

Exchange Report

Fall 2023

University of Exeter

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 roughly a week before classes started to give myself enough time to settle in and prepare for classes. After landing, I spent a night in London where I was able to explore the city a little before I took a train down to Exeter the next day. The journey down South was relatively smooth, and the weather in London was very pleasant (contrary to my expectations). However, once I arrived in Exeter, there was extremely heavy rain and flooding. As I arrived in Exeter on a Sunday, time was limited for me to go to the shops and purchase essential items like a pillow, duvet, bedsheet covers, and some toiletries. Most stores are open on Sundays, but they usually close up a few hours earlier than usual. Once I purchased my essentials and settled in, I met my flatmates over the next week. I was able to meet other international students who lived in the same accommodation through some university and self-organised activities. During freshers week, I went to a foam party and orientation events with a few friends. We also organised a weekday trip to IKEA and a weekend day trip to Exmouth, a nearby coastal town.

October

October was a relaxing month; I spent my time exploring Exeter with friends, getting used to the new teaching styles, and traveling. The workload from classes was not overly demanding, as all of my four classes had reports/essays to be submitted toward the end of the semester. While two of my classes had online midterm exams in late October, it was a relatively light workload. The first week of October, I travelled to Bath with a group of friends. We were able to see the famous Roman Goth architecture and signature red phone booths. Later in the month, we had a reading week (a week off classes), and I traveled to London with two friends for a few days. We went to watch the Mamma Mia musical, visited multiple monuments, and were able to explore London's landmarks, such as Camden Market. It was overall a very fulfilling month, and I definitely had a lot of my favourite memories from the exchange.

November

I spent most of my time in November studying and writing my reports, as I was to leave before the beginning of Christmas break. As such, I wanted to finish writing all my reports before departing for the holidays. Despite my tight time limit, I wanted to explore the Christmas Market in Exeter with my friends before leaving, as it would be the last chance for me to see them before we went our separate ways. Christmas Markets are a yearly tradition in the UK, and every city has its market. While the Exeter Christmas Market was relatively small, I found it charming and welcoming. The Christmas Markets were one of my favourite experiences on exchange. Later in the month, I left for Manchester for the Christmas holidays. As I wanted to go to Edinburgh, this was the perfect opportunity, as it was relatively close to Manchester (roughly four hours north of Exeter). While in Edinburgh, I saw multiple famous monuments and the Christmas Market. I encountered uncharacteristically lovely weather while hiking some of the best weather during my entire exchange.

December

December was an enjoyable but tiring month. I spent most of the month in Manchester, visiting my high school friends I hadn't seen in a few years and spending Christmas with my Aunt and her family. In late December, I went to Italy with one of my close friends, and we spent a week in three different cities. We first went to Venice, where we saw Doge's Palace, the famous Grand Canal, and Murano Glass. As we did not have much time in Venice, we could not go to Murano and Murano (the glass-blowing islands), but we could buy a few souvenirs to bring home. We then took the train down to Florence, where we took a full-day tour to see the Miracle Square (where the Leaning Tower of Pisa is), had a tour of a winery with a wine tasting, and went to Sienna and San Gimignano. We spent a lot of our time in the Florence leather markets, taking the time to understand the handiwork and quality of the leather goods in Italy. Finally, we went to Rome, where we spent New Year's Eve. We went to the Colosseum, Roman Forum, Vatican City, Trevi Fountain and went to many different restaurants to try various Italian dishes. Having been going to Italy for the first time, I was excited and had a fantastic time.

January

January was my final month of exchange, and I returned to Exeter after my trip to Italy to complete my exam (which was made available online). Most of my friends I met on exchange had left to return home, although a few of my closest friends were still in Exeter. I spent my last week in Exeter saying my goodbyes and preparing to leave for London (where I was flying back to Hong Kong). It was challenging to say goodbye, as I had never imagined I would meet people who substantially impacted me in the short time I was on exchange. After my exam, I left for London, where I then flew to Portugal to meet one of my friends I had met on exchange. We had several days in Porto, and while the weather was unpleasant, we had much fun exploring the city and enjoying Portuguese food. We even went to a baking class to learn how to make Pastel de Nata. We then left for Athens, where we visited the Acropolis and explored various Greek restaurants. I spent my last few days in London, meeting several friends before returning home.

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

1) Hong Kong Passport

2) No Visa Required

3) Letter of Acceptance from Exchange University

4)N/A

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

BEM2036 (Thinking Entrepreneurially), BEM2048 (International Business), BEM3065 (Strategy) and BEM1021 (Leadership and Teams)

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)

- 1) Mid-march
- 2) Fill in a form with eight modules you would like to take, and the university will try to accommodate four of the eight.
- 3) The university will send an email with the details.

Where did you live during the program?

On-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

- 1) University Student Accommodation (off-campus)
- 2) Apply through a portal which the link will be in one of the emails sent by the Host University
- 3) N/A
- 4) Shared Kitchen, Ensuite room and laundry room

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

- 1) There are clinics on each campus.
- 2) N/A

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 10,000

Accommodation (for the entire study abroad period)

HKD 29,000

Program fee (if applicable)

N/A

Personal expenses

HKD 45,000

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

International Business

Thinking Entrepreneurially

Strategy

Favourite Food

Cream tea and scones
Sunday Roast
English Breakfast

Hang-outs places on campus

The Ram Bar
Forum

Must-dos in the city

Christmas Market
Exeter Cathedral
Exeter Quay

Not-to-dos in the city

Underground passages
-
-

Useful local apps or websites

FIXR
Google Maps
-

Words to describe my study abroad experience

Memorable
Meaningful
Vibrant