

Report Exchange Semester

City University Hong Kong

Semester A – August till December

Study

Studying at CityU was an amazing experience. I arrived at the end of August and already met my German roommate (also studying at RuG, they put all exchange students with someone of their home university) at the airport. I advise you to not book a flight before they tell you which date you should arrive because they want you to be there at a certain date. Introduction week was fun and you do not have to worry about making friends. Sorting out your courses is the main thing you have to worry about. Check all the schedules beforehand and also check what you need to do for each course. Most law courses want you to make an essay, do a group (or individual) presentation and an exam so it is quite a lot of work. You do not want that for each of your 5 courses, read the course manuals carefully and look at the schedule to see when your classes are in order to have an organized schedule. The classes do allow some time for travel if you plan it well. For instance, I went to Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. I managed to do all the work beforehand and it worked out well but I advise to plan ahead and talk to your professors. There is class participation which is a percentage of your grade. The essays are 30 or 40% of your grade and the presentations are either 10 or 20%, your exam will be 50%. Do not plan travels in your exam period because you will have exams during the whole period. As for courses, I did 4 because I did my exchange voluntarily and asked the board of examiners to do 4 courses instead of 5. The courses I did were: Intellectual Property Law, Company Law I, Law and Gender and Hong Kong Legal System. Intellectual Property Law and Company Law I were third year courses and a bit harder. Overall, it is not too hard but you will have to study quite a lot.

Housing

I lived on campus which I would advise everyone to do so. It is really cheap as Hong Kong itself is really expensive. However, the city centre is about 45 minutes by metro. I shared a room with a German girl and we became best friends. Also it is a great way to meet people. You can eat cheap on campus which is also really convenient. My best advice is to apply for housing the minute the registration opens up since last year about 50% of the international students did not find a room on campus. The rooms are small and you share a bathroom with your roommate and two other people also there is a common room with a kitchen.

Finances

Hong Kong is not cheap. When you live on campus it is easy to eat cheap in the canteens and your room is cheap so overall I did not spend that much money and had enough money to travel around a bit. However, I do advise you to save quite some money before you go so you can have an amazing time and do not have to worry too much about money as some people did have struggles with it. Especially going out costs quite some money and food in a supermarket is really expensive.

Overall living experience

Hong Kong is an amazing city. It is not only really nice as a city, there is also enough nature all around. For instance, in one of the first weekends a group of us went camping on Lantau island. There are also some great hikes you can do (so make sure to bring some sports gear and be fit!). The metro system is cheap and fast, however never expect to have a seat as it is always overcrowded. Do not worry about not being able to find stuff you need, Hong Kong sells everything. You have great markets and great food (dimsum). There are a lot of art galleries and exhibitions which you can visit most of the times for free. As Hong Kong is the gateway to Asia, flights are quite cheap and you can travel around. They speak relatively well English in Hong Kong so do not worry about learning Cantonese. The weather was most of the times amazing but in the beginning it was so hot that we could not really do anything. In November and December, the weather was the best but it can get quite cold! I did experience a Typhoon in October and everything was shut down. My overall experience is one I will never forget. I made a lot of friends and will remember it my whole life. Never hesitate to apply!

Things to consider

I roughly spend about 500 to 800 euro's a month including food and travels. Make a budget and calculate a bit before you go. Do not book your flight way ahead because you need to know your exact arrival date. Do not worry about making friends, you will make a lot of them! Do not pack too much because you can get everything in Hong Kong as well. Make sure you have your courses and schedule sorted out before you go as changing does take some time and effort and there is limited time to do so. Be polite to your professors and keep in contact if you want to change or ask something. Communication is quite easy but you have to be patience. And my best tip: relax and enjoy! It will be the experience of a lifetime.