



My Exchange Evaluation

Basic Information

Host University	The University of Hong Kong
Semester & Year of Exchange	Semester 1 - 2025
Otago degree(s)	LLB and BA
Major(s)	LLB and BA in Global Studies

Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
LLAW3278 - The Legal Profession	English	No direct equivalent
LLAW 3233 - LAW, History and Culture	" "	" "
LLAW3033 - Issues in intellectual property law	" "	" "
CHIN9504 - Chinese as a foreign language IV	Mixture of Eng and Mandarin	CHIN334

Total Otago credits gained: 54 points 72 points 108 points

Any comments about these papers?

CHIN9504 has a lot of overlap on 2nd year Chinese contents but there is an emphasis on writing and speaking.
 All LAW papers are heavily discussion based.

How did the academic experience/ workload/ style of teaching differ from Otago?

Law lectures are like tutorials with a small class size, group projects and discussion. Law lectures are 3 hours long! Which is quite different to Otago. Language learning is a bit more intense than Otago but not drastically different.

Accommodation

What accommodation did you stay in? What were the pros and cons of your accommodation?

I have whānau in Hong Kong so I lived with my Grandma. Pros: spending lots of time with whānau - such a special time. CONS: the only one I can think of is that all other exchange students lived in the University residential halls so got to meet meet each other easier!

Money matters

Please detail your basic costs, e.g. accommodation, flights, visa, food, insurance

Accom: \$150 per week (family rates), visa: none - I have permanent residency in HK
Flights: \$1851.44 return, Public transport: \$50 a week, Insurance: covered by Prime Minister's Scholarship
Food (including eating out): \$80,
What means did you use to access your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, Cash passport, foreign bank account, etc.)

I was able to easily set up a foreign bank account as a permanent resident of Hong Kong which made accessing finances very straightforward. I would recommend this option highly if available

Visas & Insurance

Did you have to apply for a visa? What was the process?

No I have permanent residency in Hong Kong. But I have heard it is straight-forward.

Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?

No. My insurance was covered by the Prime Minister's Scholarship.

Extra-curricular/Social Activities

What organised activities were available to students? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students?

The week before lectures started there was "Week of Welcome (Wow)" events on. This ranged from a hike up the peak to an afternoon walk around markets and eating local treats. I highly recommend getting involved in these events because it is a great way to meet people. There are also a range of clubs that HKU has on offer - including sports clubs.

What was the university/ city like?

The University and City were super cool! Hong Kong is a completely different world to Otago and Aotearoa. The University itself is really big and takes getting used to with how to get around and orient yourself. Lecturers that I had were very excited by having exchange students in their classes. HK doesn't sleep and there is so much to see, eat, experience and buy. Any recommendations for things to do, places to visit, places to eat etc.?

My top recommendations are: having yum cha, visiting Stanley, eating all you can eat dumplings at Dim Sum Library in Pacific Place, swimming at the beach, eating at Sushiro, going to Disneyland, going to the Ladies Market, going on the Star Ferry and so many more!

Any tips for future students?

Make the most of the survival Cantonese tutorials on offer, having some basic Cantonese will help you get around. Also take into consideration that most student accommodation you will have a roommate. Do research before you head over and your secret weapon at HKU will be making friends with a local student - they know HK like the back of their hands.

Overall Experience

Please write one paragraph (or more) about your exchange experience. Please include some photos!

My exchange was so incredibly special because I whānau papa to both Aotearoa New Zealand and Hong Kong. During my time in HK I lived with my lovely grandma and spent lots of time with other cousins, Aunties, Uncles and more. As I was born in HK and lived there when I was little before moving to NZ, it was a bit of a full circle moment for me being able to go back and experience the city with whānau I don't often get to see. I found the expectations for Uni in HK to be a bit of a step up from what I was used to at Otago, but I got to meet some really amazing people, I had the opportunity to learn things that aren't even on offer in NZ and I ate so so much absolutely delicious kai! I will cherish this exchange forever 😊