

Exchange Report

Spring 2024

City, University of London
United Kingdom

NG Man Sze Claire

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.

January 2024

Settling In and Orientation

Arriving in London was a thrilling yet daunting experience. Orientation at City, University of London, provided a smooth introduction to the campus, academic expectations, and the city itself. Early days were filled with exploring the vibrant surroundings, including visits to landmarks such as St. Paul's Cathedral and the British Museum. Adjusting to a new cultural environment and meeting peers from diverse backgrounds created a sense of excitement and curiosity. These initial interactions laid the groundwork for friendships and collaborative learning, setting a positive tone for the exchange program.

February 2024

Immersing in Academics

As classes began in full swing, I found the coursework intellectually stimulating and challenging. Lectures encouraged critical thinking, while seminars and group projects fostered collaboration and problem-solving skills. The professors' expertise and guidance were pivotal in expanding my understanding of the subject. Beyond the classroom, the university's state-of-the-art library became a sanctuary for study and reflection. Time management emerged as a key skill, balancing academic demands with exploring London's cultural richness.

March 2024

Cultural Exploration and Growth

This month was all about embracing London's cultural tapestry. Weekends were spent exploring art galleries, such as the Tate Modern, and attending local events like the Borough Market food fair. Living independently required adaptability, from navigating public transport to managing daily responsibilities. The city's multicultural environment offered opportunities to learn about global perspectives, enhancing my appreciation for diversity. Engaging with people from various cultures not only enriched my personal growth but also honed my communication skills.

April 2024

Overcoming Challenges and Building Resilience

By the fourth month, the initial excitement gave way to some challenges, including managing academic pressures and homesickness. Balancing intense coursework with the high cost of living in London demanded careful budgeting and planning. Despite these difficulties, I found strength in building a support system with friends and classmates. Short trips to nearby cities like Cambridge and Brighton helped me recharge and provided a fresh perspective on England's historical and natural beauty. These experiences instilled a sense of independence and resilience.

May 2024

Reflection and Farewell

The final month was bittersweet, filled with reflections on the journey and preparations for departure. Academic projects and presentations wrapped up, showcasing the knowledge and skills I had gained. Farewell gatherings with friends and professors highlighted the deep connections I had formed. I also took time to revisit favorite spots, such as the Southbank and Covent Garden, soaking in the city's charm one last time. This experience profoundly impacted my academic, personal, and cultural outlook, leaving me with memories and lessons to carry forward.

Travel and Exploration

London's central location in Europe provided students with ample opportunities for travel and exploration. Weekend trips to neighboring cities like Paris, Amsterdam, and Edinburgh allowed students to immerse themselves in different cultures, histories, and landscapes. Travel experiences enriched students' perspectives, fostering a sense of adventure and curiosity about the world.

Language Skills Development

Engaging in daily conversations, academic discussions, and interactions with people from diverse linguistic backgrounds enhanced students' language skills. Communicating in English, the global language of academia, improved fluency, vocabulary, and confidence in expressing ideas effectively. The study abroad experience in a predominantly English-speaking environment provided an immersive language learning environment, allowing students to refine their language abilities and adapt to different communication styles.

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) Canadian Passport

2)-4) n/a

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

Performing Arts in London, Real Estate Finance and Funding, International Finance, Banking and Financial Institutions, Corporate Risk 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)

1) In November 2023

2) It started in mid December

3) CityU London will send you the course details through email

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) Student Accommodation

2) Direct email the host institution

3) You will receive email updates on whether you would like to stay at the student accommodation

4) Laundry Service that you have to pay

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) Haven't explored
- 2) Accommodation was near the tube station so it was very noisy and sketchy during night, especially during friday nights

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 30,000

Accommodation (for the entire study abroad period)

HKD 45,000

Program fee (if applicable)

N/A

Personal expenses

HKD 80,000

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 Finance

Performing Arts in London

Banking and Financial Institutions

Favourite Food

Holy Cow

La Stella

CAFE SPETTACOLO

Hang-outs places on campus

There is no campus

The campus is scattered around the city

There are just buildings

Must-dos in the city

Cafes

Museums

Harrods

Not-to-dos in the city

Sleep in a dorm next to the tube station

Having shared bathroom and kitchens

Carry groceries without a cart

Useful local apps or websites

Bus London

Sainsbury's

Amazon

Words to describe my study abroad experience

Insightful

Independent

Unforgettable