

HKUST SBM Undergraduate Outbound Exchange Program

## Exchange Report

Bayes Business School, City University of London



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**Finance & Management**

**2022**

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## Monthly Activity Log

### January

I arrived in London on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January, which was a few days before the orientation of the Bayes Business School to settle down. I was lucky enough to get to live in a student accommodation offered by the school where I got met other exchange students who came from different countries such as USA, Austria and Chile even before the orientation. I also got to make friends throughout the orientation activities. We spent time together and visited a lot of tourist spots before the semester started such as the British Museum, London Bridge. We celebrated Chinese new year in China town and had hot pot together as a way to celebrate.



*Friends from Romano Court*



*Celebrating Chinese new year with other exchange students*



*Visiting Tower Bridge*

## **February**

The semester officially started in February. However, as the semester just started, the workload was relatively light and I got plenty of free time for myself. In which, I started to travel around. That, I travelled to some neighbouring countries with my friends such as Oxford, Bath and Bristol. We also took the opportunity to travel outside of UK. Our first destination was Nice in France. We also went to Amsterdam and Berlin.



*Travelling to Nice*



*Travelling to Amsterdam*



*Travelling to Berlin*

## **March**

We had our midterms during March. In which, I got 2 midterms and 1 presentation as well as some assignment in between the period. Therefore, I had spent a significant amount of time studying and getting my work done. However, due to covid, all my courses had made midterm exams online which gave me lots of flexibility and I managed to travel a bit during the period. In which, we travelled to Madrid and Barcelona as well as Stockholm in March. I also took the chance to enjoyed some famous musical such as Mama Mia and Harry Potter in London.



*Meeting Friends in Madrid*



*Visiting Stockholm*

## **April**

The Bayes Business School had provided its exchange students with lots of flexibility during their stay. That, as an exchange student, we were allowed to choose our course assessment method. Which, we got to choose to have final exams which would require us to take physical examinations in May and early June or we could take alternative assessments instead which we were required to write essays instead of taking exams but this allowed us to end our semester early in late April. Under the concern of current covid-19 situation and the

quarantine requirement in Hong Kong, I decided to take alternative essays as I was planning to go back to Hong Kong in May. Therefore, I had 5 essays in April which made April quite a busy month for me. However, I also managed to travel around. That, we travelled to Iceland at the beginning of April where I got to see aurora and snow for the first time in my life. It was truly a magical experience for me. Besides, we also travelled to Copenhagen, Denmark which was known as the happiest countries in the world.



*Exploring Iceland*



*Visiting Denmark*

## **May**

As my semester ended in April and my flight to Hong Kong was in the late May, I got to travelled around during the period. That, we visited Lisbon and Milan. We also took the last chance to explore the city of London and travelled around UK where I visited some small

towns around London such as Brighton. I went back to Hong Kong on 20<sup>th</sup> May and spent 7 days in quarantine Hotel.



*Visiting Lisbon*



*Seven Sister Cliff in UK*





*Visiting Milan*

## **General Exchange Information**

### **Visa Procedures**

Hong Kong residents do not need a visa to stay in the UK if you stay in the country for less than 6 months. However, you would be required to present documents such as exchange program confirmation letter, return tickets, accommodation proof, financial proof etc to the officials when entering the UK border.

### **Orientation Activities**

In Bayes Business School, orientation activities would be held one week before the semester starts. The staffs will introduce you the basic information of the school such as school affairs. There are also some student sharing sessions and student club promotions. One of the most important part would be collect you student ID card.

### **Accommodations**

There is limited accommodation for students coming to study for a single term. Students who intend to study for a single term can register their interest in City, University of London managed accommodation by emailing the school. London also has many private student accommodation options, all within easy reach of City. You can find information about rooms in the private sector at the school website.

I was allocated to Romano Court, which is located about 10 minutes' walk from City's main teaching site. I shared an apartment with other study abroad or exchange students, with my own single room and access to shared shower rooms, and one kitchen/dining space.

### **Courses Registration**

The exchange coordinator from Bayes will send email regarding course registration around October. In which, we get a list of course provided in the terms and the course overview for each course. Then, we could state our preference regarding the course we would like to study. The exchange coordinator would send confirmation and inform you if you could get the course you would like to study. You can amend your course choices during the first week of teaching. We can take at most 4 courses at Cass Business School and a cultural course provided by City University of London. We are allowed to study up to 5 courses in total.

Courses Taken	Equivalent HKUST Course
LA2018: Historic London	HUMA1000HMCC: 1000-level Course in Humanities
AS3303: General Insurance	FINA4000LEVEL: 4000-level Course in Finance
F1204: Banking and Financial Institutions	FINA4503: Banking and Financial Intermediation
BS3215: Corporate Governance	MGMT3000LEVEL: 3000-level Course in Management
BS3218: Mergers and Acquisitions	FINA4203: Mergers, Acquisitions, and Corporate Restructuring

## **Teaching & Assessment Methods**

In general, the workload of each courses are manageable. In which, most courses would access the students with 1 midterm exam and 1 final exams and some would consists of assignments and presentations. Some courses have both lectures and tutorials. Exchange students can choose to have alternative assessments, where they do not need to have physical exams during exam period while the alternative assessments would be decided by the course instructors.

## **Sports & Recreation Facilities**

CitySport is the sports centre of the school located near the main campus. Students have to pay to gain access to the sport facilities. Student can also join the school's sports teams to represent the school in competition.

## **Finance & Banking**

In general, credit/debit cards would be the most common and popular payment method in Europe while in some small stores or shops, cash are required. Therefore, it is essential to apply for a debit/credit card with you when go on exchange and it would also be great if you bring a small amount of pounds/euros with you just in case. Personally, I applied a debit card with a UK virtual bank, Monzo and the whole process just took me around 3-4 days which is really convenient.

London has a high cost of living. The food and transportation expenses are much higher than in Hong Kong and the accommodation is also expensive which cost me around \$30000 hkd for the exchange period. I spent around \$100000 hkd per month excluding accommodation.

## **Health & Safety**

Private clinic is not common in UK and medication or seeing doctors could be very expensive. Therefore, it is suggested to purchase medical insurance before going on exchange just in case.

If the situation is not too serious, you can go to pharmacy or places like Boots to receive medical consultation and get medicine. However, I would also suggest to bring some common medication from Hong Kong with you.

As UK has release its limitation of covid, there are no need to quarantine or do self-isolation even if you are tested positive even though you are encouraged to. You could get testing kit for free if you apply with the UK government or your school.

In general, London is safe but you should still pay extra caution when you are walking the street alone or at night and always keep an eyes of your personal belonging as robbery and pickpocketing do happens.

## **Food**

London has a variety of cuisine. However, eating out is expensive and it takes at least 15 pounds to enjoy a proper meal. If you are on a budget, cooking could be an option. You can

get grocery from supermarkets like Co-op and M&S and you could always get some Asian food and ingredients from the China town if you are missing home but it would be more expensive.

## **Transportation**

Payment methods for public transportation includes Oyster Card or debit card and transportation could be expensive with a bus ride could take 1.5 pounds at least. In general, people travel by bus and the underground. However, there will not be any wifi, data or signal for most stations in the underground and you will be disconnected once you enter the station so you better state clearly where you are going to meet your friends beforehand.

London is a walking city and people also like to travel around by scooter or bicycle. If you are not in a hurry, try to walk as much as possible to explore the city.

If you are traveling to other cities in the UK, you can take trains. Remember to purchase railcard for 30 pounds which help you to save 1/3 fee for the train ticket to other cities in UK.

## **Climate**

London is cold in January and February (2-10 degree celsius) and the temperature will rise since March (15-20 degree celsius). Besides, gloomy days are typical in London. It is said that London is raining 1/3 of the time in a year. However, umbrella is not commonly used among Londoner as rains typically accompanied by strong winds.

## **Communication**

There are a lot of network service providers in London, such as 3, O2, giffgaff etc. Personally, I bought a SIM card from O2 in Hong Kong which provided me with unlimited minutes and texts, and 10GB data per month that can be used in UK and any European countries. It costs 15 pounds you could continue the plan if you top up in the following month with the same amount.

## **Cautionary measures**

London is general safe. However, you should always be careful if you are travelling alone, especially at night. Robbery and pickpocketing are not uncommon, therefore, always keep an eye on your personal belonging when you are outside. There can be a lot of drunk people at London at night, especially outside of bars, pubs and clubs. Be careful of those people and walking at night. You should also purchase a travel insurance just in case.

## **Item to bring**

- Passport, HKID
- Documents such as Acceptance Letter from Bayes, accommodation proof & financial proof
- Cash, ATM card, credit card
- Clothing
- Medicine
- Laptop
- Charger and adaptor
- Power Bank
- Proof of vaccination

## **Useful Links and Contacts**

Bayes Business School

[bayes-ug-incoming@city.ac.uk](mailto:bayes-ug-incoming@city.ac.uk)

HKUST SBM study abroad

<http://undergrad.bm.ust.hk/exchange/outbound-exchange/exchange-choices>

City, University student hub

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

Timetable

<https://sws.city.ac.uk/tt2122/default.aspx>

Campus Map:

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

<https://www.city.ac.uk/visit/campuses/northampton-square>