

Exchange Report  
City University of Hong Kong  
Semester B  
2017 – 2018

### **Study**

In your application progress you will have to choose the classes you want to do. A few months before the classes start, you can check the timetable online at AIMS. Do not worry if you don't like the classes you get enrolled in, or if the timetable is not convenient for you, you can change any class you want in the first two weeks. You can even attend some of the classes in the first week to see if they're interesting. I have changed four out of five classes I was enrolled in at first.

The classes are, in general, two hours of class and one hour tutorial. Most of the marks are made out of 20% attendance, 30% assignment and 50% final exam. For the attendance, it is expected of you to actively participate to the class. In general, the classes are considerably smaller than the one's in Groningen, which is nice because there is a lot more interaction.

### **Language**

Hong Kongers speak Cantonese Chinese (or Traditional Chinese). Many Hong Kongers can't speak English very well. However, they do try to understand you. It can be hard at times, but generally you can get around anywhere with English. If someone does not understand you, there is always someone around that speaks English that will help you.

### **Finance**

Hong Kong is a very expensive city. If you get placed in a room at the student residence, your time in Hong Kong will be less expensive than when you live on campus, as the rents are very high, but especially food and travelling can get quite expensive. Products that are very common and cheap in the Netherlands can be very expensive in Hong Kong (especially dairy products). You can definitely manage to live on a budget, but it takes a lot of effort. If you have the means, try to save money so this does not have to be an issue.

### **Preparation**

The guidance of the International Office in Groningen was very nice. They are very helpful and you can always come by during the office hours if you have any issues. Keep in mind the application deadlines and you'll be fine.

In preparation for my time at City University, I had a very helpful contact at the Global Services Office of the City University of Hong Kong. She helped me in advance with the application to the university, pick classes and when I was there and throughout the semester she guided me. If you have any questions, concerning anything, hall life / social life / uni life, you can ask her and she will try to help you where she can. The application to CityU does not take a lot of time. Write the data that enrolment is open in your agenda and complete them as early as possible and you will have no problems.

The first week (until the 15<sup>th</sup> of January in my case) is an introduction week. In this week the uni has planned all kinds of introduction activities and guides through campus. I was only there during one day, so I can't say too much about this, but if you have the chance, I would definitely try to attend this week. You meet many people and, as the campus is very big, so it is not a bad idea to learn to know your way before classes start.

### **Housing**

I applied for housing at the residence at the university. I got the decision around 1,5 to 2 months before I had to leave for Hong Kong. Luckily I got in. I was placed with another (Polish) girl in a room. Usually they place you with someone from the same country or even the same university, if there are more people going. However in my case there were no more Dutch girls that were not already placed

together. It is nice to share a room, because it keeps you busy and there is always someone around to do things with. I shared my bathroom with two exchange students from China.

### **City / Culture**

Hong Kong is one of the most exciting cities I have ever been to. What I liked most about it is its diversity. On one hand Hong Kong is the city that has the biggest amount of skyscrapers in the world. On the other hand, it has a lot of nature, mountains, beaches and even some rural areas. Some neighbourhoods are very western-like. Others are extremely Chinese. Luckily it is not a gigantic city and the university is relatively close to the city centre, so you have a chance to experience it every day. Moreover, the public transport system is perfect and gets you almost anywhere in no-time.

### **Free time**

As I have said, Hong Kong is a beautiful city. There is so much to do. The university is quite close to the centre (the Island) and to the nature. It is conveniently located. In my free time we went on hikes, to beaches, to museums and we went out.

There are a lot of festivals going on in Hong Kong in every time of the year. You can find them all on Facebook events. During my time there (the second semester) I went to two plays and one concert of the Hong Kong Arts Festival, Taste Hong Kong, a Shorties Film Festival, the Volvo Ocean Race and many other events.

In addition to these things, the university and its students organises a lot of events / parties / workshops / classes / daytrips etc. I haven't been to a lot of them so I can't tell you how they are.

### **Travelling**

As I only had class on Monday Tuesday and Wednesday, I had a lot of free time. Hong Kong is very centrally located in Asia and plain tickets are relatively cheap. We went to Kuala Lumpur and the Phillipines during two of the weekends. In addition to the free time I had a few weeks (national) holidays. During one of these I had visitors over and during another I went to Japan.

### **Others**

Transportation: Hong Kong has an extremely efficient transportation network, that, in my experience, never has any complications. Also, there are a lot of busses throughout the city and at the end of all the MTR lines. With your student octopus you will get a 50% discount, which makes the transportation very cheap.

Safety: I have heard some people say that Hong Kong is the safest city in the world. I would definitely believe this. Not at one point during the five months I spent in Hong Kong, did I ever feel unsafe. You can get into any cab and walk any street at any time of the day or night, even if you're by yourself. This adds to all the things that makes Hong Kong such a nice place to live.