 10 minute's walk, thus it's convenient for me as most of my lectures and seminars take place in WBS building. It's also very close to the campus centre and bus stations. However, it'll take about 25 minute's walk to Cannon Park Shopping Centre (including Tesco Superstore and other shops), and that's a trade-off. In addition, Heronbank is near the lake, so there are many birds, ducks and geese living around hall buildings, and sometimes they make noise in the middle of the night. If you mind this, please don't choose Heronbank. If you are okay with it, then you will experience a very interesting life close to nature :D

Courses Registration

The registration for WBS modules were carried out in early December 2021. Unlike most departments in Warwick, WBS used its individual portal for academic purpose. Before the registration, the undergraduate team will send an email as a clear guidance for module selection, and you can carry out the procedures easily by just following it. What should be noticed is that WBS does not have a waiting list system as UST does, so if you didn't get into the preferred modules in the first round, you can wait and refresh the webpage to wait for anyone dropping the module. The whole registration process will end three weeks after the Spring term commencement, so no need to worry about it as there are plenty of time and possibly many adjustments. WBS allow students to take 3-4 modules (at most 60 ECTS) in spring term, and

you can choose modules offered by other departments (e.g. Economics) after getting permissions in both departments.

I had taken the following four WBS modules:

IB3590 Derivatives and Risk Management

IB3E60 Ethical Issue & Social Responsibility in Contemporary Business

IB3H70 Mergers and Acquisitions

IB3J00 Behavioural Economics

Teaching & Assessment Methods

Modules in WBS often contain both lectures and seminars for about ten weeks in Spring term, and some modules have review sessions and final exams in the Summer term. Due to the impact of pandemic, some modules also applied “1+1+1” mode, including one hour of synchronous lecture, one hour or asynchronous lecture, and one hour of seminar (attendance required). The lectures are knowledge-oriented, and seminars are more like tutorials and open the floor for class discussions. The assessment of each module is very different, the final marks are likely to be the weighted average of participation, group project(s)/presentation(s), individual assignment(s)/essay(s), and final exam (if any).

Sports & Recreation Facilities

Warwick has a professional gym centre. It's paid on monthly membership, and the fee is too expensive for someone like me who doesn't exercise often, thus I haven't been there. However, the road surface of Warwick is very flat, and quite suitable to run outdoors. For other recreation facilities, there's a cinema in the Warwick Art Centre. It has several theatres, and they all have comfortable seats and large screens. The cinema always plays trending movies and classics with inexpensive fees. Highly recommend this place if you need relax or look for entertainment.

Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)

I didn't open a bank account in the UK but just used a credit card from the Bank of China (BOC). My payments were counted in HKD with the exchange rate and had no problem when purchasing an item. However, my friends had created accounts on UK virtual banks like *Monzo* or *Starling Bank*, and I really recommend this approach since life in the UK relied a lot on contactless.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

The University of Warwick has a wealth of interest clubs and sports clubs. They have various displays and activities in the new semester orientation to welcome interested students to join. WBS also organizes many seminars and offer opportunities for students to interact with professionals. These events are regularly updated on the my.wbs portal, you can keep on track with these announcements to find chances to participate.

Health & Safety

We as exchange students are also covered in NHS, therefore we can visit the university clinic if we didn't feel well. Under the pandemic, we will be noticed by email if we become close contacts, and we can get free test kit for self-testing purpose that were dispatched on campus for a while. Warwick carried out really good safety measures to ensure studying and living, the fire alarms on campus are very sensitive.

Food

Warwick do not have a school canteen. Hence, you have several ways to enjoy your meal on campus:

- Dine in on campus: Starbucks, Pret A Manger, Benugo, Varsity, The Dirty Duck, Curiositea, cafés in different academic buildings
- Cook by oneself: Buy groceries from Tesco, Aldi
- Explore different restaurants in Coventry city centre :D

Transportation

Travelling in Coventry city centre and University of Warwick mostly rely on buses. Tickets can be purchased in advance on mobile app “NXBus mTicket” or paid by contactless/ credit card when getting on the bus. Travelling in the UK mostly rely on trains or coaches. For train tickets, you can purchase them on “Trainline” website or mobile app. Students between age 16-25 can enjoy discounts on “Railcard” so remember to purchase one for six months (It totally worth it!). For coach tickets, you can purchase them on “Stagecoach” website or mobile app. Travelling by coach tends to be cheaper, but it also takes longer travelling time. If the two places are far apart (I personally define it as more than six hours by train), you can choose to take a budget airline, which is also very cost-effective.

Climate

The weather in the UK is often cloudy or rainy. The temperature is generally cold before May. It is necessary to prepare thick winter clothing, such as down jackets, hats, scarves, and an umbrella in the backpack. After May, the weather gets warmer and the sunshine hours are longer, so wear spring clothes or summer clothes will be preferable.

Communication

I purchased a SIM card from giffgaff and its monthly package. Wifi (also called Eduroam) is provided within the entire campus and it’s quite stable so no worries about internet connection.

Cautionary measures

Coventry is a small city and I think it's relatively safe. However, it gets dark very early before April, so you need to be careful when going out. In addition, due to the impact of the epidemic, self-protection measures like wearing face masks are still very important.

Other notes (if applicable)

The mobile app “*My Warwick*” can help you get notifications more directly.



PART III - Items to Bring

- Passport and other identification documents
- Cash, credit card and debit card
- Medicines
- Umbrella
- Warm, waterproof, and windproof clothing
- Adaptor
- Notebook and stationaries

PART IV - Useful Links and Contacts

Useful Links:

Warwick Accommodation:

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

Warwick Study Abroad: <https://warwick.ac.uk/study/studyabroad/>

Warwick Business School (WBS): <https://www.wbs.ac.uk/>

my.wbs Portal: <http://my.wbs.ac.uk>

Warwick parcel deliveries: <https://warwick.ac.uk/services/estates/post>

Transport in the UK:

<http://www.trainline.com>

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/>

E-mail Contacts:

Warwick Accommodation Team: accommodation@warwick.ac.uk

WBS Undergraduate Programme: undergraduate@wbs.ac.uk