



Exchange Report

Warwick Business School, University of Warwick

Stephanie Suen
Finance and Information Systems
Fall 2022/23

A) Monthly Activity Log

September

Being a fall term exchange student, I was able to attend Warwick's welcome week. Since the welcome week this year started on 26th September, I settled in Warwick 2 days before to prepare to kick start the exchange journey. The welcome week is the best time to meet other exchange students and speak to local students. There were many events going on during the week – orientation talks, sports and society fairs, welcoming sessions for exchange students, free society taster events, etc. I have met other exchange students from HKU, Australia, Japan, and Malaysia. We had great chats together and have followed each other on Instagram. I have also toured around Coventry with 3 other exchange students from UST. The Coventry city centre is small as everything is within walking distance. However, you can still find almost everything you need, as there are Chinese supermarkets, bubble tea shops, and High Street brands like Next and Primark. There are also museums and parks to visit in Coventry, I personally recommend Coventry Cathedral which features the old walls left over from World War II.



October

Classes started in the first week of October. Like UST, there are one lecture session and one seminar session for each module in WBS. There are also weekly tasks for each module in which students have to do readings and/or watch videos. It took me some time to get used to the teaching style in Warwick as I think it is slightly busier than that of UST. Despite needing to spend time on the weekly tasks and preparations, I still didn't miss the chance to travel around during weekends. I went to London with a few friends during the first two weekends. Traveling from Coventry to London is more convenient than I thought as it only takes 1.5 hours on a direct train. We visited some must-visit places, including Borough Market, Chinatown, Piccadilly Circus, Trafalgar Square, British Museum, Tower Bridge, and Buckingham Palace. We also watched the Phantom of the Opera. The time after class was also not to be missed,



I visited Leamington Spa, and also had dinners with my friends in Coventry, we used to have all-you-can-eat hotpot and Korean barbeque, and they were really delicious.

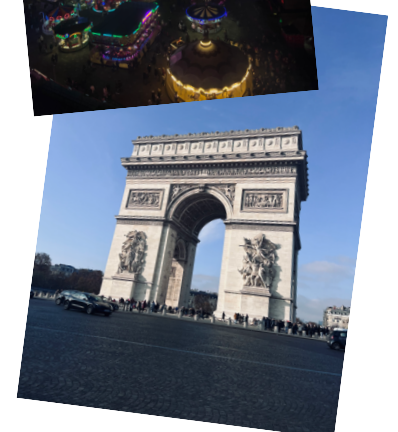
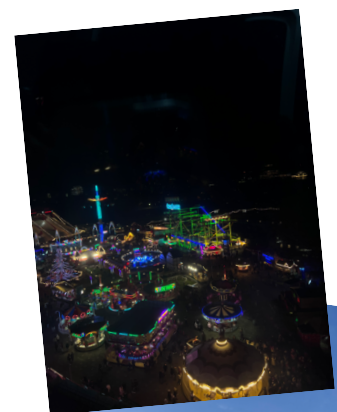
November

There is no official midterm exam period in Warwick, and the course assessments of the modules I took are all due after the end of the term, except for some participation quizzes. Therefore, I went to Italy with three other friends during the first weekend of November. Flight tickets to Europe were cheap, and we were so lucky to have bought our round-trip flight tickets at a price of 200 HKD per person on Trip.com. We spent a total of 6 days in Italy and visited Rome and Milan. Rome is a beautiful city with lots of historical buildings. My favourite place is definitely the Colosseum, it is beautiful inside and out. We spent a whole morning there taking photos and learning about its history. We also went to Trevi, Alter of the Fatherland, Castel Sant'Angelo, and Vatican City. We then travelled from Rome to Milan by train. Milan is more developed than Rome in terms of roads and transportation. We went to Milan Cathedral, Designer Outlet Serravalle, and also watched football at San Siro Stadium. The trip to Italy was great, I would say it is a must-visit place if you are looking to travel during the exchange period.



December

The Autumn semester this year ends on 10th December. I started preparing for my course essays which are due in January as I have to complete five essays in total. My target at that time was to complete at least the outline of the essays so that I know the directions for doing research later. At the same time, I also grab my last chance to travel around with friends before the end of the exchange period. I went to London once again for the festive Winter Wonderland. There were exciting rides, game stalls, a Christmas market, and street food. I enjoyed my time there, and I reckon this is the most Christmassy and popular Christmas market in London. I also went on my last trip to Paris with two exchange students from HKU. We spent 5 days there and went to lots of places, such as Disneyland, the Eiffel Tower, Versailles Palace, and the



Louvre Museum. I enjoyed everything in Paris – the food was great, the transportation was convenient, and the places we visited were all worthwhile. I took beautiful photos of the Eiffel tower from the Top of the City and watched the sunset from the top of the Eiffel Tower.



After returning to UK, I spent the rest of my time in London until I return to Hong Kong in January. Although the course has ended, there are essays to be completed. Therefore, I spent the rest of my time after Christmas completing the course assessments which are due in the first two weeks of January.

B) General Information

1. Visa

If you are holding the HKSAR passport, you don't need to apply for a visa as you are staying for less than 6 months. All you need is to apply for a support letter issued by Warwick which you have to show to the immigration staff at the UK border.

2. Orientation Activities

As I went to Warwick in the Autumn term, there was a welcome week in the last week of September where many events were held. In around mid-September, the welcome week timetable would be announced. Students can log into their accounts through Warwick's welcome week website to see the list of events happening and build their own timetables for the week. There was also a welcome talk and networking session for all exchange students to WBS, it was a great chance to meet students from different countries.

3. International Services and Activities

Warwick has a webpage for inbound exchange students which provides the information you need to settle down in Warwick. Warwick also offers a wide range of services and activities to help you adapt to the new environment. For instance, it has well-being support services, language services provided by the language centre, IT training, and Warwick Volunteers.

4. Accommodation

Exchange students are able to apply for accommodation once they have completed Warwick's study abroad online application and accepted their offer. There is a list of on-campus accommodations to which students can apply, their prices and facilities vary. For instance, some of the accommodations are en suites while others are shared bathrooms. I chose

the Westwood accommodation as my first preference and successfully got in. It seems to be the furthest residence from the main campus – it takes about 15 minutes to walk from the residence to places where I had lectures. However, the residence is beautiful and is very close to Canon Park Shopping Centre where grocery shops like Tesco and Seoul Plaza are located.

5. Course Registration

An email that contains details of the module application was sent out at the beginning of September. The module application for the Autumn term starts in mid-September; students can choose the modules they prefer to study. However, the place is not guaranteed as places are not allocated on a first come first serve basis. If you want to have your place in a module secured, you should follow the instructions in the email to ask UST's study abroad advisor to confirm that you are required to take the module. You can add or drop your modules up to the third week of the term. However, unlike UST, you can't wait for a module, therefore you must monitor the module application system to see if there are places available in the modules you are interested in.

6. Teaching and Assessment

Each module consists of one lecture and one seminar every week. Participation is usually not mandatory for lectures, but attendance is taken during seminars. Lectures are all video-recorded and are very convenient to access through my.wbs. The assessment methods of the four modules I took include participation quizzes, class tests, and essays which are due after the end of the semester. However, the course assessment methods vary from module to module. Therefore, you should refer to the exchange student module handbook for details.

7. Finance and Banking

In the UK, most shops, restaurants, and public transportation support contactless payments. Therefore, you can either apply for HSBC's world debit card or open your own virtual bank account on platforms like Monzo. Although contactless is widely used, I still brought some cash with me just in case I need it. If you are planning to travel to European countries, it may be a good idea to bring some euro cash with you as some of the local shops may not accept card payments.

8. Climate

Autumn in the UK is quite chilly with the temperature at about 17 degrees Celsius on average. I had been wearing long sleeve clothes and sometimes

thicker jackets since the start of the term. The weather became very cold in November, and the sun sets at around 4 pm. I had to wear a down jacket when I was outdoors, but luckily there are radiators in the accommodation to keep you warm throughout the night.

9. Health and Safety

Students studying at Warwick can register with the NHS service at the University of Warwick Health Centre. You can make appointments with them and enjoy the health services when needed. There are also pharmacies in local supermarkets and stores like Boots and Superdrug where you can find medicines. However, I recommend you bring some of your medicines from Hong Kong just in case you can't find the medicine you need on emergency.

10. Food

Grocery shopping is very convenient in Warwick as there is an on-campus Rootes Grocery Store where you can find basic ingredients. You can also visit Canon Shopping Centre where Tesco, Aldi, and an Asian grocery store called Seoul Plaza is located. I usually cooked my own dinner in the shared kitchen, and sometimes I would go out for dinner with my friends. There are a few on-campus restaurants, I personally would recommend Dirty Duck and Varsity. I also rode bus to Coventry for dinner from time to time as there are a lot more choices. I used to have hot pot and Korean barbeque with my friends.

11. Transportation

Transportation is convenient in Warwick. There are buses to Coventry and nearby areas such as Leamington Spa and Kenilworth. There are bus stops across the campus so even if you live far away from the main campus, e.g., in Westwood, you can still easily catch a bus. You can also get to the Coventry Rail Station by bus in about 20 minutes, and there are trains to London, Reading, Birmingham and so on.

12. Communication

I bought a pay as you go sim card from Vodafone, I bought the £20 big value bundle and had got 20GB of data per month. You can also choose other options which give you different data allowances. There is also Wi-Fi on campus, you can either join the network through 'eduroam' or 'Warwick Guest'.

13. Sports and Recreation Facilities

There is the Sports and Wellness Hub on campus which gives you access to a wide range of sports facilities. Some examples of facilities available include gym, rock climbing arena, swimming pool, and more. To access these

facilities, you can either subscribe to the membership or simply pay as you go when you use those facilities. Apart from that, there are also performances such as orchestra in the Warwick Art Centre. You can always find the information regarding events and facilities online.

14. Social Clubs and Networking

There are many different social clubs available at Warwick. If you are going on exchange in Autumn term, you even get the chance to join the welcome week when the sports and society fairs are held. You can get more information about the social clubs through chatting with their organising committees. However, even if you do not have the chance to visit the fairs, you can still find information and contacts of all the social clubs on Warwick SU's website.

15. Cautionary Measures

Crime rates differ across different places in the UK. Therefore, try your best to avoid walking alone late night when visiting places with higher crime rates. If you have to travel alone, pay attention to your belongings and beware of the surroundings.

C) Items to Bring

- Passport
- Cash
- Umbrella
- Debit Card/ Credit Card
- Medicine
- Laptop
- Clothes (bring thicker clothes if you go abroad in the Autumn term)
- Tissue (e.g., Tempo)
- Stationery
- Travel adapter
- Support letter issued by Warwick (have to show it at the UK border)

D) Useful Links and Contacts

Inbound Exchange Student Page:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/studentopportunity/studentmobility/studyatwarwick/>

Student Arrivals:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/students/welcome/internationalstudents/arrivals/>

Visa and Immigration: <https://warwick.ac.uk/study/international/immigration/>

Welcome Week: <https://warwick.ac.uk/students/welcome>

On-campus Health Centre: <https://www.uwhc.org.uk/>

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

Module Application:

<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/wbs/undergrad/welcome/students/exchangestudents/wbsinboundexchangeaut/>