

# *CITY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON BAYES BUSINESS SCHOOL*

Exchange Report  
Fall 2022



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# MONTHLY ACTIVITY LOG

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## September

I arrived in London in early September. The orientation was scheduled in late September, so I got time to travel around before the semester started. We travelled to a nearby country, The Netherlands, we visited Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and several nearby cities. The country is very gorgeous, and it was an eye-opening experience. We also got time to do some sightseeing inside London. I checked into my dormitory a few days before the orientation. I was lucky enough to meet some friendly flatmates and we attended the orientation together. They were also exchange students at City, University of London and they all came from different countries. We had a few nice gatherings before the semester officially started.



## October

Since the semester just started, the workload was relatively low and manageable, so I visited quite a few tourist attractions in the UK, such as Greenwich, China Town, Borough Market, etc. I also travelled to Cambridge and Oxford. There are way too many cities worth visiting in the UK, and it is hard to visit them all in just 3 months. It was a tough decision to choose which city to go first. London itself also has lots of attractions, and it is very convenient to travel in London by Tube, so I spent lots of time exploring the city as well. A friend of mine also came to visit me and we spent some time exploring the neighbourhood together.



## November

Most of my projects, midterms, and assignments were due this month, so the workload got a bit heavier. But I spared some time to visit Frankfurt, Stuttgart, Cologne, and Brussels with my friend at the beginning of this month. It was her first time visiting the UK, so we explored London and Manchester together as well. We strolled around the city and visited the most famous attractions such as Big Ben, Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace, etc. One of the most unforgettable experiences was to enjoy the renowned show, Phantom of the Opera. It was my first time watching a musical in a theatre and I enjoyed it so much. I also spent quality time with my friends who were also studying in the UK, and they showed me around the cities they were living in, giving me deeper knowledge about the UK.



## December

The exams for local students were scheduled in January, but exchange students could choose to opt for alternative assessments. Those could be exams held in December or take-home assignments. I had three exams and an essay to submit in December, so I spent most of the time studying in December. But during my free time, I watched Harry Potter and the Cursed Child and tried out different signature food in various Christmas markets. Before leaving the UK, I also visited Winter Wonderland, Westminster, Camden Market, and tried out as many cuisines as I can with my friends. Although I didn't have enough time to visit all the signature cities in the UK, the overall experience was remarkable, and I departed in late December to continue my next journey in Vancouver.



## GENERAL STUDY ABROAD INFORMATION

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### **Visa Procedures**

Holders of HKSAR passports are eligible to stay in the United Kingdom as a visitor for 6 months. Since the exchange period was less than 6 months, I did not apply for any student visa. But it is better to prepare the official acceptance letter, confirmation of accommodation, financial proof, and other important documents beforehand, as customs could ask for those documents when you enter the UK border.

### **Orientation Activities**

The mandatory orientation day was held on 28 September, and there were some other events and campus tours held for the newcomers that week. A seminar was held on the orientation day, it provided us with some basic information about London, including transportation, useful apps, and some famous tourist attractions. They also reminded us that burglary was quite common in London, especially in front of Tube stations. A basic introduction to the university was also given, as well as assessments structures, access to university facilities etc. In the afternoon, a tour was given to show us around the neighborhood of the campus, so that we got some basic understanding of its history.

They also had a promotion day where all societies had their booths set up and ready to answer any questions you have in mind. During my exchange, it was an off-campus event held on 29 September, but it was not compulsory to attend. They had many societies that were not common in Hong Kong, so it was a good opportunity to know more about British culture.

### **International Services & Activities**

The exchange coordinator was very nice and was always willing to answer any inquiries. Occasionally, there were emails from the Student Union introducing the events they were hosting, such as social gatherings, theatre shows, film night etc. Students can always sign up for the events they are interested in.

## **Accommodations**

They offered two accommodation options, including ensuite and non-ensuite options. After confirming our student status, they sent us accommodation information through email. We could send them our preferences, but it was on a first come first served basis. I opted for the ensuite option, and they allocated me to East Central House, which was only a 7-min walk away from the university. It is close to a few Tube Stations. Old Street station is the closest, which takes less than 10 mins to walk there. Farringdon is a large station that is slightly further away, it takes 15 mins to walk there. Multiple Tube lines are available there and it is quite convenient to travel around the city if you live near that.

## **Courses Registration**

The university sent us a list of courses they offered, together with the tentative course syllabus for us to use as reference. In May, we registered for the courses we wanted to take, and they helped us to enroll in those courses if possible. The add-drop period opened in late August and lasted till mid-September. We could only take a maximum of 4 business courses. Enrolling in 5-6 courses was only allowed if the additional ones were cultural modules, which included Historic London and Performing Arts in London.

## **Teaching & Assessment Methods**

Each class usually consists of around 80-100 students. The class format of the courses I have taken is quite similar to HKUST. They are mainly delivered in lecture format, occasionally with tutorial sections. For the courses I took, there wasn't much class discussion or activities held in the classroom, but students were always welcome to raise questions in class. The exam period for local students was in January, but for exchange students, we could either take the normal exams in January or opt for alternative assessments. These assessments could be earlier exams or take-home assignments, depending on what courses you take. For Historic London, it is a cultural module, so instead of having regular lectures, it provides weekly city walks. Along the way, a tour guide will explain the history of those attractions and share some fun facts, it is an interesting course to take if you want to learn more about the city.



<b>Course Taken</b>	<b>Equivalent HKUST Course</b>	<b>Assessment Method</b>
AS3304 Pensions and Other Benefits	FINA4000LEVEL: 4000-level Course in Finance (3 Cr)	Individual assessments + Essay
FR3100 Fixed Income Portfolio Management	FINA4000LEVEL: 4000-level Course in Finance (2 Cr)	Group project + Final exam
IF3104 Bank Strategy and Management	FINA4000LEVEL: 4000-level Course in Finance (2 Cr)	Midterm + Final exam
IF3207 Corporate Restructuring	FINA4000LEVEL: 4000-level Course in Finance (2 Cr)	Group project + Final exam
LA2018 Historic London	HUMA1000HMCC: 1000-level Course in Humanities (3 Cr)	Group presentation + Essay

### **Finance & Banking**

Most of the places in London accept debit and credit cards. Even food stalls in the street market usually accept cashless payment as well. I applied for a debit card in HSBC before my exchange. It was very simple and convenient to exchange HKD to GBP in their mobile app, and their cards are accepted in most places, so I seldom bring cash with me. Compared with Hong Kong, the cost of living in London is quite high, so it is better to prepare more money in your bank account, especially if you plan to visit different countries.

### **Climate**

London is considered a warm city during the winter compared with other cities in the United Kingdom. During my stay, the temperature seldom dropped below 0 degrees Celsius. It fluctuated between 3 to 13 degree Celsius in December, and it was mostly rainy, gloomy, and windy. It also snowed once in December, but it is not too common for London to snow heavily.

### **Health & Safety**

London is generally a safe city in the UK. However, the university reminded us that burglary happens quite often outside the Tube station where lots of people take out their phones to check out their maps. You should pay attention when you go to crowded places, especially when you are alone, or it is nighttime. Pickpocketing is quite common in famous tourist spots. I usually just kept a minimum amount of cash with me when I went out, and often made my payments with cards.

## **Food**

It is quite expensive to dine out in London when compared with Hong Kong. It is definitely much cheaper if you cook for yourselves. There were quite a few supermarkets near the dormitory I lived in, so it was very convenient for me to buy groceries. Sainsbury's, Marks & Spencer, and Tesco are grocery stores that are very common in London. There were lots of good restaurants in London too, and you can basically find cuisines from all over the world.

## **Transportation**

The most convenient way to commute is to take the Tube, which is similar to MTR in HK. Bus routes cover a lot of places as well. You can use Oyster Card (similar to Octopus Card in HK) or other contactless payment methods to pay for the fare. If you want to travel to other European cities, you can take Eurostar or travel by air. It is also very convenient to travel to other cities in the UK by train or by bus. You can always purchase the tickets in Trainline app beforehand. I also purchased a Railcard for 30 pounds, and it saved me 1/3 of the fees on train tickets.

## **Communication**

I used a giffgaff SIM card in the UK. It provides different data plans and allows me to top up values. I paid £10 for 20GB of data each month. It had unlimited calls and texts, and it included 5GB of additional EU roaming data, so I didn't have to purchase another SIM card when I travelled to Europe.

## **Sports & Recreation Facilities**

The university has a gym called CitySport located near the main campus. You have to pay a one-off entry fee for the whole semester or pay monthly if you want to use its facilities. There are different sports societies that you can join as well, some of them offer a trial session at the beginning of the semester and you can try out their activities. It is a good opportunity to check out whether you are interested in it or not.

## **Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities**

You can learn more about different societies during their promotion period and participate in their events. From time to time, the student union will also send out emails to promote their ongoing events.

## Cautionary measures

London is a relatively safe city, but pickpocketing is still common. You should pay extra attention when you go out at night, or when you are walking alone. Try not to use your phone while walking and be aware of the surroundings when you are reading the maps or taking photos. There could be a lot of drunk people outside the bars and pubs at night, try to avoid passing by these places alone. You should also take good care of your belongings when you are taking public transport, lots of pickpocketing activities take place on the Tube.

## ITEMS TO BRING

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Passport, HKID card

Acceptance letter, confirmation of accommodation, financial proof

Debit and/or credit card

Cash and ATM card

Medicine

Warm clothing

Laptop

Charger and adaptor (for travelling outside the UK)

Power bank

Earphones

## USEFUL LINKS AND CONTACTS

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Student Exchange Coordinator, Katie Hughes

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

Study Abroad Team

[study-abroad@city.ac.uk](mailto:study-abroad@city.ac.uk)

Timetable

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

Student Hub

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

Trainline

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

giffgaff

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