



IT University Travel Report

Dear Student, this is a template – the aim is to inspire other students who may wish to follow in your footsteps. You are free to give your report the shape you want and to go beyond the questions. You are also very welcome to include pictures and contact information – but you need not.

Note that by filling in and sending the report you automatically consent to publishing it on ITU student.

Host university: City University of Hong Kong

Study Programme at IT University: Global Business Informatics

Exchange agreement or Free mover: Exchange agreement

Courses studied abroad: Big Data Management, Information Management, Operations Management, Management Ethics, Asian Values and Managerial Practices.

Period studying abroad: Autumn semester, 2024

If you wish to give advice to other students regarding your travels, please state your contact info here: Feel free to contact me on eben@itu.dk

Your stay abroad

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

CityU is a much larger university than ITU. This means that navigating courses and social events can be a bit overwhelming at first. There's a lot more courses to choose from, the courses are first come first served, and the period for choosing courses is only a week. I couldn't get all the courses I initially wanted since CityU had some academic restrictions that I for some reason could not get past. However, I did end up with enough courses and they all complemented the required ITU courses.

The academic level at CityU might be a bit lower than at ITU, and the format of the lectures are also quite different. The exams usually only make up around 50% of your grade and the rest is made up by taking attendance, group reports and mid-terms. In my experience this meant that there was less pressure during the exam period, since you already had gotten some points during the semester. The lectures are not very interactive, and I didn't have homework in any of my courses.

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

My main motivation to go abroad was to experience a different university setting than at ITU as I felt I needed a break from my everyday routines. I also wanted to go somewhere that I likely wouldn't have gone to otherwise, which is why I chose Hong Kong. On top of that, CityU also provided some courses that I wouldn't be able to have at ITU.

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.

I am very happy that I went on exchange and especially that I chose CityU. Academically it wasn't the most challenging semester, which I think is perfect for an exchange semester where you mainly want to experience the outside of campus. I met some great new friends, experienced (almost) everything Hong Kong had to offer and travelled a lot during the semester. It was definitely a unique experience, and I can recommend it to anyone who's considered a semester abroad.

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

Once I was accepted to CityU I received an e-mail with a lot of documents that I had to print and fill out. This was a bit overwhelming as it ranged from choosing courses and applying for a visa to obtain a signed bank statement showcasing you have sufficient finances. All this had to be sent with physical mail to CityU which my exchange coordinator was nice to help me with. I then received my student visa, and I did not have to do anything else.

I do want to point out that the period of adding and dropping courses was very stressful. It was hard to get all the courses I initially wanted due to sudden restrictions and even got one course denied even though I fulfilled all requirements with my previous ITU courses. However, I all worked out in the end and this period only lasts a week. Once you have all your courses, there aren't any more practical school stuff to do.

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

My exchange coordinator Anna was very helpful and was quick to respond whenever I had any questions. I also reached out to some of the students who previously went to CityU on exchange, and this helped with some of the more specific questions I had.

SAP was not very helpful with approval of new courses once I was in Hong Kong. Even though I was in contact with them, and they said they would look at my application as soon as possible, I first received an answer a month later when the add/drop course period had already closed.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I got a place at the CityU Student Residence in Ma On Shan and the process for this was pretty straight forward. I applied got an email from CityU when the application period opened, filled in the application linked in the mail and then got an email a few weeks later when I got accepted. We got our rooms one week before the semester started, which meant that you had time to sort out practicalities and explore the area.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

I was accepted to the CityU dorms which made my stay significantly cheaper. The rent was around 11.500 HKD for four months and it had to be paid all at once a couple months prior to arriving in Hong Kong. I lived at the MOS compound which meant that I had a 40-minute metro commute to school and 50 minutes to e.g. Mong Kok or Tsim Sha Tsui. However, public transport is very accessible and is a lot cheaper than in Denmark and trips generally ranged from 7-17 HKD.

Most of my expenses went to restaurants and travelling. Restaurants are generally cheaper than in Copenhagen and you can easily eat out for 50 kr. The kitchen in the dorms was often a bit crowded and we had to buy our own utilities, so restaurants tended to be the easier option.

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

I did not spend a lot of time applying for scholarships since the student dorm rent was quite affordable. I did apply for the ITU Travel Pool which was quite easy so I would recommend you do the same.

Recommendations for other students:

CityU offered a lot of social activities the first few weeks and I really recommend signing up for as many activities as possible! I found that people generally grouped together by their nationality but since there were only a few other people from Denmark, I was happy to have met different people in the beginning where people weren't as "locked" in groups yet.

- Get an Octopus card. This works as a Rejsekort as well as a regular card that you can use in restaurants and supermarkets. You can use it as an app for iPhone or a physical one.
- If your bank has a high fee on transactions outside EU, you may consider getting a Revolut card. My bank had a 2% fee on all transactions in Hong Kong, but with a Revolut card I avoided these fees.
- Always have some cash on you. Although most places accept card or Octopus some smaller restaurants and regular taxis still only accept cash.
- If you have the time and money for it – travel. Flights from Hong Kong to places like Vietnam, Seoul and the Philippines are around 700-900 HKD and since the cost of living is low it is possible to get nice accommodation quite cheap.
- Choose courses without an exam. CityU offers quite a lot of these and although the workload is distributed throughout the semester instead, it's all worth it.