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WARWICK BUSINESS SCHOOL
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Exchange Report

University of Warwick

The United Kingdom

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Economics & Finance (ECOF)

Spring 2025

PART 1: Monthly Activity Log

January

Stratford-upon-Avon, Coventry, Leamington spa, Northampton, Kenilworth, London, Cardiff (Wales), Oxford, Manchester

I arrived in the UK on January 1, greeted by relatives, and spent a few days settling in, buying groceries and essentials. I visited Stratford-upon-Avon, enjoying its charming streets and Shakespeare's birthplace. Moving into my accommodation in the city centre, I met exchange students from UST and other universities, and we explored the campus together. After the semester began, I connected with more exchange students and visited Leamington Spa with UST friends. Between lectures, I checked out nearby cities, enjoying Northampton's market square and Castle Ashby Gardens, plus Kenilworth's castle ruins. In London, I saw Big Ben and the British Museum, and explored Oxford's colleges and Harry Potter spots. A day trip with flatmates to Cardiff, Wales, impressed me with its castle and waterfront. I wrapped up the month celebrating Lunar New Year with relatives in Manchester, settling into new university life.



February

London, Lake district, Denmark

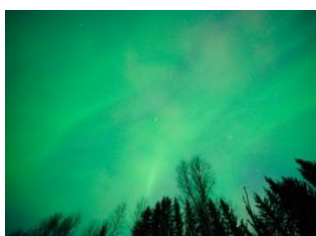
February was busier with lectures and assignments at Warwick, so I spent a lot of time studying and cooking meals. After submitting an assignment, I treated myself to a trip with friends to the Harry Potter Studio in London, where the props and scenes blew me away. On a weekend, I joined my flatmates for a Lake District trip, wandering around Windermere and taking a scenic boat ride from Ambleside to Grasmere and Keswick, which was relaxing and beautiful. At the end of the month, I travelled to Copenhagen to meet up with UST friends on exchange elsewhere, enjoying the city's vibrant vibe and catching up over coffee.



March

Llandudno, London, Norway, Finland, Estonia, Sweden

March got hectic as lectures neared their end, with more time spent on group projects and revising at Warwick. On a weekend, I visited Llandudno, charmed by its sea coast and sheep-dotted hills. I also reunited with my best friend from Hong Kong in London, spending a memorable day at a theatre show and wandering the streets, feeling truly at home. After term ended, I embarked on a trip to the Nordics and Baltics with friends, traveling from Stavanger to Bergen and Tromsø in Norway, where I was thrilled to see reindeer and the aurora. In Stockholm, Sweden, I explored museums and tried IKEA meatballs. I spent a day in Tallinn, Estonia, enchanted by its tiny, historic charm, and took a cruise to Helsinki, Finland, wrapping up an unforgettable adventure.



April

Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Warrington, Manchester, Liverpool, London, Greenwich

In April, I focused on revising for exams at Warwick but still made time for travel. I started in the Netherlands, visiting Amsterdam and Zaandam, where I bought myself flowers and enjoyed the vibrant atmosphere. A night train took me to Munich, Germany, where I explored Marienplatz and Schwangau Castle. Then, I visited my favorite country, Switzerland, starting in Zurich and heading to Interlaken, where the stunning views inspired my first paragliding experience. I took boat trips in Brienz and Spiez, and traveled by train to Grindelwald's First Mountain, Jungfrauoch, Lungern, and Luzern, amazed by the scenery. Back in the UK, I spent time with relatives in Warrington, enjoyed yum cha in Manchester's Chinatown, visited Liverpool's Chinatown, and met friends in London and Greenwich for relaxed catch-ups.



May

Warrington

In May, I wrapped up my exchange at Warwick by preparing to return to Hong Kong. I spent time organizing my belongings and saying goodbye to friends and flatmates, reflecting on my incredible journey. A final visit in Warrington allowed me to relax with relatives, enjoying local markets and quality family time. Leaving the UK, I felt grateful for the friendships, travels, and experiences that made my semester unforgettable.

PART 2: General Exchange Information

1. Visa Procedures

As a Hong Kong resident with an HKSAR passport, you **don't need a visa** for a UK exchange under 6 months. Bring your **Warwick offer letter** (e.g., the unconditional offer email) and **proof of accommodation** (e.g., hall confirmation) to show the immigration officer upon arrival. You need an **Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA)** to enter the UK for an exchange under 6 months, effective for travel on or after January 8, 2025. Apply online via the official UK ETA app or GOV.UK website at least a few days before travel. The ETA is linked to your passport, valid for multiple entries for 2 years or until your passport expires, whichever comes first. After arriving, they will stamp your passport with a Standard Visitor Visa, allowing a stay of up to 180 days. Keep these documents handy when traveling outside the UK, as you'll get a new stamp each time you re-enter. Also, carry proof of onward travel (e.g., return ticket) and accommodation in case asked.

2. Courses Registration & Courses Taken

Course registration will begin around one month before the exchange and WBS does not guarantee successful registration for exchange students. You are recommended to plan beforehand by checking the WBS Exchange Student Module Handbook and HKUST Credit Transfer Course Equivalent Database. You are allowed to take unusual options, which are the courses from other faculties, subject to the course availability. I only studied for the **spring semester only**, instead of the spring & summer semester. Usually, most of the lectures are taught in the spring semester, and the exams will be taken in the summer semester (either physical/online). I was successfully enrolled into all my desired courses with 2 unusual options. As an exchange student, you must select at least one course with an examination (physical/online) in the summer term.

My course list:

IB2540 Principles of Finance 2

IB2D80 Behavioural Economics

IB3590 Derivatives and Risk Management

EC231 Industrial Economics 1: Strategic Behaviour (Unusual option, Department of Economics)

EN123 Modern World Literature (Unusual option, Department of English)

3. Orientation Activities/ International Services & Activities

Only one short orientation talk was arranged by WBS on the first school day, followed by the networking sessions. There were a few events organised by WBS and societies, but making friends was harder than in the fall semester.

4. Accommodations

I applied the campus accommodations first. As I only studied for the spring semester, the school offered me the off-campus partnership accommodations, offering me 2 choices: City Village and Albany Student Village. I picked City Village at last as it is close to the city centre and has a decent living environment. It took 5-10 minutes to get to the supermarkets and the bus stations. It is quite convenient when we can walk to the malls easily.

5. Sports & Recreation Facilities

Warwick has a large Sports & Wellness Hub and different sports facilities, but I didn't use them. I usually use the gym room in City Village or jog in the parks.

6. Teaching & Assessment Methods

All the modules in WBS include both lectures and seminars. Attendance is only required for seminars biweekly. Seminars mainly focus on the applications and group discussions. All WBS lectures are recorded for your future revision, and you can feel free to ask the lecturer after class. The assessment methods are similar to UST, which included group projects, essays, and final exams. I took my exam online in April.

7. Finance & Banking (including currency / expenses)

I have an HSBC bank account in Hong Kong, and I applied for the HSBC Mastercard Debit Card, which is linked to the HSBC mobile app. The vast majority of businesses accept credit/debit cards, although some Chinese restaurants may only take cash. It is very convenient to make contactless payments in the UK and EU countries. You don't need to bring lots of GBP cash, actually, while it may be useful to bring some euros if you plan to travel.

8. Health & Safety

You can buy medicines in the pharmacy and supermarket. There is a student clinic available in Warwick, all students are covered. In case of emergency, you may go to the City of Coventry Healthcare Centre, which is near the city centre. We went there before, and it seems that the expense is covered.

9. Food

On-campus restaurants at Warwick offer variety but can be expensive. Every Wednesday, food trucks set up in the central plaza, providing affordable and diverse options. I usually shopped at nearby supermarkets like Iceland and M&S, which are close to my hall. Coventry Market, a short walk away, has Asian supermarkets with familiar ingredients for Hong Kong students.

10. Transportation

You can take buses from Coventry city centre, near student halls, to the campus using National Express West Midlands (NXbus). Check the NXbus website or app to buy a student bus pass (daily or monthly) for easy commuting. For intercity travel, I used trains from Coventry Station or National Express coaches from Coventry Pool Meadow Station, both close to the city centre.

11. Climate

The weather in the UK was always cloudy in January-March. The temperature was around 4°C (lowest 0°C) in the Spring Term, and it got warmer the time passed. It warmed up nicely in April, making outdoor activities more pleasant. But it's still better to wear a jacket and thick clothes to withstand the cold weather.

12. Communication

For mobile data, I purchased a Three 6GB monthly SIM card in Hong Kong first. I then bought the contract-free sim card from O2 in Coventry, which offered roaming in EU countries. I renewed the plan every month with my credit card. The campus and accommodation offered WiFi.

13. Social Clubs and Networking Opportunities

The Global Connection and Student Residential teams at Warwick organized free activities for all students. WBS offered regular drop-in sessions and career events, letting business students chat with peers, undergraduate coordinators, and industry professionals in a relaxed setting.

14. Cautionary measures

Please always be aware of pickpockets and avoid contact with strangers, especially in large cities like London and when travelling in Europe.

PART 3: Items to Bring

Clothing	Appliances	Miscellaneous	Medications	Documents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top • Pants • Pajamas • Slippers(waterproof) • Shoes • Socks • Beanie • Coat • T-shirt • Underwear • Gloves & Scarfs • Formal Wear • Sunglasses • Contact Lenses • Bags • Crossbody bag • Large recyclable bag 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water purifier (Brita Marella Cool) • Phone/laptop charger • Adapter (EU/UK) • Computer • Ipad • Hair dryer • Double-deck Steam box 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skincare products • Face masks • Sunscreen • Face towels • Bath towels • Wet wipes • Basin • Body lotion • Toothbrush • Toothpaste • Comb • Hair ties • Stationery • Tissue • Menstrual pad • Travel shower Gel & shampoo • Calculator • Umbrella 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicine & pills • Supplements • Eye drops • Band-Aids • Cutleries • Masks • Personal Hygiene products • Back & Muscle Gel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warwick offer letter • HKUST offer letter • Accommodation offer letter • Financial support • IELTS result certificate
			Finance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit & Debit cards • Bank Card • Student Card • Some GBP (& EU) Cash 	Immigration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passport • Return Flight tickets • Proof of Accomodation

PART 4: Useful Links and Contacts

1. Check if you need a UK Visa, Official UK Government Information on the Standard Visitor Visa:
<https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>
2. List of hall options on campus for undergraduate:
<https://warwick.ac.uk/services/accommodation/students/residences?tags=Undergraduate>
3. Warwick Business School Exchange Student Module handbook (course registration), Near the bottom of the page
<https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/wbs/undergrad/welcome/students/exchangestudents/wbsinboundexchangeaut>
4. HKUST Credit Transfer Database
<https://registry.hkust.edu.hk/credit-transfer/credit-transfer-database-undergraduates-only-institutional-courses>
5. My.wbs portal (similar to canvas in HKUST)
<https://my.wbs.ac.uk/?event=login>
6. WBS Undergraduate Programme team
undergraduate@wbs.ac.uk