

JUN 18 2015

Chinese University of Hong Kong  
Autumn Semester 2013

## **1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:**

### **a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.**

CUHK provides accommodations for students on campus for the week prior to the first day of classes. These were sufficient for me.

### **b. If your program/exchange had an orientation, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt?**

Orientation covered course registration, things to do in Hong Kong, and a meeting with your Resident advisor and Resident director for whichever dormitory you are assigned to (if you use student housing). After the end of the first week of classes, there was also a brief tour of Hong Kong. There were a number of opportunities to meet other students. This helped me navigate the school as well as get a sense of what I wanted to do in the city. I also met most of the people with whom I spent most of my time during the school term this way.

## **2. ACADEMICS:**

### **a. Please evaluate the instruction you received abroad. Compare the following to the University of Washington's system:**

#### **- classroom structure**

Class size for the Chinese languages courses were much smaller (between 8 and 20 students) than UW. The other courses I took were of similar size (several dozen students) and the classroom facilities were about the same.

#### **- instruction**

The non-language classes felt like they had less student-instructor interaction during lectures than I am used to at UW. The languages classes felt just like the quiz sections when I took CHIN101 and CHIN102 at UW.

#### **- teacher/student relations**

Instructors were just as accessible outside of class, either via email or in person, as I was accustomed to at UW.

#### **- grading/exams**

Grading was very lenient for the Chinese language programs (at least in my introductory level ones). In my Government and Politics in China class, absolutely no grading feedback was provided until I received my final grade, which was unsettling. My Databases class had grading similar to any other UW CSE class I took.

#### **- administration**

I had no issues registering for courses. The International programs office provided a lot of interaction with exchange student via activities.

#### **- library, computer, and classroom facilities**

A 24-hour library was available to students, which I took advantage of on many occasions. I did not use any computing facilities, but they were made available.

**b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.**

Other than class size, my Chinese language courses felt identical to my experience in CHIN101 and CHIN102. In my two other courses, the out-of-class coursework felt lighter than what I would have expected even from a quarter long class at UW. For example, my Politics class only involved one presentation and one final paper (other than the course readings; no written final exam). My Databases class involved one somewhat small group project and only two written homework assignments (along with a midterm and final).

**c. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?**

All of the Chinese language faculty were enthusiastic and led their classes wonderfully. I don't have strong feelings either way about other instructors

**d. How did your study abroad coursework relate to your UW education?**

My Chinese language classes helped me re-learn what I hadn't retained from CHIN101 and CHIN102. My Politics class helped round out my transcript, which was nearly entirely science courses. My Databases class introduced me to set of career-essential skills that I would have been able to get via the equivalent CSE class.

**3. HOUSING:**

**a. What housing options were available to you?**

CUHK offered subsidized student housing. Students could be in either one of the dorms with fulltime CUHK students, or in a special set of foreign student dorms. The only other option was to find your own off-campus housing.

**b. Which did you choose, and why?**

Choosing on-campus housing was the only real choice, given that 1) due to the subsidy, the entire semester was less expensive than one quarter of housing at UW, and 2) finding off-campus housing is difficult even if you are a native Cantonese speaker. I chose to live in one of the dorms with CUHK students because I was told by a previous exchange students that they are generally nicer buildings. I found this to be mostly true (at least in my specific case).

**c. What would you recommend?**

Definitely choose campus-provided housing. If you want to be closer to local students, choose one of the local student dorms; if you want to be close to other international students, choose the international dorm.

**4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE: Describe the campus and surrounding community.**

The campus is on a very large and steep hill. A number of busses provide service all day to make moving up and down the hill easier. There is a nice amount of greenery (i.e. trees and bushes) comparable to the UW campus. There is not much immediately outside campus other than a hotel, but there is a station for a train that makes very frequent trips into Hong Kong's main city areas.

**5. HEALTH AND SAFETY: Please describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study abroad experience.**

I made one trip to the medical office on campus for a non-emergency and found them to be very accessible. I did not encounter any theft or any other crime. I always felt safe even late at night.

**6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:**

**a. How did you integrate into the culture and meet members of the community? (e.g., clubs, sports, extracurricular activities, pubs, etc.)**

I met most people either through classes or through orientation activities. I met some local students who invited me to go on city excursions with on-campus clubs.

**b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them. (e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)**

I didn't encounter cultural differences that posed a challenge. Anyone under the age of about 30 was generally fluent in English. It was nice not feeling obliged to tip servers, although water and napkins were not guaranteed to be free at restaurants. My dorm had floors segregated by gender, and some dorms were single-gender; the UW housing I am used to was co-ed.

**7. FINANCIAL:**

**a. What is the best way to access/transfer money from the U.S.?**

Some students set up bank account (there is a bank on campus) and transfer money using that. I chose to periodically withdraw the maximum amount I could from an ATM. My total ATM fees amounted to less than the fee to set up an account.

**b. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.**

Rent was somewhere between 1000 and 2000 USD for the entire term. I exclusively ate in campus cafeterias, which are also subsidized so they are inexpensive. There is also a student transportation card that lets you get half off fares. In total I spent between 500 to 1000 USD per month.

**c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.**

I ended up travelling to a few other countries outside of Hong Kong, so I incurred a few more expenses in airfare/lodging than I originally expected.

**d. If you used Financial Aid to fund your program/exchange, were there any transportation, etc. If so, how did you address them?**

I had no financial aid problems

**8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:**

**a. If the IP&E administered your program/exchange, please comment on the effectiveness of the office's services. What service could be improved?**

I had no problems with the IPE's administration and had quick responses to the few questions I had.

**b. If the IP&E did not administer your program, please evaluate the program's administration, both in the U.S. and abroad.**

My exchange was through IPE.

**9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE: Please describe the type of student for whom this program is best suited.**

Anyone with even a casual interest in Asia/China/Hong Kong; someone who does not want to invest learning the local language in order to live there

**10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE: How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?**

My biggest personal goal was to meet an international friend group. I achieved this and will be visiting several of them in Europe this summer. I only had one simple academic goal (to take a few non-science classes), which was trivially achieved. Overall the experience was best I could have hoped it to be.

# INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM/EXCHANGE EVALUATION REPORT

Name:

Program location: Hong Kong (Chinese University of Hong Kong, CUHK)

Term/year: 2011 Fall Semester

E-mail addresses:

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## 1. ARRIVAL OVERSEAS/ON-SITE ORIENTATION:

a. Please recommend accommodations for future students upon arrival.

If you are an exchange student/study abroad student, the Chinese University of Hong Kong will provide all students dorms rooms in New Asia College for accommodation during the orientation week. And on the last day of orientation week, students can move into their permanent dorm rooms. If you arrive earlier than the orientation week, I recommend finding a place to stay on the east rail line (light blue colored) since the stop for CUHK (University) is on that line. I recommend staying in Sha-Tin, Tai Po Market, or Mong Kok. Avoid staying in Tsim Sha Tsui unless at a 5 star hotel.

b. If your program/exchange had an orientation, what did it cover and how did it help you adapt?

There is an orientation week before the semester starts. On the first three days, it's for students to settle in their temporary dorms, pick up their student ID, and take a campus tour (really helpful, since the campus is really big, with 7 colleges, it's hard to navigate on your own.) The fourth day is information session in Shaw College's auditorium. In that info session, CUHK staff and students will talk about the Hong Kong, the campus, how to sign up for classes (this is important), future events for exchange students, and volunteer opportunities. And on the night of the 4<sup>th</sup> day is an all exchange student dinner on a floating restaurant in Sha-Tin. The 5<sup>th</sup> day is just for students to move into their permanent dorms.

## 2. ACADEMICS:

a. Please evaluate the instruction you received abroad. Compare the following to the UW's system:

- **Classroom structure:** Usually around 30 – 40 students in class.
- **Instruction:** Some classes in English only, some classes in Cantonese and English mix. Professors are really smart and good at teaching. Usually they use power point for instruction. Something similar to blackboard is used to download slides from the class. There are lots of group work including presentations and paper.
- **Teacher/student relations:** Friendly
- **Grading/exams:** Usually one midterm one final and have lot of short essays for exams. The professor can only give out 5 A's, 10 B+, and 10 B-. There's also a certain amount of Cs the professor has to give.
- **Administration:** Very efficient and helpful, especially staff in the office for exchange students
- **Library, computer, and classroom facilities:** Many libraries, which are usually quit, with computers and printers. Classrooms all have one computer and projector. Classrooms in the business school building have two projectors.

b. Please evaluate the quality and content of instruction.

Quality and content of instruction is very good. Professors in CUHK give many good examples and have a very international mindset. Content is very global and sometimes skewed towards topics about China. Overall, it fulfills the purpose of studying abroad.

c. Are there any courses or instructors you would recommend to future students?

I would recommend the following classes: Global marketing, marketing in China, and Internet marketing.

d. How did your study abroad coursework relate to your UW education?

The classes I took were counted towards my marketing upper-core electives. The reason I chose to study abroad is because the marketing upper elective classes offered in UW don't really interest me. Business courses in CUHK



are all really interesting, and they really help students develop a global mindset which is crucial for the current globalized world.

### 3. HOUSING:

a. What housing options were available to you?

On campus dorms and off campus (With a friend's family)

b. Which did you choose, and why?

I choose a friend's family because then I can really experience Hong Kong's everyday life.

c. What would you recommend?

If you have a friend living in Hong Kong, that would be the top choice. If not, Shaw College dorms are the best. They don't have strict rules, and the dorms have table tennis tables, pool tables, large screen TV, and a Fooseball table.

### 4. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE SITE:

Describe the campus and surrounding community.

There are 7 colleges in the campus. These colleges aren't divided according to anything. It's more like a community (like the four houses in Harry Potter). The campus is on a hilltop, so busses run every 10 – 20 minutes to every college from the MTR station. There are many canteens on campus as well as lots of vending machines. There's also a swimming pool opened to all students. Around the university, there is a mega mall and a horseracing course.

### 5. HEALTH AND SAFETY:

Please describe any health or safety concerns (e.g., quality of medical facilities, unsafe districts, theft, etc.) associated with your study abroad experience.

Medical facilities are clean, efficient, inexpensive, and prescribe good medicine. It's better to bring a local along for translating. As far as unsafe districts, around Chungking mansions in Tsim Sha Tsui is dangerous. There's a lot of drug dealers, and theft reports there.

### 6. CULTURAL ASPECTS:

a. How did you integrate into the culture and meet members of the community?

(e.g., clubs, sports, extracurricular activities, pubs, etc.)

Through college activities, campus clubs, and exploring the city by myself.

b. Describe cultural differences and challenges you encountered and how you addressed them.

(e.g., gender issues, social etiquette, stereotypes, etc.)

I'm from Taiwan, so I wasn't really culture shocked. The only challenge I would say is that Hong Kongese people are more aggressive. So, in order to get something you want, you need to strike fast and beat everyone else (you can see this especially in the crowded MTR stations). Stereotypes: not everyone speaks English. In fact, only few Hong Kongese people speak English. I can speak Cantonese, so I was a tour guide/translator for my fellow foreign friends who were also exchange students.

### 7. FINANCIAL:

a. What is the best way to access/transfer money from the U.S.?

The best way is to exchange for Hong Kong Dollar in the US and bring it to Hong Kong. Or bring US Dollar to Hong Kong and exchange it at the horseracing courses in Shatin, since they offer fair prices. Or get a BECU bank account, and withdraw HK Dollars at ATMs in Hong Kong since you don't get charged using a BECU card.

b. How much spending money do you recommend per month? Please include rent, food, transportation, etc.

(In HKD) Rent \$1500+transportation \$100+food \$3000 = \$4600 (HKD)

c. Please note any unexpected expenses you incurred.

Medical (\$150HKD per visit), Clubbing entry fee in Lan Kwai Fung district (\$500HKD per entry), cab rides from the Hong Kong island back to campus (\$100 per ride) and visa application to China (\$1600HKD).

d. If you used Financial Aid to fund your program/exchange, were there any complications?

Not applicable.

**8. PROGRAM/EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATION:**

a. If the IP&E administered your program/exchange, please comment on the effectiveness of the office's services. What service could be improved?

Very efficient and helpful

b. If the IP&E did not administer your program, please evaluate the program's administration, both in the U.S. and abroad.

Not Applicable

**9. PROGRAM/STUDENT TYPE:**

Please describe the type of student for whom this program is best suited.

This program is best for those who will stay for 1 semester to study Business in China.

Also for those who will stay for 1 year for studying Mandarin Chinese.

**10. OVERALL EXPERIENCE:**

How realistic were your expectations, both academic and personal?

Academic: It was better than I thought. Both the material and the professors are very good.

Personal: it's hard to have a group of local friends since they are very busy. It's easier if you can speak Cantonese.

I really hope all of the above information can be passed on to the next student exchanging in Hong Kong.

CUHK AUT 08

- 1) a) I recommend that students stay on campus if able this allows for a better orientation, closer to classes and more chances to get involved with local students.  
 b) There was an orientation upon arrival a great way to meet other exchange students from all over the world, I would go and participate in all the activities they have arranged for students
- 2) a) - classroom structure- good very similar at least with the classes that I took  
 -instruction- same as UW professor dependent on whether I liked the class  
 -teacher student relation- same as UW up to student to make relationship happen, except in a few cases where professors make an effort  
 - grading/exams- awful!! Centralized exams in a gym, not for your class only  
 -administration- extremely helpful, offices open at all times for your support- great!  
 - library, computer, classroom facilities- good support – although sometimes not enough computers available  
 b) for the classes I took I felt that the instruction was very good, and the teachers were very enjoyable. The quality was great and the content was very applicable to things that I wanted to learn.  
 c) I recommend Chinese for students; they do a great job catering to exchange students.  
 d) It didn't relate at all, but it was fun!
- 3) a) Housing was available on campus  
 b) I choose international house- because it was fun to live with students from all over the world  
 c) I-house is a good option, however Chung –Chi is very close to classes and also gives a more local feel to school- however could be difficult if you are not outgoing and willing to go to activities where you might not understand everything that is going on.
- 4) The campus is absolutely beautiful great location to mass transit and close to an amazing city but not in the middle, which I enjoyed
- 5) Medical facility was the best, everything including prescriptions was free, they were friendly and cared, the best medical care I have received anywhere. Theft was a problem if you went to super crowed areas (mong kok) but if you where aware of your surroundings it was not a big deal- hold on to your bags. Nothing as bold or nearly as bad as here in north U-district area.
- 6) a) I played sports, went to English table and activities put on by the school, plus took one class that I was the only exchange student in it  
 b) There are differences however I am half Chinese and have been to Hong Kong a number of times to visit family that I have, so I did not have any real challenges that I can remembering specifically dealing with. Just be open to new experiences and be respectful of everyone you meet



7.a) get a debit or visa card- really easy- although if you are not a US citizen opening account ensures that you will not lose money as the exchange rates change.

b) I think around \$200 but if you want to travel to different countries add accordingly

c) no unexpected expenses

d)No

8)a) I think you guys did, and you did a good job- no real comments other than open early at least one day a week- it is extremely difficult to deal with your office because of the limited hours

9) This is a great program for a student who doesn't want to just be with UW students- which I think is great, it forces you to get to know local and other international students.

10)My expectations were very realistic in what I wanted to accomplish and I felt I achieved everything I wanted, and had no huge surprises throughout my experiences.