



IT University Travel Report

Host University: City University of Hong Kong

Study Programme at IT University: Software Udvikling

Exchange Agreement or Study Abroad: Study Abroad with an Exchange Agreement

Courses studied abroad:

- Computer Organization
- Operating Systems
- Managing Software Projects
- Multimodal Interface Design
- Information Security and Management

Exchange Period: semester autumn year 3 (5th semester)

Your stay abroad

What was it like to study at City University of Hong Kong (including choice of courses, academic level, social life at campus)?

I was fortunate enough to be able to live in the dorms associated with the university, which was right next to the university itself. Living in the dorm meant I had a roommate, floor mates, and a cheap place to stay.

I did not interact a lot with my roommate and we did not really become friends as he already had friends from his own country he hanged out with all the time. As well as asking, if I would swap rooms with one of his friends which never even happened. If this happens to you doing a stay, I would recommend just ignoring it and get to know your fellow floor mates instead. From my experience almost, everyone are open and welcoming to chat.

The dorm offered multiple social events, such as a picnic trip, bowling trip, and it even had a small festival once while I was living there.

The festival was one of the larger social events. Where the different halls had booths where you could try different kinds of food, games, and even one where you could try traditional clothes. The festival also had scene where some students had prepared entertainment such as singing, dancing and music.

In order to study at the university, I had to pick five courses in order to have what is equivalent to 30 ECST points. Each course consisted of a two hours lecture and a one-hour tutorial section each week. Which did not feel as too much and for my case I even had a weekday off. However, because of how the grading works the tutorial sections could sometimes feel more important than the lectures as they in some courses could count for one mark of your final grade each.

The lectures were not that difficult to follow, however sometimes it could be a tiny bit difficult to understand what the professor was saying. It was something you get used to fast, e.g. whenever one of the professors said the word "plan" it sounded just like "pan" which I found somewhat funny.

I only had written exams at CityU, which seems to be the norm. The written exams are all only 2 hours long and depending on your skills, you will need all of the 2 hours to complete the exam. One thing I noticed is that unlike in Denmark they do not expect you to meet up at the exam 30 min before. In most cases, you are not allowed to enter until there are only 10 min before the exams begins or even less.

The academic level itself seems to be about the same, as at ITU, however in my experience you do not actually have that many assignments each course had about three assignments. Most of the assignments felt small. I had to hand most of mine in on paper, which was quite different from ITU.

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

My initial motivation for studying abroad was to experience another culture. As well as getting international experience and really feel the weight of standing on your own two feet.

I would say that my stay lived up to most of my expectations. It was an amazing experience and I would fully recommend someone else to study abroad. I experienced a lot, and if I have to say it myself, I could have done a lot more. The feeling of standing in a foreign airport with your luggage and thinking this is the start, what should I do now? Is amazing.

I might not have become good friends with my roommate, however I met plenty of other awesome and interesting people. Both local and foreign, such as people from Japan, France, and even Sweden. Actually, one of the people I got along best with was a local, who showed me some of the local culture of Hong Kong.

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 would say academically I learned what I should as well as getting a feel of what more I can do in the academic world. Personally, I learned a lot about myself as a person and honestly, I feel more mature after the experiences I have gotten.

Arranging your stay

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

After getting nominated by ITU to go to Hong Kong, the international coordinator received an Excel sheet she had to fill out. One part of this was to prioritize the candidates in who should have the highest priority to get offered on-campus housing. In order to decide this, I met with the coordinator and the other guy who also got nominated to go to Hong Kong to discuss this.

At this point I also had to go into one of CityU websites to fill out an online application form, which included which courses I was planning to take at CityU. At the same time, I had to do fill out an application for preapproval of courses to ITU. However, the deadlines did not match so I had to do the fill out the online application form before I received confirmation for my preapproved courses.

Since I got offered a dorm room I received an email from CityU with instructions on how to accept this offer. This included paying the rent for the room upfront through one of CityU's websites.

During the planning of my stay I also applied for a grant and the ITU travel pool.

CityU also offered a shuttle service from the airport to the dorm which I used. To apply to this, I had to go to one of CityU's websites and fill out a form. The shuttle service was at designated times, so I planned my flight to Hong Kong to match one of these. I booked both my flight to and from Hong Kong at the same time.

After arriving in Hong Kong, I still had to change a few courses in order to fulfill my pre-approved courses. This was done partly through one of CityU's websites and by email. I had a bit of trouble getting the courses I needed, and at first, I was told I could not get one of them. However, I was lucky enough a spot opened up.

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

I found the international coordinator of ITU to be very helpful and the coordinator at CityU was also happy to answer any questions you might have.

Other than that, I used CityU's website a lot to get information as well as the emails they sent me.

How did you arrange practicalities such as accommodation?

I applied for accommodation for the dorms associated with CityU through ITU. After some time, I got an email stating that I had been assigned a dorm room. In order to confirm that I wished to receive the room, I had to pay the rent upfront through a CityU website.

When I then arrived at the CityU dorms, they have a whole process you have to go through in order to receive your keycard for your room. This is relatively easy, and you get informed of what you should bring with you in order to get through the process on mail before you arrive in Hong Kong.

One thing you should know is that the keycard for your room is not used to get into the dorm itself. In order to enter the dorm you have to use your student id card instead. However, you might not be able to get this card the day you arrive. Until you get your student id, you have to ask other people to open the door to the dorm for you.

Expenses and Financing

Please comment on expenses connected to your stay abroad

My expenses of my stay abroad consisted of the airplane tickets, rent of dorm room, food, transport, and cultural experiences.

I brought my airplane tickets through SAS. It was not the cheapest option at the time. However, in my opinion, the best as it was one of the fastest and the arrival time was good.

The rent of the dorm was relatively cheap as it costed less than my current rent of the time. As my dorm floor did not have a kitchen, I was not able to cook food for myself. So, I went ate out every day. It was possible to eat relatively cheap as you could get a meal with something to drink for just about 40dkk. Obviously, also options that are more expensive, which might be better.

For cultural experiences, I used money when visiting some temples, when out hiking, or playing in arcades with local friends. Obviously, I also used money on the MTR (The metro system), however this is pretty cheap, especially with the student octopus card.

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

I applied for the Lemvigh-Müller Fonden scholarship, and the ITU travel pool. I was accepted for both and I would recommend everyone to apply for these if they are able to do so.

There might also be other options available to you and would recommend applying for as many as possible as a scholarship really helps.

Recommendations for other students:

I want to point out it is not guaranteed you can get into a course you did not apply for when you made your application to CityU. So, I would recommend filling out your pre-approval application ASAP and hope you can get a reply before the deadline of the application for CityU, so you hopefully can get all the courses you need.

I would also recommend you talk with people you meet in Hong Kong. In my experience, most people are happy to have a talk and it could very well make your stay better. You could also try to meet some people online before you arrive in Hong Kong, this was something I did which turned out great for me.