

Chinese University of Hong Kong
Semester One 2017
BCom –International Business

I had the pleasure of spending my final Semester studying at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. This was probably one of the best decisions I have made regarding my studies in International Business with Chinese and future job prospects.

Hong Kong is a great choice for those wanting to experience a mixture of international cultures within a fast paced city. Anyone studying Commerce or Arts would thoroughly enjoy an exchange to the Chinese University of Hong Kong because of its diverse and vibrant nature. The general public are very welcoming and easily approachable if you're looking for directions or even advice.

The New Zealand Embassy of Hong Kong was very accommodating allowing us to attend a number of events, a highlight the pre-party for the International Hong Kong Rugby 7s tournament. From such events I was able to meet a number of businessmen and women who imparted knowledge and advice for working in this central Asian hub.

Courses

A large number of the lecturers at the Chinese University of Hong Kong are recognised worldwide and all come from different parts of the globe to give a high level of education to its students. The University boasts almost half of its students from its International Exchange programme. The rest of the students are either from Hong Kong or Mainland China. The papers I took included intermediate Mandarin, Business in China and Urban China. The language classes are only a hassle when enrolling as many are cut from lack of attendance, so be open to changing papers. Business in China and Urban China were popular papers and like most courses only have one lecture per week which is usually compulsory lasting up to 3 to 4 hours. The local students can be very quiet in class but most lecturers enjoy the international students as they are more eager to participate in class discussions. If you have any questions the advisor Cora Chan is allocated to help New Zealand students with issues regarding courses, tutors, finances and any other matters of concern.

Academic Opportunities

On campus there were a number of volunteer opportunities to educate and teach English to children in the New Territories in Hong Kong. A rewarding and enriching experience for all those who took part in these sessions. There are a number of clubs and societies that are vigorously promoted by the host students. The international exchange pages on Facebook are a good idea to join to keep up with student organised events and discounts. A programme that I thoroughly enjoyed was the Language Exchange Programme where international students, Hong Kong and Mainland Chinese students are put into groups to further educate each other of their home countries and facilitate in learning foreign languages. This programme takes the students on a number of field trips and is a great way to meet local students.

Accommodation

Accommodation on Campus is available through a number of colleges for all International students. I was lucky enough to be accepted in to Morningside College which had 3 mandatory dinners a week and fostered many friendships during my stay. In all every college is of a high standard and takes great care of its students. The only difference being every student must room-share. Some students like myself with one roommate and others with three students to a room depending on the college.

You must supply all of your own bedding, etc. So I would pay a visit to Ikea based in Sha Tin which will contain everything you need at competitive prices.

Sports

Sporting-wise I was lucky enough to be able to join the Hong Kong Ladies Gaelic Football team during my studies. This was a great way to meet a number of international women from all around the globe and is free to join. It can be hard joining certain sports teams if you are only there a semester. But there are first class running tracks and every hall maintains its own gym for students. In addition there are a number of tennis courts open to the students. If you like running I would say visit Science Park which is easily accessible from campus across the overbridge at the bottom of campus. It is a popular walkway but is never very busy with beautiful views of the New Territories and gardens as well as bike hiring facilities.

Events

This city holds a number of events monthly from music festivals, arts exhibitions and sporting events. Every Wednesday is the famous ladies night (free Champagnes) and a visit to the Happy Valley Race Course is a must to see live acts, meet other expats and students and of course enjoy some horse racing. Every-night of the week there are a number of happy hours for drinks and food available across Hong Kong which is great to get out and meet people who aren't just students and also save some money.

Transport and Travel

Everyday life is convenient with the easily accessible public trains, and if need be cheap taxis and Uber from Campus to any part of Hong Kong. Upon arrival I would suggest starting the process for a student MTR card which gives half prices fares for the train. There are so many different Islands and beaches to visit. I recommend making the most of your weekends by checking out the outlying islands for an escape from the busy city life. If you're planning to go over to the Hong Kong Island I would recommend taking the train to TST then catching the ferry to Central -a great way to see the Hong Kong skyline and a break from the underground trains. Also crossing into Shenzhen, China is easy by a 35 minute train from campus. A day pass can be bought at the border and can last up to 5 nights stay in the Shenzhen area, Furthermore its location within Asia makes it easy for weekend trips away to Taiwan, Vietnam and Macau among many other places. During my stay some students even joined a funded trip to visit North Korea for 5 or so days. I would thoroughly recommend checking for these cheap flights posted every Tuesday morning on Cathay Pacific Fanfares.

Food

Eating on campus is easy with a number of halls with discounts on food, a favourite Ebenezer's (Turkish kebabs) for a third of the price as that off campus. Food predominantly consists of noodles/rice with meat but most halls have great kitchen facilities. There is a Supermarket on campus with discounted items compared to off campus. Otherwise the Marketplace in the Langham Mall, Mong Kok is a great. Alternatively I would recommend buying vegetables off campus in Central Hong Kong, or hitting up the Saturday farmer's markets.

Final Remarks

Among many the other recommendations I would strongly advise applying for the Prime Ministers Scholarship to Asia. This can be done in either the September or March rounds. This programme is

generous covering university fees, flights, food and some spending money. It also means that the embassy is aware you are studying in Asia and you have the opportunity to be invited to any events.