

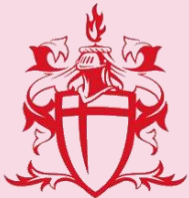
Exchange Report

(Fall 2022)

City, University of London

Bayes Business School

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BAYES
BUSINESS SCHOOL
CITY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

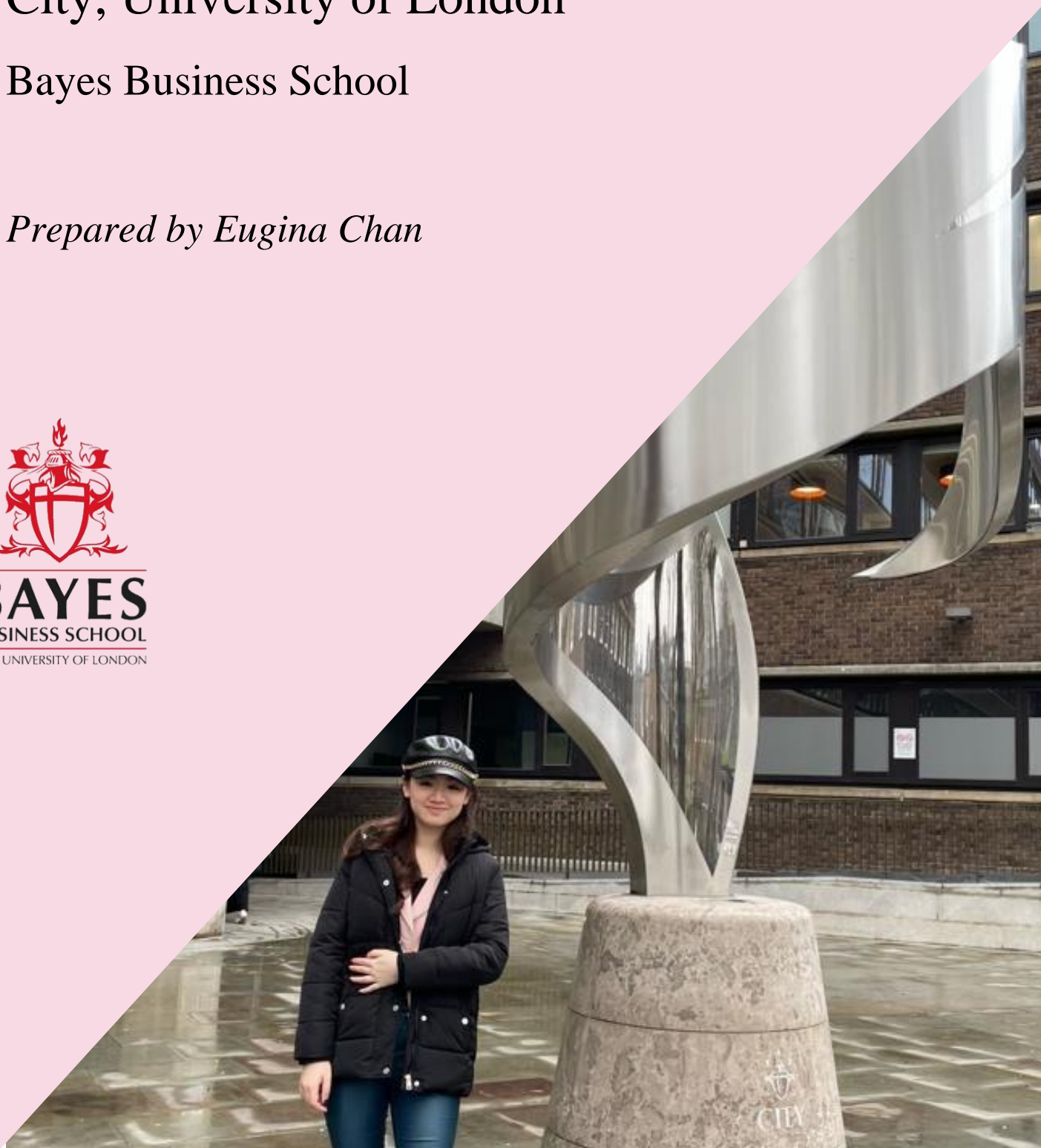


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Overall Experience

Going on an exchange was one of the greatest choices I have ever made. I have met a lot of wonderful people and had the opportunity to study and experience a lot of things that I never would have been able to accomplish in Hong Kong. My schoolmates were super welcoming and open. I have developed some close friendships. They constantly check on me to make sure everything is fine, and I know I can always turn to them if I need anything. My schoolmates also come from very diverse cultural backgrounds – the professor did a survey on our nationalities in one of my classes, and the cultural demographics was extremely diverse.



Picture 1: Visiting the desert with friends I met during my exchange

Aside from studying, some Hong Kong friends and I also went on some trips. I have visited Nice, Rome, Amsterdam, Paris and other cities. I also had a road trip in Morocco. The excursions we have taken have been wonderful opportunities to see the world and get to know the history, cultures and people who in places so different from Hong Kong and try on traditional cuisines . I have had a great time everywhere we have been able to travel.



Picture 2 and 3: Walking through ancient ruins in different Europe countries



Picture 4 and 5: Walking through the local market and residential area in Morocco to understand their Northern African culture



On academic terms, I have taken four courses, they are Bank Strategy and Management, Business in Society, International Human Resources Management and International Business Strategies. The content of the courses were very global – we studied business cases from different countries. They have definitely broadened my horizons, especially on the business field. Bayes Business School's teaching focuses a lot on case studies and class discussions. If we wish to be able to understand and engage in the class, we need to read all the readings materials, especially the cases thoroughly. Sometimes the reading can go up to hundreds of pages per lecture, but they are absolutely not boring to read. The cases really add to the richness of then courses and class discussions are extremely exciting to engage in.

I also took French Beginner language course. It is a free extra-curricular course provided by the university. In one semester, I learnt how to introduce myself in French and understand most content in daily conversations. The course instructor was very talkative and humorous. All of us enjoyed the course a lot. It is designed as an one-year course. Even though my academic exchange program is only one-semester long, it was very kind of the course instructor to offer me the option to self-study and take the exam like other students in April for me to receive the certificate. He also volunteered to provide office hours in case I face difficulties in learning myself.

General Exchange Information

1) Visa Procedures

I hold a Hong Kong passport. Regarding studying abroad in the UK, for short-term (below six month) exchange students holding Hong Kong passports, we do not need to apply for a student visa, as Hong Kong citizens have a six-month visa-free access right to the UK.

2) Orientation Activities

A wide variety of orientation activities were organised by my host university, from student parties, to trivia and quiz nights, information sessions, and city tours! These were mostly held one week before term officially started, although some were also held in the first and second weeks. They were really enjoyable and I got to meet a lot of new friends from across the world! The most memorable orientation activity would be the university clubbing experiences – it is a great bonding experience to party together!

3) International Services & Activities

Many universities in the UK provide comprehensive international services and activities, and City University of London is no different. We had multiple cultural activities across term, all of which were quite enjoyable and provided me with a lot of exposure to other cultures in addition to making me feel comfortable while studying abroad. I really appreciated that the universities made me feel so welcome!

4) Accommodation

During my exchange, I lived with one of my friends who was studying in the UK, and so I didn't really have any exposure to the dorm room lifestyle!

However, I did save a lot of money as I didn't need to pay for room rent, so if you have the option to live with a friend while studying abroad, go for it – it allows you to experience so much more, and it's always nice to live with friends.

5) Course Registration

Course registration was extremely easy – all I had to do was fill out my desired courses on a form, and my timetable was emailed to me – the course information was extremely easy to access and understand on the university website, and changing courses was also extremely easy! All I had to do was make a few changes online and they were confirmed quite easily.

6) Teaching & Assessment Methods

Teachers at the City University of London are extremely experienced and made the classes both engaging and informative – I enjoyed learning from them, and all of them had very strong academic credentials. Classes were not very big, so it allowed me to have a lot of hands-on experiences, from group projects to presentations. Finally, the University provides alternative exam arrangements for exchange students, some of which are take-home essays, which makes it extremely convenient for us exchange students who may have different schedules from the full-time students. It was quite nice to see that the university had prepared special exam formats for the exchange students.

7) Finances

With there currently being a cost-of-living crisis in the UK, everything from daily essentials such as food, to transport, to entertainment have all gone up considerably in price. To save money and budget well, I cooked at home a lot, and split the costs with my roommates – it was much more affordable than eating out every day or ordering from Deliveroo everyday. I would also

recommend that even for a short exchange of a couple months, that students open a UK bank account as that makes payment, transfers, and withdrawals much easier.

8) Climate

The UK is quite cold and rainy, especially in the winter. Temperatures can range from 20 degrees Celsius, down to -6 degrees Celsius. I would definitely recommend bringing a few heavy coats from Hong Kong (of if there isn't any space in your luggage, then buy one in the UK). Also convenient would be some UniQlo Heat-Tech clothing, which saved me from the biting cold in December. Finally, remember to bring scarfs and gloves!

9) Health & Safety

The UK has a very comprehensive healthcare system called the NHS. When I was studying abroad, I suffered a jellyfish sting that caused my hand to swell up considerably. The NHS gave me quite efficient treatment as well as medication recommendations. However, I would definitely recommend that all exchange students buy travel insurance just in case you get into an accident or suffer serious illness, as medical expenses can get quite expensive! The UK is also quite a safe country, although as is always true in most big cities, it's best not to go wandering out late at night alone!

10) Food

There is an extremely wide variety of food in London, including Japanese, Thai, Korean, Italian, French and more. You can choose between grabbing a lengthy 10 course dinner, or a quick sandwich at one of the many sandwich and coffee shops across the city. I would definitely recommend eating at Chinatown, as many of the restaurants there are extremely good! The groceries at the

supermarkets are quite fresh as well, so if you don't want to eat out there's always the option of cooking at home.

11) Transportation

The London transportation network is extremely convenient, with the tube reaching almost every conceivable district in London, as well as there being a comprehensive bus system. However, note that many of the Tube stations in London are not equipped with wireless connection, so you might not be able to use your phones inside the Tube! Alternatively, there are many e-bike and e-scooter services across the city – all you have to do is download an app, scan the e-bike/e-scooter, and then start riding. Finally, there is always the choice of the famous London black taxicabs, although keep in mind that those are quite expensive. Transportation to other cities in the UK and in Europe is extremely convenient as well – a quick one hour train ride from London could get you to places like Oxford, Cambridge, Brighton, and a two hour train ride could get you to Paris on the Eurostar!

12) Communication

I would definitely recommend that you get a SIM card in order to use the local wireless networks. Almost everyone in the UK uses WhatsApp, Instagram and/or Snapchat, so if you have these three apps then you're all set.

13) Sports and Recreational Facilities

I didn't really have a chance to do many sports, although I did play a few games of badminton with my roommates. To ensure that you always can play, I would recommend that you book the courts beforehand, as many of the courts may be prebooked.

14) Social Clubs

There are many clubs and networking opportunities for exchange students, encompassing almost every sport, music, and hobby that a person can dream of. Furthermore, they're always welcoming of newcomers, so don't be afraid to join an activity that you're interested in!

15) Cautionary Measures

London, while quite safe, may still be dangerous, especially for women alone at night. Remember to stick with your friends, be careful of pickpockets, and if drinking outside, to look after yourself! Language or customs-wise, there's not many social taboos, so you have nothing to worry about.

Items to Bring

Checklist:

- Coat
- Sweater
- Jacket
- Shoes
- Gowns
- Shirts
- Shorts
- Long Trousers
- Umbrella
- Travel Insurance/Study Abroad Insurance
- Chargers
- Passport
- ID Cards and Bank Cards
- Stationery
- Camera
- Hand Cream
- Medicine

Useful Contacts

Emergencies – 999

Non-emergencies – 101

NHS – 0300 311 22 33