



BAYES
BUSINESS SCHOOL

CITY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Fall 2024-2025

HO Lai Kan

City University of London

United Kingdom

September

I arrived in London on 24/08/2024, one month before the official start date of my exchange. I first stayed at my cousin's place and went to Paris with my aunt. The first week mainly visited sites like Big Ben and Westminster and had three days and two nights to Paris via Eurostar. After my aunt left the UK, I remained at my cousin's place and went to Germany with my friend Anson (pls check his exchange report in Brussels as well), mainly Berlin and Hamburg, on 09/09/2024. We visited several key tourist attractions such as the Berlin Wall, Charlie's Checkpoint, and the amazing miniature wonderland in Hamburg. After Hamburg, I went solo to Denmark, Copenhagen. However, my main purpose in Denmark was to visit the LEGO House located in Billund. This was a dream come true for me as I have been a LEGO fan since a kid and have been dying to visit the place as it appears in many LEGO documentaries. I returned to London on 19/09/2024 and officially located my accommodation around 21/09/2024 - Romano Court in Central London. I attended the school's exchange orientation and met a bunch of Singaporean friends. After that, we attended a boat party where I met people from all over the world. In late September, I went to visit Brighton where I met my friend Fanny who also went exchange (also check out her report about Brighton), it was there that I finally saw the Amex Stadium with my own eyes (even though I am a Chelsea FC support) and discussed our Eastern Europe trip together.

October

In early October, I went to Cambridge and Oxford with my friends I met in my exchange school. Then on 12/10/2024, I flew to Zagreb, Croatia to meet Fanny. Just a note, my luggage was oversized on my way there and I got penalized by Ryanair. Luckily I brought a puffer bag and decided to throw away my luggage and stuck everything into it to prevent that 75GBP penalty. Though I looked like a refugee when rendezvousing with Fanny. We spent one day in Zagreb which is more than enough to explore the city. The next day we went to Plitvice Lake National Park where we did a little hike and saw a lot of amazing scenery. We arrived at Split that night though our planned boat trip around Hvar Island was cancelled due to windy weather. So instead we took a Flixbus and spent the day at Zadar where there is a lot of beautiful architecture. We did another half day at Split which is very peaceful by the sea and eventually arrived at Dubrovnik that night. We didn't explore Dubrovnik the day very next day, but we did two day trips to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro which were exceptional. Dubrovnik was the most beautiful city I have been to, giving that summer vibe even its already October with the sun shining on those orange houses. It's a must-see for its unique sunset and sunrise. I would never forget how I almost couldn't catch my flight to Budapest since my Airbnb was not located right next to Dubrovnik, in the end after several failed attempts to fetch an Uber, my Airbnb host helped me got one, which was a relief.

I travelled Budapest alone before joining my friend Marcus (huge United fan, for fans please check his report exchanging in Manchester) in Vienna. I visited the Fisherman's Bastion and citywalked around Budapest. Spending two days in Budapest, I visited Vienna and Prague afterwards, returning to the UK for my midterms. Vienna was an artistic city where I visited the Palace as well as several art museums, like Albertina. Prague, on the other hand, was a small city that is suitable for citywalking. It is in Prague where I saw the famous Astronomical Clock, the magnets I bought are playable and was a brilliant gift for friends.

On October 27, I watched Chelsea vs. Newcastle at Stamford Bridge, a dream come true.

November

Mid November I went to Stockholm, Sweden, where it was quite breezy but had comfortable weather. Stockholm is a nice place to visit, though its sunset is around 3:00 pm. The highlight of the trip was visiting the Avicii Experience – famous DJ and Producer who passed away. The exhibit showcased numerous songs from him, his inspiration, and how he produced his music. It also delivered the message of self-care and mental health awareness. Stockholm is a beautiful and peaceful city to be in, a great escape from the hustle and bustle of London.

December

In early December, I visited Germany again, this time to Munich, Stuttgart, and Frankfurt. In Munich, we visited the FC Bayern Stadium and the BMW Museum, then we went Schloss Neuschwanstein for a day trip and visited the Munich Christmas Market, then spent a full day in Munich's center. Afterwards I went to Stuttgart's Porsche and Benz Museum where they displayed iconic sports car and history of the two companies. The final day was in Frankfurt, where I just citywalked it.

On December 12, I went to the o2 stadium to watch Kygo's concert in London. It was my first time watching a concert somewhere other than Hong Kong. Kygo performed many of his top hits, including "Firestone" and "It ain't me". Following the week, the final exams kick in. After the exam, and before my departure, I went to Bath (19/12/2024) and Windsor (20/12/2024).

General Study Aboard Information

1) Visa Procedures

- Type of passport/travel document you are holding, type of visa you are required, visa requirements and visa application documents, visa fees, etc:
- No Visa needed for me, but remember to apply ETA that is activate 07/01/2025

2) Orientation Activities

- Orientation sessions and activities organized by host institution and when were they held:
- Boat party and Orientation day all about the university and get-to-meet activity

3) International Services & Activities

- Services that are provided by the exchange office (e.g. pick-up service, cultural activities, etc.):
- No service provided by exchange office

4) Accommodations

- Types of accommodation offered, availability of meal plans, facilities in the accommodation:
- I stayed in Romano Court, offering accommodation from 22/09/2024 to 22/12/2024
- There are basic laundry and shared bathroom and kitchen with a flat of 5 people.
- Application procedures (if you are staying at accommodation offered by the host institution)
- I was referred by HKUST study aboard, which is a relief
- How did you search for the accommodation and where did you book your accommodation (if you need to arrange your own accommodation)
- N/A

5) Courses Registration

- Course registration timeline, steps and procedures, restrictions, where to access course registration information:
- City will provide information, they will give u step by step guide. Just be aware of the deadlines.

6) Courses that You Have Taken

- Number of the courses, name and field of the courses, type of assessment, study load and/or course load, the difficulty level of the courses, etc.
- Performing Arts, Derivatives, Asset and Liability, Banking and Strategy
- Workload significantly less than UST, one midterm/ assessment and one final/ final report.

7) Finance & Banking • Currency, expenses, best way to handle money matters

- I use HSBC worldwide debt but make sure to have significant amount of cash
- My card info got stolen half way in Spain, make sure to have an extra credit card or debit account.
- There are many thieves in EU and UK, just be extra cautious.

8) Climate

- Weather information, temperature changes:
- UK the country famous for its grey weather. I have never seen the sun in November. Depressing UK is true.

9) Health & Safety

- Availability and usage of health center, safety matters
- N/A

10) Food

- Eateries – cooking, restaurants, food:
- Cooking is a good choice to save some money.

11) Transportation

- Most common ways to commute, fare information, travel card, rail pass, airline tickets
- For London local transport
 - Use Trainpal or Trainline to buy a 16-25 railcard.
 - Then add the railcard to your oyster card
- For Intercity Transport in UK
 - Use Trainpal and Trainline to buy offpeak tickets
- For Travelling in EU
 - Buy city day pass

12) Communication

- How to stay connected with friends and family, communication with local people, SIM card, data plan, internet service, etc.
- I use griffcard which offers a 60GB UK data plan + 5GB Europe Data Roaming
- I recommend buying your own EU data sim card in HK

13) Sports & Recreation Facilities

- Facilities available, usage information
- Never used them, I think it is 500HKD per month for the gym

14) Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

- Opportunity of joining social and networking activities
- Boat parties and orientation day

15) Cautionary measures

- Things that need to be caution about (e.g. language, customs, clothing, etc.)
- In the UK, a phone will be snatched on an average of one per six minutes.
- In Europe, please be aware of pickpockets

16) Other notes (if any)

- Other helpful tips or difficulties and solutions you have encountered
- Please download little red book for easy trip planning and finding solutions

Items to Bring

- Money, credit card, debit card, SIM card
- Adequate clothes

Useful links and contacts

- <https://connect.city.ac.uk/city/welcome/events#accordion-header7407433>