

Study program: IBA
Exchange semester: Fall
Academic year: 2018-2019
Host university: City University Hong Kong
Country: Hong Kong

I General information about the school

For my exchange semester, I got the opportunity to study at the City University of Hong Kong (Cityu). Hong Kong is a Special Administrative Region of China, which means it is basically a separate country with its own laws and government. Also, it has been a colony of Great Britain until 1997. As a result, there is a great mix between the Western and Asian culture. There are living over 7 million people in an extremely small area as a result of the bizarre land plot system.

Cityu is located in the northern part of Kowloon (the mainland) in a relatively peaceful part of the city. The campus is green and spacious, but it takes some to find your way around because of all the elevators and different buildings. It is easy to get to by using the convenient MTR system.

II Practical information

In terms of practicalities, like requesting a visa, pre-departure information and arrival procedure, Cityu is very organized. The visa procedure concerned sending a hard-copy application to Hong Kong. The university would apply for the visa, after which the hard-copy would be delivered by carrier in July. When we arrived in Hong Kong, we only had to show the visa sticker at the immigration. An advantage of the student visa is using the "HK resident lane" when travelling, which saved us a lot of time. Also, an airport pick-up and orientation activities are organized by the university. Personally, I would advise you to arrive a few days before these orientation activities to get a good first impression of the city and prevent a culture shock.

One thing to note about the orientation activities: do not expect an introduction week like in Tilburg; it is mostly just information, activities to get to know other students and requesting courses. The system is a bit different than what we are used to. If you do not have enough courses or an inconvenient schedule, it is allowed to request other courses by physically handing in a request and handing in the approval at the coordinator. This might sound easy, but it means running around the College of business building for a few days, collecting papers and stamps. I arranged my courses on only three days, which is highly recommended to have enough spare time to explore the city and travel. Friends of mine even managed to have all their lectures on two days.

Cityu provides residence on campus, but only for a limited amount of exchange students. I was not accepted for the student residence, so had to find my own accommodation. At first I did not like the idea of not living at campus, but I was very happy with it after all. Although my room was extremely small and expensive (around €470 for 6m²), we got a lot more freedom, our own room, a nice rooftop and the "local experience". In my opinion, the experience is better when living off-campus and would recommend it. The accommodation is called 'Apple dorm' in Sham Shui Po. You can start mailing them long before you will arrive, but mostly they will know only a

few months in advance when there is a room available. However, just try in advance. Also, try to get a 'more luxurious' room with a window, loft bed or extra corner. It is possible to switch during your contract so starting in a basic one is not a problem, but try to switch if possible to have a bit more comfort.

To be honest, I do not know exactly what I spent on exchange. As I said, accommodation can be expensive, but depends whether you live on campus. Food is not expensive if you eat locally, around €4-5. Partying can be expensive, but does not have to be. Some practical tips: there are a few places which have a great happy hour deal, buy drinks at the 7-11 instead of in clubs, buy pre-drinks in the supermarket (e.g. Wellcome). Brucks beer can be recommended. Public transport is very convenient and quite cheap, especially after getting the 50% student discount. This will be communicated in the introduction week.

During my exchange, I travelled quite a lot. I went on a weekend trip to Shenzhen (special economic region in China, just across the border), week to Thailand, 10 days to Taiwan, week to Borneo and a month to Vietnam. I would recommend to plan your courses on monday, tuesday and, if necessary, wednesday. In this way, you have a lot of time to explore the city, travel to other countries or get your assignments done. Travelling in Asia is very cheap compared to other countries, so make use of the opportunity.

Last but not least, partying. Partying is different from what we are used to, but is amazing as well. First tip, avoid the organized 'student parties'. Most of the time, they are expensive and not fun at all. We mostly visited Volar, Play, Oma and Minh Club. The first two are general clubs with free entrance if you get a voucher from a promotion person outside the club. The second two are techno clubs. Secondly, visit Mr. wongs. Probably you have already heard of it. It is a place where you can unlimited food and drinks for around 8 euros. Thirdly, go to a party organized by the Lamma Book Club. They regularly have techno parties on the beach or in a forest, which can be found on their Facebook page. Lastly, visit Shenzhen. There are Chinese businessmen who want to show of their welfare and buy drinks for foreign people. Great experience.

All in all, HK is a very special city to live in for 4 months. All the controversies, different cultures and different parts of the city makes it a place where there is always something going on. Go for a hike, do some sightseeing, or just lie on the beach. There is just so much to do. I would definitely recommend going on exchange in Hong Kong. It is great if you want to experience the Asian culture, but also want to have the possibility to get some Western food.

III Academic information

Courses and teaching method are a little different than in The Netherlands Most of the courses have a lot of continuous assessment (attendance, (team) assignments, presentations). The exams are not difficult compared to UvT and some courses even do not have a final exam. Another difference is the length of lectures: all lectures are 3 hours with only a small break. This was a bit exhausting at first, but you will get used to it. On the other hand, there are no tutorial for most of the courses, which compensates for the length of the lectures.

If you have any questions or want more specific information, do not hesitate to contact me via cliff98@live.nl. I would love to share my experiences.

Course	Prerequisites	Exam	ECTS	Comments
Website design for e-commerce IS4030	None	Written	6	Small assignment every week, introduction course to website design
Business, media and society GE22432	None	Written	6	Easy course, first year
Regulation and management of financial institutions EF4334	Finance	Written	6	Expected theoretical, but it also involved computations
Managing multinationals MGT4310	International Business	Written	6	Theoretical course, relatively easy
Digital marketing MKT4628	Marketing	None	6	Easy course, because there is no exam