WARWICK BUSINESS SCHOOL
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Warwick Business School

Exchange Report

Autumn Term 2025



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BSc in Economics and Finance

Monthly Log (Sept 2025 - Jan 2026)

September

On 5th September, I arrived at Heathrow, where my boyfriend Joel picked me up. I stayed with Joel and his family in Staines for most of September, a town on the outskirts of London, just 7 miles from Heathrow Airport. During September, I finished course selection and accommodation arrangements for my exchange at Warwick. Apart from that and some light preparation for my GRE exam, I didn't accomplish much. Due to Joel's stress from job hunting, we didn't go out much, apart from occasional date nights in town and hanging out with his friends. On 25th September, my Joel's dad drove both of us to my student accommodation in Coventry. Due to renovations underway at the campus accommodations in Warwick, I wasn't able to get on-campus accommodation, so I lived in private student accommodation called Infinity in Coventry. It was a two-hour drive from London. Joel stayed with me in my student accommodation for another 3-4 days, helped with my grocery shopping and made sure I was settled in. He also took me to campus and helped me with registration. (He just graduated from Warwick in June 2025) The campus was quite familiar to me because I stayed with Joel at his university house during January 2024 when he was in his last year at Warwick. Back in Infinity, I also met my 2 close friends at my flat — Lisara from the University of Toronto in Canada and Ellie from Monash University in Australia. Lisara and I attended the Monash exchange gathering at a pub, where we met Zoe, Alyssa, Krish, Nadia, etc. In addition, I attended university orientation activities where I met some exchange students from the Business School.

October

At the start of October, I took on lots of day trips with my exchange friends. Because Joel's job hadn't started yet, he stayed with me in my students' accommodation in Coventry for several weeks and joined our trips. We went to Birmingham, Lemington Spa, and my friends also came to London, where Joel and I joined them for a day trip. Joel and I went off to Scotland for a weekend trip on 10th October, during which we crashed at my friend's apartment. It was a wonderful trip with very lovely weather. (Sunny and no wind in Scotland) For my birthday on the 17th, I came back home to Staines and celebrated it with Joel and his parents. Because my Aussie friend Krish's birthday is on the 16th, after coming back to my student accommodation in Coventry, all of my friends threw a party for both of us with Domino's pizza and a Victorian sponge cake. On the 29th, I took a day trip to Cardiff with my friends Ellie and Lisa. It was my first time in Wales, and it was wonderful.

November

The first part of November was all about fireworks. On the 1st of November, it was the sailing club's Halloween plus Bonfire Night Party. I was in Staines, so I went with Joel and his brother. On the 8th of November, it was the Knillworth Castle Bonfire Night show. Knilworth is a town 10 minutes by train from Coventry. Joel used to live there during his second year at Warwick, so he took my flatmates and me there to see the fireworks. After that, Joel started his job in Bristol, so I moved in with him and commuted to and from uni once a week. I spent most of November in Bristol. On the 28th, I went back to Staines for Joel's mum's birthday. After that, we wrapped up November with lots of Christmas preparation and decoration.

December

The beginning of December was all about my economics exam. I only have one course that is assessed through a test, which was the module I took from the Warwick Economics Department. I didn't go to lectures or watch lecture videos. So I spent one week entirely focusing on this course and finished all the lecture videos and content. I was in the same course with Ellie, so we had two locked-in days in the library before the test. My intense cramming before the exam worked really well because all the content was fresh in my head, and I ultimately got a first in this course. After the exam, my friends and I came to my kitchen for a cheese night, which was one of the happiest nights. 7th of December, two of my Aussie friends — Alyssa and Krish — visited me in Bristol. We went to Bath for a day trip, and the Christmas market was quite fun. Alyssa and I also checked out the Birmingham Christmas Market at some point in the following week, and it was the biggest Christmas Market I have ever been to. On the 9th, I had a farewell dinner with all of my friends in one of my favourite restaurants — Cosy Club (Thank god it's a chain). It was all quite sweet and emotional. On that weekend, Joel's dad helped me move back to Staines from my student accommodation in Coventry. After that weekend, Joel and I went back to Bristol. I spent the week before Christmas finishing my three essays for Warwick. It was all quite intense because it was actually my first time writing a 3000-word essay, and there were three of those. I spent Christmas in Bristol with Joel. We spent it like every other Christmas: watching Christmas films, playing board games, opening presents and having Christmas dinner. On Boxing Day, we flew to Belfast for a 4-day trip. We joined a tour group for a day along the coast, where we visited the Giant's Causeway. We also visited the Titanic museum, and it was one of the best museums I have ever been to. At the end of December, also the end of the year, we all went back to Staines and spent New Year's Eve having a family dinner and playing board games.

January

I spent the first half of January in Bristol, wrapping up and submitting my three essays. All quite tedious. On the 10th, I went out for a family dinner with Joel and his parents, and I flew out back to China the next day. All my essays got an upper second, which is quite lucky.

General Study Abroad Information

Visa Procedure

I hold a PRC passport but have a UK visitor visa since I normally visit the UK twice or three times a year. Because this exchange is less than six months, which could be done on a visitor visa, I didn’t need to apply for a visa.

Orientation Activities

During the welcoming week, many information sessions and activities were organised for newcomers, both at the business school and across the entire university. At Warwick Business School, the exchange orientation introduced key academic expectations, module selection processes, and available support services, while also creating space to meet fellow exchange students and faculty.
The Student Union and various student societies organised many activities, giving you a taste of different societies and helping you consider joining them. But these extra sessions would need to be added to your calendar manually, so they’re first-come, first-served.

International Services & Activities

The exchange office would organise gatherings for exchange students, where you can meet others from other universities. They would also arrange a certificate-of-arrival/departure signing session, which is super helpful.

Accommodations

Because Warwick was doing extensive renovations to its on-campus accommodation, most exchange students were unable to secure on-campus accommodation. They would refer you to private student accommodation in Coventry, including Infinity, Trinity, Vista, etc. Those landlords would contact you by email. I chose to stay with Infinity. It was relatively straightforward to book accommodations with them, and the price was reasonable. I got an en-suite room for £2,080. I had to switch rooms once due to road noise, but the accommodation manager was very supportive throughout the process.

Courses Registration

Course registration for exchange students was separate from that of full-time students. We didn’t start registering for courses until mid-September. It was through the my.wbs system. For detailed information, Warwick Business School will send you an email with an exchange student handbook that lists everything you need and all the modules on offer. We were able to take one module outside the Business School by filing for unusual options in another department. It could be a bit complicated, given that it requires filling out a form and sending it back and forth between the Business School and the targeted department.

Courses that You Have Taken

I took 4 modules in total, totalling 57 CATs. Three of them were from the business school, and one was from the Warwick Economics Department.

IB258 Foundations of Human Sociality and Cooperation (15 CATs/ 3 HKUST credit)

Mapping:

SOSC1000SACC: 1000-level Course in Social Science

Assessment:

Participation (10%):

Participation is assessed via the completion of weekly online tasks. Tasks are available under the Weekly Task section of your Study Materials. The deadline to complete the weekly quiz is the day before seminar classes (Tuesday 23:59). The deadlines are indicated each week.

Individual Assignment (90%):

– Written assignment (3000 words)
– Critical essay [critical review of a selected topic/research article]
– Question and selection of articles will be posted by Week 4 or earlier
– Deadline: 8 th January 2026

IB394 International Financial Management (15 CATs/ 3 HKUST credit)

Mapping:

FINA4403: International Finance

Assessment:

Participation (10%):

– Participation is measured via online quizzes (8%) and in-class assessments (2%).
– Each online quiz (Week 1 - Week 10) should take around 5-10 minutes to complete. They will consist of multiplechoice questions on the material covered each week. Points collected via online quizzes add up to 80% of the final participation mark. Note that online quizzes will be accessible only until the end of each week (Sunday 11.45 pm, unless specified otherwise).
– The remaining 20% of the participation mark (2 points) comes from two in-class assessments between Week 3 and Week 10; each in-class assessment is equivalent to one participation point. More details will be provided during our first lecture.

Individual Assignment (90%):

Part-year visiting/exchange students are required to complete a separate essay-type assignment. A list of suggested topics will be posted on https://my.wbs.ac.uk at the end of week 7 (21 Nov 2025) and the submission deadline is 13 Jan 2026 (12pm, noon, UK).

IB3P1 Applications of Behavioural Economics (15 CATs/ 4 HKUST credit)

Mapping:

ECON4000LEVEL: 4000-level Course in Economics

Assessment:

Reflection (20%):

– 3-sentence journal posts summarising the week’s reading First journal post due Week 4, to allow for moving in and out of modules, due before Friday lecture.
– Assigned one week to read the full paper for the weekly reading and present one slide at the start of your seminar You’ll learn more about this during seminar

Individual Assignment (80%):

Envision a policy or business solution that uses insights from the behavioural economics literature.

IEC312 International Economics (15 CATs/ 4 HKUST credit)

Mapping:
ECON4364: International Trade and Investment
Assessment:
Mid-term Test (100%)
– There is a one-hour in-person test in Week 9 (6-7 on Tuesday 2 December 2025)
– Four di¤erent statements and explain for each whether it is TRUE, FALSE or UNCERTAIN and give your reasons. All questions carry equal marks. Past paper (2024–2025) and guideline answers are available from Moodle
– In general, all material covered during the lectures/seminars up to topic 6 included is subject to be examined (but this may change – an announcement/update will be made in due course)

Finance & Banking

I used my HSBC World Debit Card (Mastercard) for daily use, which enabled me to pay in GBP.

Climate

In September, it was quite warm and summer-ish. Autumn was not too cold, around 10-ish degrees Celsius. Winter was slightly colder, around 0-10 degrees Celsius.

Health & Safety

Because I was on a visitor visa, I was not eligible for NHS healthcare. But I was able to get medicines and medical advice from pharmacies like Boots and Superdrug.
The UK is generally quite safe, as long as you avoid walking alone outside after midnight.

Food

There was a shared kitchen on my floor, with basic appliances (electric hobs). There are restaurants and pubs on campus, but not all are cost-effective. So you would be better off cooking on your own. However, Coventry and Birmingham do have lots of good restaurants, but they are definitely not cheap.

Transportation

To commute from Coventry to Warwick, I normally took buses. The round trip was £5.
Warwick offered a one-month free bus pass.
Because I had to travel between Bristol and Coventry very often, I took trains very frequently. I had a 16-25 railcard, which was a really good deal if you travel a lot. It costs £30 but would save you 40% every trip afterwards.

Communication

I had a giffgaff SIM card. £10 per month with 100 GB and unlimited phone calls.

Sports & Recreation Facilities

We had a small gym in our accommodation, which was free to use. There’s a sports centre on campus, which offers pretty much everything. But the gym membership was up to £200.

Cautionary measures

Warwick is one of the UK's universities with the most student societies. The Business School also has many department gatherings every week.

Social Clubs & Networking Opportunities

Nothing needs to be extra cautious about. Everything was quite chill. Just be polite and respectful towards everyone, like always.

Items to bring

Essentials	Academic	Electronics
• Passport + visa/BRP (if applicable) • Offer letter / enrolment documents • Travel insurance details • Printed accommodation info • Several passport photos • Debit/credit cards + small amount of GBP cash	• Laptop + charger • Portable USB drive / external storage • Notebook & stationery • Any required textbooks (or check availability first) • Backpack suitable for rain	• UK plug adapters (Type G) • Power bank • Headphones • Extension lead (useful in student housing)

Useful Links and Contacts

Undergraduate Programme team: Email undergraduate@wbs.ac.uk
Tel +44(0)24765 24687

my.wbs: https://my.wbs.ac.uk/-/academic/homepage/

Tabula: https://tabula.warwick.ac.uk/