

Exchange Report

Fall 2023

City, University of London
United Kingdom

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Monthly Activity Log

Write a log of one paragraph for each month highlighting some of your interesting exchange experiences, activities, impressions & places of interest. Please describe your study, learning and life experience. This section should be at least 600 words long.

September

I arrived in London in late September as the orientation for exchange students was scheduled for late September, as well as the check-in date for my accommodation.

The semester starts in October, so I still have some time to walk around my accommodation and Bayes Business School to get more familiar with this place where I need to spend the next 3 months. I discovered a few supermarkets and decent restaurants nearby during my walk.

During the orientation, I was lucky to meet other exchange students who were also from different universities in HK and have a quality chat with exchange students who came from Singapore. It's a good start to my exchange journey.

October

As the semester just started, the workload was still low and easy to handle. Therefore, I went on a solo trip to Dublin and Copenhagen. It was an exciting and memorable experience for me as it was my first time traveling alone in Europe. Backing to London, during this month I have tried to cook for my lunch and dinner regularly, as the price of dining out in London was much more expensive compared to restaurants in HK or the cost of cooking meals yourself. I have also tried to cook dinner together with other exchange people, it was a great night. I have learned how to cook some basic dishes and have a fun time exploring recipe online and collaborating with others during the time preparing dinner.

November

Most of my midterms and assignments were due at the end of this month. However, the workload was still at a manageable level. Therefore, I went to Turkey with another student from UST at the start of the month and to Finland in the middle of the month. Also, during this month, I am already familiar with transport in London. The traffic in London was very convenient, you can easily travel to other places. I went to visit Chinatown and Borough Market to buy stuffs and dine in there. I have also traveled to Brighton in one of the weekends to visit the well-known cliff: Seven sister cliff. It took me 6 hours back and forth to the cliff but its definitely worth it as the view was really good and it is a precious experience to have. At the end of the month, I started to revise the course to let me have more free time to travel around in December.

December

I went to the library at Bayes Business School with my exchange friends almost every day to enable myself to study in a more focused environment. The library there was smaller than the one in HKUST, however, the view there was not bad. While studying hard, I still saved some time to relax by traveling to the place where I still haven't been in London. I went to famous tourist spots in this period like Big Ben, Westminster, and the British Museum. It is really exciting to have a chance to visit these buildings in person which I have always seen on TV or social media. The final exam was in the format of essay, take-home exam, and face-to-face exam. I will say the essay was the most challenging one as you need to write up to 3000 words. After the exam, I started to pack my stuff after I finished my exams and tried to send the package to the UK post office. I left the UK and traveled to France and spent my Christmas and New Year's Eve there. After that, I traveled back to HK, marking the end of my wonderful exchange journey.

Please briefly describe the visa application procedures, including

- 1) Type of passport/travel document you are holding**
- 2) Type of visa you are required**
- 3) Required documents**
- 4) Visa fees**

I am a legal Hong Kong citizen. Therefore I don't need a visa as regarding the policy in UK: for short-term (not over 6 months) exchange students holding HK passports are not required to apply for a student visa.

What are the course(s) that you have enrolled at the host institution?

LA2018 Historic London

IF3104 Bank Strategy & Management

FR3100 Fixed Income Portfolio Management

FR3102 Asset-Liability Management

Please briefly describe the course registration procedures, such as

- 1) When did you receive the course registration details**
- 2) What is the course registration procedures**
- 3) Where can you access information related to course registration (e.g. websites)**

I received the registration detail in July. the Course Registration was extremely simple. The university will email a list of available courses with the syllabus for you to see. After picking the course we like to enroll in, we just need to email a list of courses you want to take to the university. Then the university will help you enroll in these courses and email you the enrollment result afterwards. I got all the courses I want to enroll in this exchange.

Where did you live during the program?

Off-campus student dormitory offered by the host institution

Please briefly describe the accommodation at the host destination, including

- 1) What type of accommodation**
- 2) What is the application procedures (If you are staying at accommodation offered by the host institution)**
- 3) How did you search for the accommodation and where did you book your accommodation (If you need to arrange your own accommodation)**
- 4) Facilities in the accommodation**

The school offered 2 accommodation options for us. They sent us the accommodation information through email and the application was on a first come first served basis. We can list our preferences in the application and indicate any person that you may want to allocate within the same flat. The accommodation I got in was Romano Court, which was only a 8 mins walk to the main campus and a 18 mins walk to the Bayes Business School campus where I usually have my lesson. It is also very close to the tube stations. Farringdon station is the closest one and it only takes 2 mins to get there. Farringdon is a large station with multiple train lines available there. It is convenient to travel around the city.

The dorm provides kitchen for me to use.

Please briefly describe the health and safety support provided at the host institution, including

1) Whether there is health centers or clinics available on campus

2) Any safety matters that you are concerned about

There are no health center, clinics available

Finances

How much did you spend (in HKD) on the following items? (Please input "0" if not applicable to you)

Air ticket between the place of departure and destination (round trip)

HKD 3,000

Accommodation (for the entire study abroad period)

HKD 35,000

Program fee (if applicable)

N/A

Personal expenses

HKD 20,000

Others, please specify

N/A

My Top 3s

Please share with students some of your top 3s. If it is best to provide the information in the language of the host destination, please do so, but provide an explanation in English.

Courses at the host institution

LA2018

FR3100

IF3104

Favourite Food

Steak

fish and chips

pork belly

Hang-outs places on campus

Library

Classroom

Canteen

Must-dos in the city

Visit Big Ben

Visit China Town

Explore in Liverpool Street

Not-to-dos in the city

Hangout at night

Dine out everyday

Not paying attention to your belonging

Useful local apps or websites

Trip.com
Trainline
Citymapper

Words to describe my study abroad experience

Challenging
Fun
Short