

# **Study Aboard Journal**

Spring Term 2022-23

**Name:** Yuan FANG

**Country:** The United Kingdom

**Host University:** City, University of London, Bayes

Business School



**CITY UNIVERSITY  
LONDON**

## **Monthly Activity Log**

### **Jan 2023: Chinese New Year & Orientation**

I arrived in the UK on Jan 21<sup>st</sup>, which was 4 days before the orientation. Holding the UK visa also made me available to Singapore so I actually spent one day visiting there before landing the UK.

The time I arrived happened to be the eve of Chinese New Year, so I delightedly went to Chinatown and enjoy hotpot with my friend and roommates I just met.

The accommodation was in Romano Court, which was provided by the host university and was only one station away from the downtown area. I strongly recommend it and will introduce more detail in the following section.

The rest of days were mostly hanging around the City of London area, we went to visit some of the most famous places: Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace, Tower of London, St. James Park, etc. Due to the place I live and courses I have selected (Historic London, course was given by City Walk), I had chances to those places so many times during the exchange period.

The great Westminster Abbey



(You can wait for the choir.)

Chinatown in London



(One of the most crowded places in London, watch out your property!)



(In front of the Buckingham Palace)



(Evening glow in Trafalgar Square)

## Feb 2023: City Walk & Exhibition

When it came to February, I have started my learning in Bays Business School. Every week I only have 5 courses so that there were plenty of time for me to explore more areas in London. I have been to the tallest building in the UK, the Shard, Greenwich, where the famous prime meridian went through its Royal Observation. I also walked around the street of East London with my camera, tasting food from local market to Michelin. There are many exhibitions in London everyday and I also got to some of those, including orchid show in Kew Garden, Animate & Game Festival, Royal Jewelry display in Victoria & Albert Museum...London is such a place for me to experience diverse culture from every part of the world.



Jewelry display in Victoria & Albert Museum. Amazed by those shining gem and diamond.



Chainsaw man in Animate and Gaming Festival. I love these passionate people!



- View of and from the Shard. There are restaurants and balcony on the top of it.

- Orchid exhibition in Kew Garden



- Overlooking both sides of Thames River from the Tower Bridge

- From the Royal Observation in Greenwich, you can see a mixture of different style of London.



## March 2023: Concert & Studying

Unluckily I got sick in March so I did not travel for long distance. I spent most of my time in exploring areas around my accommodation and spent some time doing assignments in the campus.

The campus of Bayes Business School is not very big but still have a library of several floors and have a special room with different kinds of financial database including Bloomberg for business students and they are all open to exchange students.

Besides, I luckily bought the concert ticket of Ed Sheeran and MC Hotdog.

I was so excited to see one of my favorite singers in London.

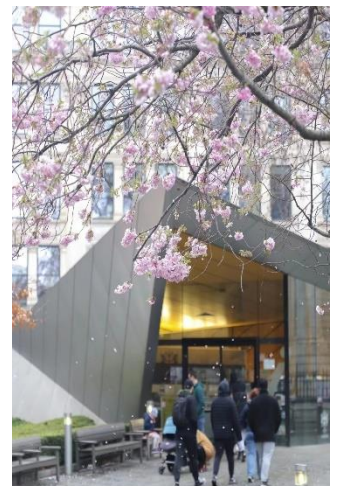


- Ed Sheeran in London!



- Going to watch Turandot in National Theatre
- If you take the course Performing Art in London, you will have the chance to watch 5 shows with only 60 pounds.

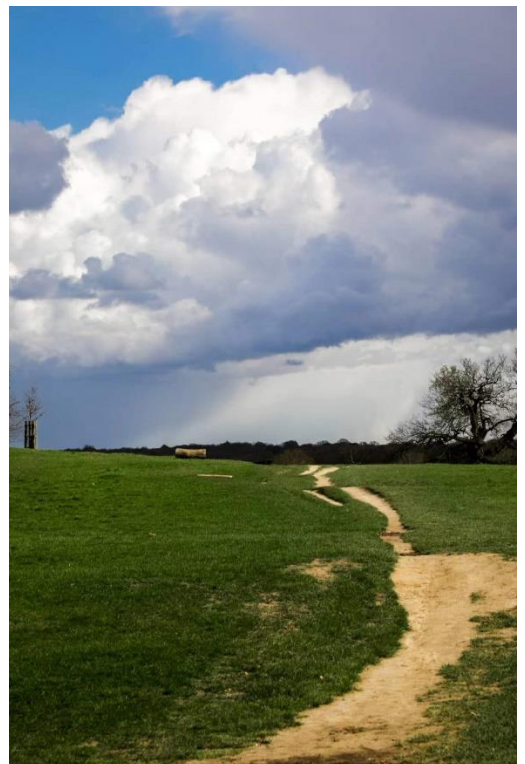
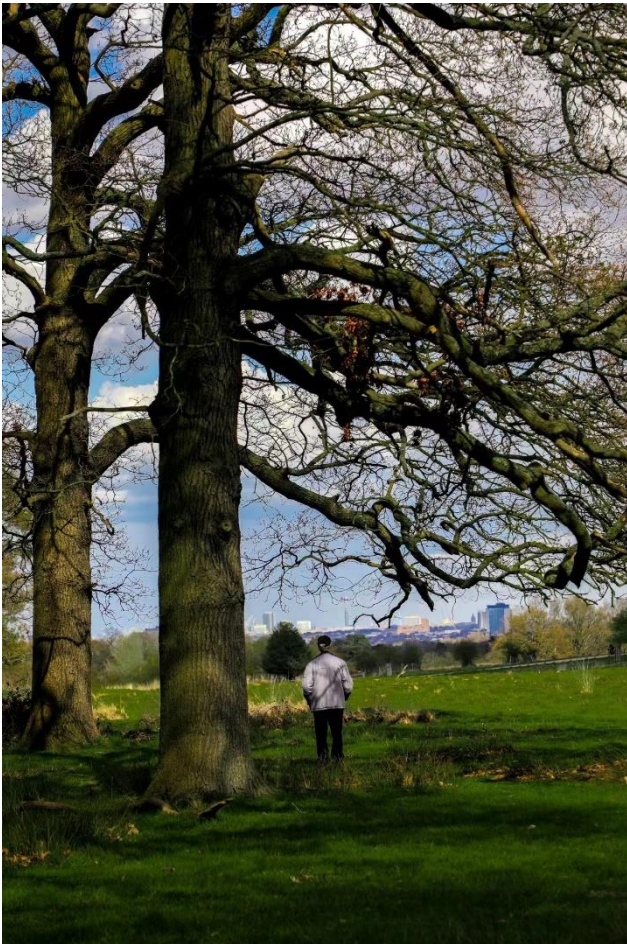
- Steak Steak Steak



## April 2023: Hiking

Hiking is one of the most enjoyable things I have done in the UK. I walked for about 100 km during this month and all I need is a pair of water-proof hiking shoes, a pair of track pole, proper jacket and trousers to keep warm. Most of the paths are easy to walk and people in the country area are very friendly and always say hi to me in the field.

- In Richmond



- In Eastbourne



- In the Lake District





## May 2023: Traveling

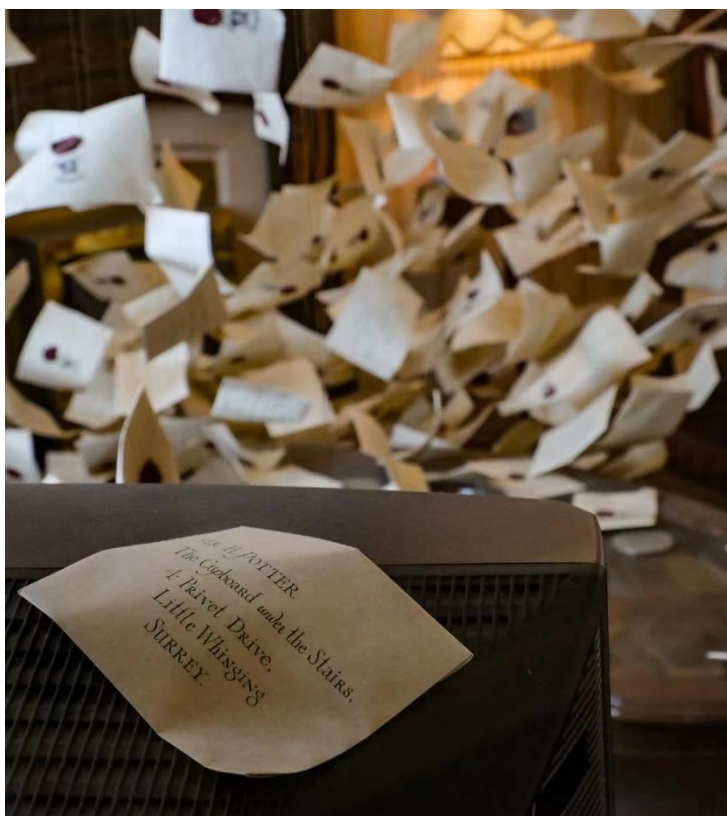
After completing all the final assessments, I decided to have a travel to other part of the country like Scotland. I also got the chances to two more concerts of Post Malone and Avril Lavigne.



- Avril Lavigne

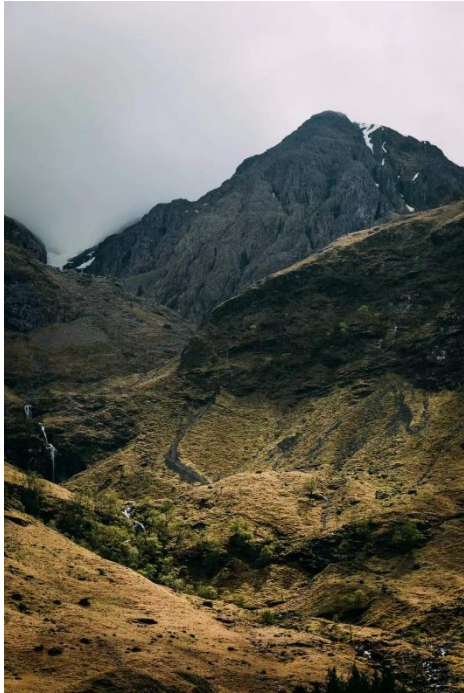


- Post Malone



- The scene looks familiar? It is the Harry Potter Factory.

- Travel in Scotland



## **General Study Abroad Information**

### **Visa Procedures**

As a mainland China passport holder, specific UK visa application was required, but the overall material and procedure is not complicated. You need to provide the offer from host university, bank statement for at least 6 months, and other required materials which can be easily found on UK immigration website. Once you receive offer, you can start making appointment online and the visa fee is around 700 HKD.

### **Orientation Activities**

Orientation date will change every year, so please read through the material and email carefully, and booked flight ticket arriving few days before. During the orientation, staff from host university will talk issues about everything you need to know living and studying London, so please feel free to ask for help if you have any questions.

### **International Services & Activities**

After the orientation, there will be an networking events for exchange students. Food and drinks will be served in the hall of the university. It is a great chance for you to know more friends and exchanging ideas for course selection and travel plans.

### **Accommodations**

Two types of accommodation are offered: share bathroom or not. The price for share is around 150 pounds a week (the Romano Court), while the other is more expensive. **I personally recommend the sharing one** if it is

acceptable for you, not only because of the price, but also because the share one is very close to the Elizabeth line underground, which provide you a more convenient way of transporting than the Northern line, where the non-share one located, yes, they are not in the same place.

### **Course Registration**

Course registration started shortly after you confirm the offer, and it lasts a long period after you go there for few weeks. During this period you can email the host university exchange team to help you choose or drop the course. As an exchange student, the procedure is easy and flexible, but the earlier you choose the course, the chance you get into it is bigger.

### **Teaching & Assessment Methods**

Overall, there is little pressure from learning aspect. Basically, every course is face-to-face now, but for the assessment, most of them can be completed online. Exchange student also can choose to take the alternative final exams, which will holder a month earlier than other students so that you can end the semester earlier and arrange your plan. The courses are given together with other local student and will have group projects.

### **Financing & Banking**

As a short term exchange student, it is totally fine to use your own visa

card without applying a local bank card. You can bring a small amount of cash with you, but most of the time you won't need it. The transporting and living cost is a little higher than Hong Kong, but many places can use student discount, so feel free to ask before you pay.

### **Climate**

The temperature in the UK for spring semester is around 10 degree Celsius for most of the time, but it can still drops to 0 degree in some case. Prepare warmer cloth than Hong Kong of course. Also, it is always raining and windy in the UK, **so I also recommend you bring water & wind proof clothes and shoes with you.**

### **Health & Safety**

You can bring some common use medicine with you since it is very expensive and difficult to get to the hospital in the UK. You can also easily find Chinese medicine around Chinatown area, but it cost much than in Hong Kong.

Safety is also a big issue in London and you must learn how to protect yourself. You'd better not going out after 10 p.m. by yourself or walking to places like alley with few people. You must also take care of your phone and wallet every second walking on the street, since you might never know how the theft will take your property away. I have heard the story of so

many friends or other people of how they are being stolen or robbed, so please be careful, especially in the downtown area. The truth is that countless stealing and robbing cases are happening in London every day and it is almost impossible for policemen to chase your things back, so you must build up the awareness of safety and protect your own property.

## **Food**

London is an international city and you can find everything for eating in the city, and most of them do have a good flavor. Since the campus is very close to Chinatown, you can easily have a taste of hometown if you feel sick of other food. But the cost of eating outside is high, 30 pounds or more is the normal price for me to eat outside.

You can use the kitchen and refrigerator in the ensuite to prepare food by yourself, which is a much more economical way. There are a few restaurants in the campus and the price is fair, you can also try them before or after class.

## **Transportation**

The public transportation in the UK is very convenient, no matter by underground, train, bus, or airplane. As a student, you can apply student discount for most of the transportation, so please bring your student ID and visa with you to the underground station to buy an discounted Oyster Card

and Railroad card. They are just like octopus card and you can top up money for travelling.

At first you might have some problems finding the correct entrance or platform, so feel free to ask staff in the station. Also it is very normal to have a delay or even close for the public transport, so please check more times on Google map and make sure the travel time for you.

### **Communication**

Students and teachers in the campus are very friendly and willing to provide you help. People outside are also kind in most cases, but again, please be alert when you are outside, since thieves and scammers really like to target at Asian students.

You can buy SIM card in local market easily, like Tesco, Waitrose, Sainsbury, etc. I bought a Giffgaff SIM card after landing London, and the price is about 12 pounds a month for 20GB, which is quite enough for me.

### **Sports & Recreation Facilities**

School will provide gyms and other sports court for students. You can also choose to join a sport club in the school.

For bar or club outside, you will be required to show your ID before you go.

## Items to Bring

- Credit card (with Visa recommended)
- Cash (not to much)
- Personal ID: Passport, student ID
- Winter Clothing: water-proof clothing and shoes
- Universal plug
- Portable charger
- Copies of passport, flight tickets, offer letter, etc.
- Medicine
- Laptop
- Power Bank

## Useful Links and Contacts

HKUST SBM study abroad

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

Contact of Katie Hughes, the Student Exchange Coordinator

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

Course Timetable

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

HKUST credit transfer database

<https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/useful-tools/credit-transfer/database-institution>

Oyster Card for travel in London

<https://tfl.gov.uk/fares/free-and-discounted-travel/18-plus-student-oyster-photocard>

Skyscanner

<https://www.skyscanner.net/>

Trainpal

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

Accommodation

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