



## **IT University Travel Report**

### **Host University:**

City University of Hong Kong

### **Study Programme at IT**

#### **University:**

Software Development

#### **Exchange Agreement or**

#### **Study Abroad:**

Exchange Agreement

#### **Courses studied abroad:**

- Operating Systems
- Computer Vision for  
Interactivity
- Database Systems
- Computer Networks
- Problem Solving and  
Programming

#### **Exchange Period:**

3. semester, autumn 2022

**If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here:**

I'll happily answer any questions about studying abroad, you can send me an e-mail at:  
[jfho@itu.dk](mailto:jfho@itu.dk)

## Your stay abroad

### **What was it like to study at [the university] (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)?**

Studying at City University of Hong Kong (or CityU) was overall a great experience, despite there being some academical and cultural differences that I had to get used to at first. CityU is a mid-to-large sized university located quite centrally in Hong Kong with a metro line and huge mall right by the university so it was super easy to get around. The university itself is quite active, with club activities that I can recommend participating in (we did a super fun murder mystery around campus for example) and it also has a bunch of canteens and restaurants so I didn't even have to leave campus to get great food, both local and international.

There were a bunch of exchange students and foreign students both at my university and around Hong Kong, so getting friends in such a big city isn't too hard, especially since CityU and the clubs there (especially GAC) arranges various events as well. I lived outside of student dorms and instead at Weave Studios, but from what I heard the dorms are great as well. I found a lot of my friends through the place I stayed at, and I can especially recommend the hiking around Hong Kong as an activity.

The academic level was good, although one course I took ended up being more introductory than I had thought (Problem Solving and Programming), so you won't really learn many new things if you've already programmed in Java. Another course (Computer Vision for Interactivity) was super interesting, however I definitely recommend brushing up on calculus and linear algebra if you want to make the most of it, as it is quite math-heavy. Overall I felt the teaching was more theory and less practical projects than at ITU, which was both good and bad but definitely something to keep in mind in any case.

### **What was your initial motivation for going abroad and did your stay meet your expectations?**

I hadn't initially planned on going to Hong Kong, but since my other destination got cancelled, I went there instead. It ended up being a great decision since I really wanted to try something different from Denmark. Going to the other side of the globe and to such a big city in comparison to anything in Denmark definitely has its challenges, but overall it was a positive experience.

### **Please describe what you got out of your stay, both personally and academically, and how do you expect it to contribute to your further studies?**

On a personal level, it was amazing to get to talk to people from so many different countries, especially since there are foreign students at CityU from Kyrgyzstan, Bangladesh, South Africa, Indonesia and many other countries, so I learned about much more than just Hong Kong.

Academically, the way of teaching in Hong Kong is definitely different. It was good to try something new, and I learned about various concepts that I wouldn't have learned about at ITU, at least not with the standard courses at SWU.

## Arranging your stay

### **Please give a short description of the process of arranging your stay:**

After receiving my letter of confirmation from CityU, I applied for a student visa, which I had to send by mail to Hong Kong. Overall, the process took a few weeks, but I had no complications in getting the visa. Coming to Hong Kong I had to book a quarantine hotel however, which ended up being quite difficult and expensive since almost all of them were fully booked. After my COVID isolation I moved in at Weave though, which I can highly recommend if you cannot or prefer not to stay at the student dorms, since they have modern buildings, great people and fun events.

### **What resources did you find helpful in planning your stay and which people did you use (if any)?**

I made use of my exchange coordinator at ITU to help me get most things sorted with CityU. For finding accommodation, CityU sends out a PDF file with various places you can choose from, I can recommend looking through that as well. Finally, CityU also has various WhatsApp groups set up for exchange students and can set you up with a local buddy which was very useful for getting answers to questions about Hong Kong, how to get places etc. Overall having a local friend made things much easier, so I can highly recommend the buddy system.

### **How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?**

I never got an answer from the CityU dorms so I just sent an e-mail to Weave and got a room through them, the process was quite easy.

## Expenses and Financing

### **Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad**

Since I didn't stay at the student dorms, I ended up paying a lot more for accommodation (around 6200 kr per month) so along with food and activities it ended up more expensive than I had thought. So I can really recommend trying to get into the dorms if you wanna save A LOT of money, since the housing market in Hong Kong is expensive.

### **Did you apply for scholarships and would you recommend any ones in particular?**

Nope, but it's definitely a good idea to apply if you have the time and energy.

## Recommendations for other students:

I already mentioned some recommendations, but these are the main ones:

- Join as many activities in the beginning as possible, since there's a lot happening then, both at CityU and events for exchange students across Hong Kong and it's also your best opportunity to befriend locals, since many of them have less time later in the semester.
- Go on some of the hikes in Hong Kong, some of them are quite easy but the views are still amazing.
- Try the food, learn a bit of the language, talk to locals, you'll feel more included that way and it'll be more of a unique experience compared to being in an exchange student bubble.