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# BAYES

## BUSINESS SCHOOL

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CITY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



Spring Term 2023  
Exchange Report

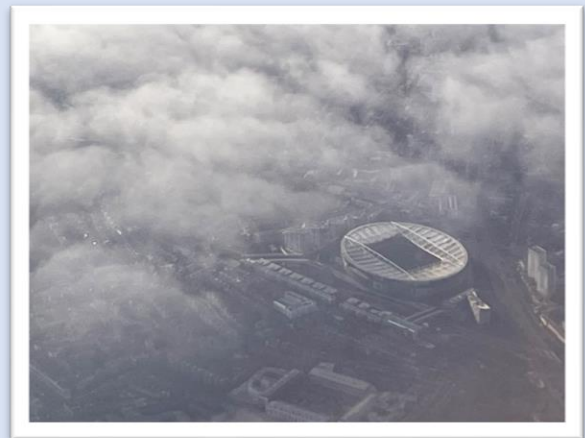
City, University of London, Bayes Business School, U.K.  
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## Monthly Activity Log

### January 2023

I arrived in London on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. After cleaning my room and unpacking my luggage, I had explored the nearby areas for both sightseeing and daily routine like searching for supermarkets and restaurants, and also having a stadium tour of Emirates Stadium. The orientation organized by the university started on 25<sup>th</sup> January. It provided me a chance to know more about the local community and contact with other exchange students.

Emirates Stadium from the plane window, captured during the flight to London



Angel Canal: Near the main campus of City, University of London, that I walked past while exploring nearby areas

Smithfield Market: In Farringdon, which is also near the main campus, and one of the sites visited during the city walk in orientation

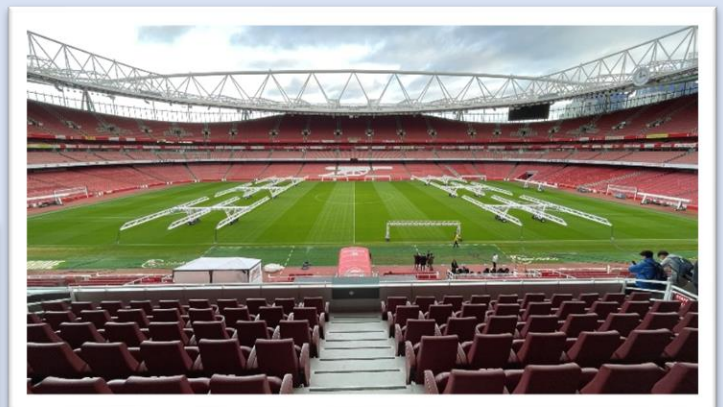




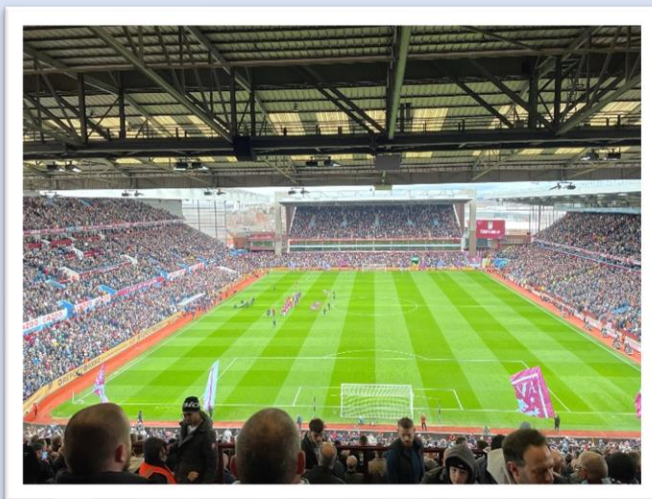
## February 2023

After some modules started to lecture on 30th January, the modules were lectured in a moderate pace and provided me some free time without a lot of post-lecture assignment. Therefore, as a football fan, I had visited Emirates Stadium for a stadium tour and watched football games after settling down in London, as a lot of football clubs are located in London or nearby cities, such as West Ham United, Fulham and Watford FC. Besides watching several games in London, I had also been to Birmingham for Aston Villa vs Arsenal, which Arsenal turned the tables and won with 4-2. And I had reunited one of my classmates in the secondary school who is studying at another UK university in London.

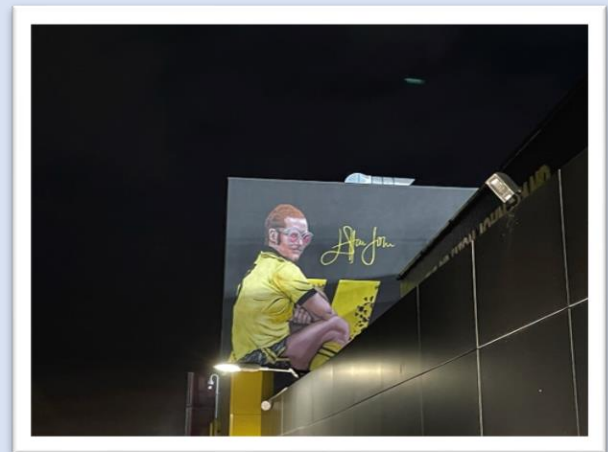
Internal view of the Emirates Stadium



Pre-match ceremony for Aston Villa vs Arsenal



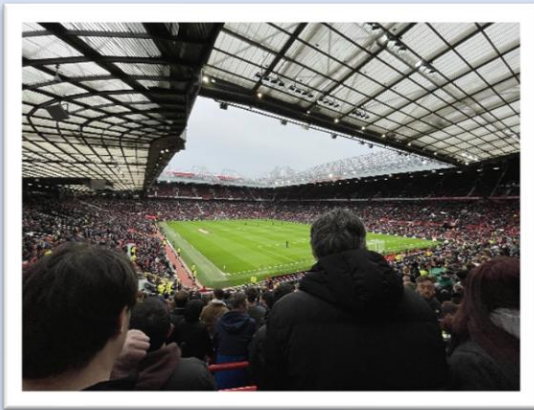
Graffiti of Elton John in a Watford FC shirt in Vicarage Road Stadium



Myself in Craven Cottage, the home stadium of Fulham FC, during Fulham vs Wolves

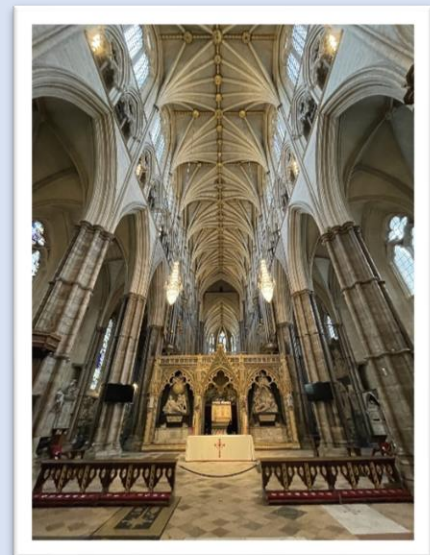


March 2023



With there are more group assignments released in March, I had more opportunities to work with locals and other exchange students. They are very reliable and also friendly to work along, which is different to the stereotype of foreign students being lazy in the group assignment. Due to the module LA2018 (introduced below), I visited several famous historical sites in London for free.

Furthermore, I also travelled to Liverpool and Manchester for watching football games. During these games, besides enjoying the atmospheres in these games, I learnt how much football has involved the local culture and community by communicating with some loyal fans and observing the local area in these two cities.



Two historical sites visited in LA2018: Tower of London (left) and Westminster Abbey (right)

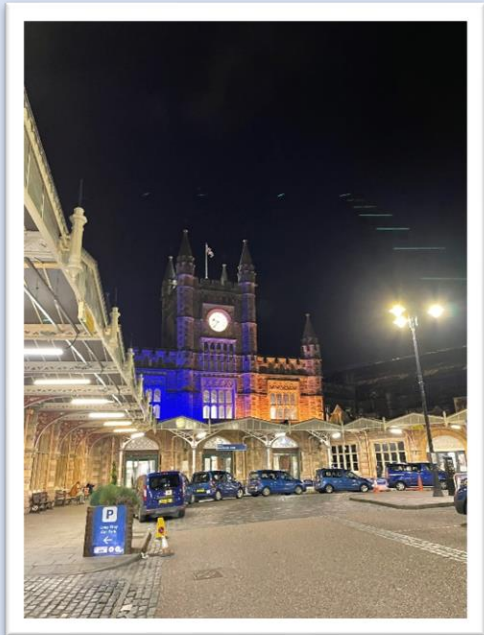
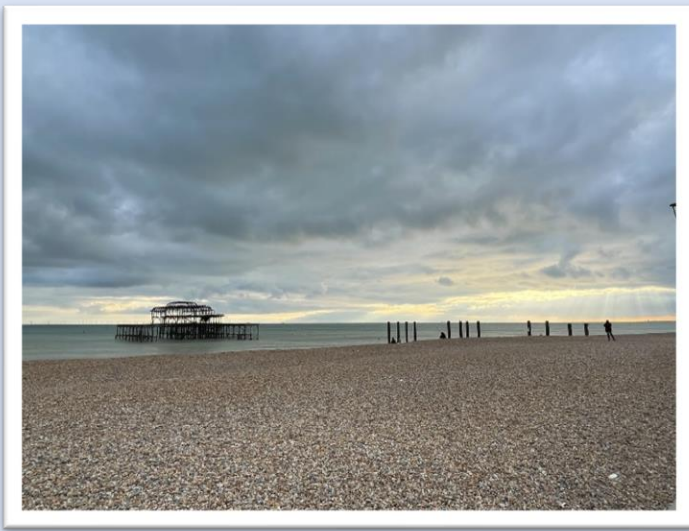
Memorial in Anfield, Liverpool, for the Hillsborough disaster, which resulted the death of 96 Liverpool fans





## April 2023

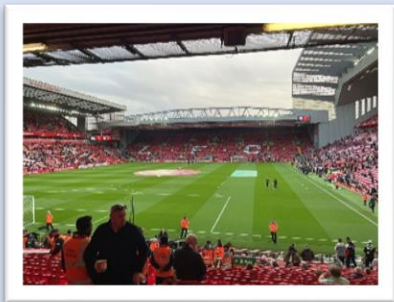
As the teaching lectures ended on 18<sup>th</sup> April, I faced more assignments and assessments in this month, while lecturers had also rushed to teach all the contents in modules. However, I still managed to have some free time and travel several British medium-sized cities at the beginning of this month. I travelled to Brighton and Southampton, where are relaxing coastal cities near London. I have also been to Leicester, a local city in the Midlands. Also, I travelled to Bristol to find another classmate in the secondary school, who has studied in Bristol. These trips have brought me different perspectives to Britain and also their cultures, with their medium sizes and different local communities.



Brighton (left top), Leicester (right top), Bristol (left bottom) and Southampton (right bottom)

## May 2023

As my last month of the exchange trip, I still had to encounter the final assessment and pack up my luggage in this month that required me to use some time to complete. I watched a football game with another exchange student from HKUST in Liverpool. Before the end of the 2022-2023 Premier League season, I have also watched more games that gave me chances to have selfies with some professional football players and get their autographs. Moreover, I had travelled to Leeds to meet my classmate from the secondary school. And I travelled around London in the final week of May as the last opportunity to do so before my departure with buying 7-day Travelcard. Eventually, I left London on 1<sup>st</sup> June.



Internal view of Anfield, during Liverpool vs Fulham



Photos in Leeds Corn Exchange (left), Crystal Palace (middle, in London), Camden Town (right, in London)



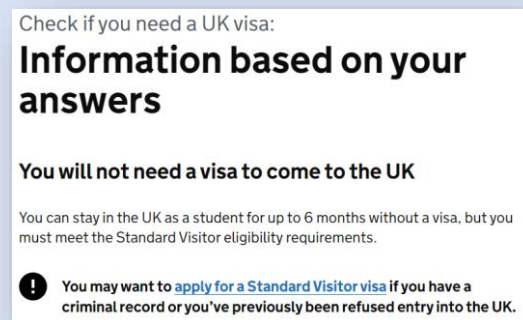
Selfies with professional football players: Joao Palhinha from Fulham (left) and Declan Rice from West Ham (right, sorry that I cannot get a good angle for it)

## General Study Abroad Information

### Visa Procedures

For my case, I do not require to apply for UK visa because I stayed in UK for less than six months which is the limit set by UK government. I highly recommend everyone who is planning for exchange in UK checking this official website

(<https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa?step-by-step-nav=cafcc40a-c1ff-4997-adb4-2fef47af194d>) for knowing if you need a student visa.



Screenshot of my result after answering the questionnaire in the link

### Orientation Activities

The orientation is held on a week before the start of the lectures (for my case, it is 25<sup>th</sup> January). After meeting up with other exchange students, associates from City, University of London will welcome us and introduce some important academic information, such as academic calendar, and several cultural and language modules. Then after a short break, you may have a 'City Walk', which is a walking tour of introducing the nearby areas of the campus. After that, there is a Welcome Meeting organized by associates and student representatives in the university. It introduces information about living in London and UK, with a mini quiz with rewards which asks about the local history of London. Eventually, the orientation is ended with a social event, that you can talk with other exchange students and make friends with them, while the university provides some drinks and snacks in the event. It is an important activity for making our first step to the UK university life, which provides academic information and opportunity to connect with others.

### **International Services & Activities**

Although there is no pick-up service, it is very easy to contact the exchange office in City, University of London via email ([bayes-ug-incoming@city.ac.uk](mailto:bayes-ug-incoming@city.ac.uk)), as the officers are very friendly and knowledgeable to help us. Besides that, they sometimes send email to your personal email for information and contact, such as the acceptance letter and Visa Support Letter. And after confirming City, University of London as your destination university, they may contact you for offering the accommodations (details in below) and help you contact with the student accommodation provider if you choose your accommodation with choosing their options. And there are lots of activities that allow all students to join in, which you may obtain some information from clubs and general email.

### **Accommodations**

Every student should ask for information about accommodations after confirming it as your destination university through email (with the email address mentioned above). And officers may offer some options through email in November. In my case, there were two options, Romano Court and East Central House. They are managed by the same providers, Unite Students. Both of them are quite convenient to the campus and public transport (both requires 10 minutes or less to walk to the campus; Romano Court is near the Farringdon station, while East Central House is near Old Street Station and multiple bus stops). Although choosing East Central House is expensive than Romano Court, it provides personal bathroom, while Romano Court requires to share two bathrooms with other 4 flat mates. Therefore, based on the hygienic consideration, I chose East Central House as my accommodation of this exchange.

### **Courses Registration**

You may pick no more than 5 modules, while the 5<sup>th</sup> module can only be 'cultural module', which includes LA2017 and LA2018. There is an email (sent weeks before the orientation) which contains a list of modules provided in the semester and help to know if the wanted modules are provided. I recommend asking it before confirming it as the destination university, to facilitate the application for credit transfer. During the add/drop period, students can request for modules with filling in a Qualtrics survey (provided in a pdf document), and officers will process our request and help us allocate the timeslot of modules (it cannot be chosen by students).



### **Teaching & Assessment Methods**

I chose AF2203, AS3208, IF1201, IF3101 and LA2018 as my modules for this exchange. The details of these are as below:

Course code and name	Class Format	Class size	Assessment Method
AF2203 - Intermediate Financial Accounting 2	Face-to-face (f2f)	About 100+ per timeslot	Weekly quiz, mini-projects (a research for financial data) about a listed company, and a 4000-words essay
AS3208 - Statistical Reasoning, Communication & Ethics	Face-to-face (f2f)	About 20 per timeslot	2 Group projects, and a online exam (with 24 hours to complete)
IF1201 - Introduction to Visual Basic	Zoom Meeting	About 20-30 per timeslot	A Group project and a individual project (both requires coding and business reports; the assessment method is for all students)
IF3101 - International Finance	Face-to-face (f2f)	About 50 per timeslot	A group project, and a question paper (with a month to complete)
LA2018 - Historic London	Face-to-face (f2f), walking tours, except the first and last lectures	About 30 per timeslot	A group project (presenting about local histories), and a history essay

I chose 'alternative assessment' which is specific designed for exchange student. Therefore, all of these are take-home assignments and finished before early May. If you like to choose the normal assessment method as other local students, it may require you to stay until late May for taking exams.

### **Finance & Banking**

UK uses British Sterling as the currency. I applied a HSBC UK debit card and downloaded HSBC UK app for daily transaction, as it is a safer option than cash and accepted in most shops and vendors. HSBC UK app is a compulsory app for using the debit card, which also allows me to track my transaction history and notify me if I have made any transaction. You may apply the card through the website (<https://www.hsbc.com.hk/zh-hk/international/account-opening/>) or in Hong Kong branches with the help of staffs from the bank. However, you may also bring some cash as there are still a few shops and restaurants that only accept cash payment.

There is a lot of ATMs in banks, supermarkets and local convenience stores for depositing cash. ATMs in banks, supermarkets mostly require no transaction fee, but some ATMs in local community may require so.

### **Climate**

The temperature in January – March is about -3 to 7 degrees Celsius. You may prepare some thick jackets and long-sleeved clothes for these cold months. Afterwards, the weather is windy and quite enjoyable, which is about 5 to 20 degrees, which is a fine temperature for me. However, no matter which month it is, you may always be prepared for raining with bringing an umbrella or a raincoat, as it always rains suddenly.

### **Health & Safety**

Fortunately, I do not encounter any health or safety issues, therefore, I do not know a lot about it. You may call 999 in UK for emergency services. And Moorfield Eye Hospital, where only require 5-minute walking distance from East Central House, also provides 24-hour A&E services. Some student accommodation providers also provide assistance for local safety issue. If you require quarantine due to COVID-19 or other health issues, you should report it to managers or staff in your accommodation through Unite Students App (if living in the places that they provided) or email.

### **Food**

There are lots of restaurants in different styles and supermarkets in the community. London has some popular places for restaurants in different cultures, like Chinatown in Leicester Square for Chinese food, and Brick Lane in Spitalfields for South Asian food. For nearby areas of the accommodation options by the university, there are several Asian and Western restaurants near the Romano Court, while it is near to Waitrose and Tesco. For East Central House that I lived in, there are several

restaurants, in which I highly recommended a Greek restaurant in Lever Street. There are also some large restaurant branches in the main road, like McDonald's, Dominos and KFC. The nearest supermarket from East Central House is Tesco, which may take about 3 minutes to walk to, with there are also several local stores. There are also a small Co-op store and Sainsbury's in the main road, while a larger Co-op and Aldi are located in Old Street (all require 5-10 minutes).

### **Transportation**

As I only travelled in the border of UK, I may not comment or write about the international transportation. For London, the main transportation are London underground and buses. The bus fare is now fixed to £1.75, while underground fare is depending on the time and zone travelled of the journey. These transportations only accepted Oyster card and contactless payment (cash can be used in Underground, but with a higher fare). For the whole UK, National Rail can be used to travel across different UK cities, however, you may check for travel update, as both Underground and National Rail may suspend due to strikes. Coach is also a cheaper alternative for travelling across cities, that is mainly provided by National Express, Flixbus and Megabus. There are a risk of cancelling services also in coach, that may lead to interruption to your travel.

I applied for Oyster Photocard and 16-25 National Railcard, which need about £20 and £30 for application fee. Oyster Photocard provides 1/3 discount for buying Travelcard, that allows unlimited travel in specific zones and time. 16-25 National Railcard provides 1/3 discount for any train journey, including Underground and National Rail. Therefore, I highly recommend that students should apply for National Railcard after receiving your Student ID card, while Photocard is optional, depending on your travelling habit and plans.

### **Communication**

I use giffgaff as my SIM card provider. I use the plan of providing 20GB data and unlimited calls and texts with the price of £10. You may ask for the SIM card for free by their website after knowing your address of the accommodation. Besides that, for contacting my family and friends in Hong Kong, I used WhatsApp calls and Discord that only require internet connection and no cost.



### **Sports & Recreation Facilities**

A sport centre which is managed by the university and named CitySport is located near the campus. It requires membership fee for using the facility and having courses in there. There are also two gardens and 3 artificial grass football fields near East Central House.

### **Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities**

Besides the social event held by the university, there are a lot of different societies in the university (full details: <https://www.citystudents.co.uk/getinvolved/societies/>). Although there is no specific club for people from Hong Kong, there are a lot of networking opportunities for general students which you may hear about from email and some professors.

### **Cautionary measures**

Although London is a relatively safe city to live in, thieves and robbers still exist in London, while some of them are in motorcycles and vehicles, which help them steal things in seconds. They mainly target on phones now. Therefore, you may avoid taking out your phone in public area (like on the restaurant table) and near the road. And you may go to pubs and bars with friends, to lower the risk of being harassed by drunk people. You may also walk in the centre of the road (with no vehicle driving) to be aware of ambush and secured by CCTV at night. As always, you should purchase travel insurance before the exchange trip.

### **Student discount**

Some shops have offered student discount for university student, like the famous British bakery Greggs and all 3 coach companies. There are 3 apps that it is popularly used in London, which are Totum, StudentBeans and Unidays. You may search for it before making your purchase.

## **Items to Bring**

### **Compulsory**

- Passport, HKID and document for immigration (e.g., Acceptance letter)
- Debit/credit card & cash
- Towels & Clothing for example, jackets (at least 1 winter coat and 1 wind jacket needed in UK) and a few short-sleeved T-shirt for wearing at the accommodation, as some accommodations have floor heating and adjust the indoor temperature.
- Power bank and wire
- Laptop or iPad
- Adaptor (if you travel to other countries)
- Medicines
- Umbrella
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### **Optional/items to buy**

- Wash tub if you like to handwash clothes for some handwash-required clothes
- Sanitary products & hygienic goods (e.g., toothbrush and paste, body wash and cleaner)
- Floor mat
- Additional bedding set (although it may be provided by the accommodation provider)
- Private-used water boiler (although it may be provided in public kitchen also)
- Laundry basket (for taking clothes to laundry room)
- Hangers and clips
- Slippers
- Waterproof shoes

### **Useful Links and Contacts**

[bayes-ug-incoming@city.ac.uk](mailto:bayes-ug-incoming@city.ac.uk) – General Enquiries about exchange

<https://mytimetable.city.ac.uk/schedule> - Your timetable after module registration

<https://moodle.city.ac.uk/my/> - Moodle, the academic system used in here (similar to HKUST's Canvas)

<https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa?step-by-step-nav=cafcc40a-c1ff-4997-adb4-2fef47af194d> – check if you need Visa for this exchange

<https://www.hsbc.com.hk/zh-hk/international/account-opening/> - For application of HSBC UK debit card

<https://www.citystudents.co.uk/getinvolved/societies/> - List of societies in City, University of London

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

<https://www.railcard.co.uk/16-25/> -16-25 National Railcard website