



IT University Travel Report

Host University: City University of Hong Kong

Study Programme at IT University: Software Development (Bachelor)

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Exchange Agreement

Courses studied abroad:

Machine Learning,
Fundamentals of Internet Applications Development,
Operating Systems,
Managing Software Projects,
Multimedia Technologies and Applications,
Information Security and Management

Exchange Period: 5th semester (Autumn) 2018

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

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My stay abroad

What it was like to study at the City University of Hong Kong

Studying at the City University of Hong Kong was somewhat like studying back home since the format of the courses was very similar. By this I mean that there was a lecture and an exercise session for a course every week. The lectures were much the same as back home, although with fewer questions from the students, since the local students are not taught to ask questions to the same extent as what we are used to. As for the exercise sessions, these varied quite a bit since some of them were in the same format as we have back home where you are given some exercises to solve, whereas in some other courses it was just the TA going through a few given exercises.

Since I was going on my 5th semester, all the courses I should have taken at ITU were normally mandatory, as such I needed to take corresponding courses at the City University of Hong Kong. Since there was a wide selection of courses offered at the university, I did not have any problems finding courses I thought sounded interesting, though I could not find a replacement for the course "Programs as Data". Therefore, I ended up pushing said course a semester and instead taking my elective while being abroad.

I found the academic level to be varying quite a bit from course to course, though this most likely comes down to me taking courses spread out across all the different years at the university. For the courses that are normally their 3rd and 4th year courses I think the level of difficulty in the course was on par with what I am used to. For the 1st and 2nd year courses I took, the level seemed a bit lower than what I was used to, although the professors were still competent enough even if the pace of the course wasn't quite as quick.

When it comes to the social life on campus it is limited what I can attest to since I lived off campus. There were several different sports teams and clubs that you could sign up for if you wanted to try it, though due to scheduling conflicts I didn't. Beyond this there were also several student organizations that arranged different trips for the new students, whether it was a food tour around one of the neighborhoods of Hong Kong, a hiking trip, a trip to a museum or something else they tried to make sure there would be something for everyone's taste. If you are more the type who prefers a night out with friends, that was also easily arranged since most of the exchange students, as well as some of the locals, were usually up for it.

My initial motivation for going abroad and if it met my expectations

The reasons why I wanted to go abroad initially was to experience a different culture while combining my studies with a bit of travelling. Furthermore, I of course also wanted to meet new people, both from Hong Kong and around the world. In all these regards, I must say that my stay ended up exceeding my expectations. This probably partly comes down to me living off campus at a so called co-living space, where I ended up getting a lot of very good friends, both local people and exchange students.

What I got out of my stay, both personally and academically, and how do I expect it to contribute to your further studies

I would say it is hard to pinpoint what exactly I got out from my stay, but I will try to do my best. Personally, I got a look into a different culture and some very good friends, both at the university and the people I lived with. Academically speaking I of course gained a lot of new knowledge in the different areas which I took courses in, although how this will affect my further studies, I am unsure of since I am now during my bachelor project, which is not directly related to any of the courses I just took.

Arranging my stay

After having been nominated for going on exchange by ITU I had to apply to the City University of Hong Kong. A representative from the department of computer science at CityU reached out to help with the application process at the university, both in regard to applying for on-campus accommodation, courses at the university and student visa for entering the country.

After a while the university sent a letter of acceptance to study at the university for a semester, and a bit later again they informed me that, due to overwhelming demand, there unfortunately was not enough room for me to stay at the on campus student residence.

After the university had contacted me and told me there was not space for me to stay in the on-campus dormitories, I started to look around what other options there were in Hong Kong for someone on a student budget. This proved harder than expected since the rents in Hong Kong are some of the highest in the world, but I ended up finding a co-living space (A kind of dormitory) I liked and wrote them an email. After this it was just a question of transferring the money to them and buy a ticket to get there.

I did not use anything in particular, other than simple search engines. The City University of Hong Kong did suggest a couple of places which students had previously stayed at off-campus but most of them were above what I was willing to spend on my accommodations.

Expenses and Financing

Since the accommodations I ended up with were rather cheap, considering it is Hong Kong, I only spent about 10.000kr out of pocket, beyond my monthly income in the form of the SU. If I had been able to stay on campus, I know the rent there would have been quite a bit lower than what I ended up paying. Similarly, I could have spent substantially more than what I did at other places off campus e.g. if I had wanted to have a private room.

I had not applied for any kind of scholarships for my stay other than the ITU travel pool to help cover my plane ticket. The reason I did not apply for any scholarships is my personal savings were substantial enough to my expenses. Since I did not apply for any scholarships, I cannot recommend any personally except ITUs travel fund.

Recommendations for other students:

My biggest recommendation would have to be to look into the different co-living spaces around Hong Kong since it can be a very nice experience and some of them are on the cheaper end compared to a lot of other places in Hong Kong.