



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	Geosciences
Level:	Bachelor
Name degree programme:	Earth Sciences

Destination city & country	Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Name host institution	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Purpose of exchange	study/courses
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	28/08/2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	29/01/2018

### Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

Yes

Counselling/support at Utrecht University:

Present

Academic preparation:

None

Language preparation:

Yes, I took an English language test, because it was not clear whether UU would guarantee my level. Wasted money.

Finances:



I did request public transport compensation, but I did not receive it.
<b>Study abroad period</b>
Study programme (concerning content and organisational issues):
Loads of choice, unfortunately, they only reveal what courses are available in what semester maybe a month beforehand. Course enrolment may also be first come, first serve, which meant I had to get up at 3 am to enrol.
Academic quality of education:
They are rated highly on their science and engineering courses. I did not take those though. Most of the professors speak passable to excellent English.
Counselling/support at host institution:
They have it and advertise it (it is free). I did not use it, though.
Transfer of credits:
18 hkust credits = 30 ECTS. 18 hkust credits is the maximum credit load they allow, unless you request otherwise. I recall that would roughly be a workload of 60 hours/week.
<b>Student life</b>
Welcome/orientation programme:
Nice, there are a lot of activities for new/international/exchange students both with each other and with local/fulltime students.
Accommodation:
They offer exchange students double rooms and ask you to give preference for a local or non-local student, note that local means fulltime student, not necessarily from HK. The rooms are not large and have a mostly symmetrical layout. Bathrooms are shared either with four people or the entire floor, depending on what building you are in. They are quite strict about registering who enters the halls. The halls are cleaned regularly by third party cleaning staff. They do allow you to take up private residence outside campus, but that is incredibly expensive.
Leisure/culture:
You should never be bored. You can do just about anything (they don't like drugs though). It is common among exchange students to skip classes to travel around Asia.
Suggestions/tips:
Try to get a local roommate. Make sure you get enough credits. Take easy courses, unless you are actually there for studying (but who is really?). JOIN A CLUB, this is definitely the easiest way to experience life like the locals do. You do not need to be on the island or near Central to have a great time, most MTR stations are accompanied by a decent-to-massive shopping centre.
<b>Conclusions</b>
Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:
Yes, you do sports and then drink beer by the sea on campus.
Do you have any additional advice or comments?:
Their semester are significantly shorter than ours, since you have to make up for that during the semester, be sure to do something extra nice afterwards.
Can students contact you for additional info? If so, please write down how they can get in touch



with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)

Contact info available at IO.

### **Contact details Student Services / International Office**

Visitors' address: Bestuursgebouw, Heidelberglaan 6, Utrecht

+31-(0)30-253 7000

[exchange@qdesk.uu.nl](mailto:exchange@qdesk.uu.nl) (information/questions) / [verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl](mailto:verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl) (report)

[www.uu.nl/students/exchange](http://www.uu.nl/students/exchange)



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	Faculty of Social Sciences
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
Name degree programme:	Psychology

Destination city & country	Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Name host institution	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	August 2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	January 2018

### Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

You have to give up your top-3 choices for the places you wanted to go. My first choice was Hong Kong University (HKU) not HKUST and my second choice was one in Sweden, but I forgot which one. Honestly, I really wanted to go to Hong Kong, so I put all my hopes in that. I did not get selected for either HKU and the Swedish University so I was really bummed. Then I looked into the universities that were still available and there was another university from Hong Kong! I did not know this one was also eligible for me, because I did not look into the International Office, only the faculty exchanges. I applied for HKUST and I got confirmation within a week.

In preparation you have send all different kinds of documents. This does take some time, but it



shouldn't be too hard. After sending it, it was a very long process of waiting. I did get my confirmation from HKUST some time later via their online system. Two weeks prior to leaving I received my student VISA through the post.

Counselling/support at Utrecht University:

Utrecht University was very helpful with the whole process. We had a meeting in May with the opportunity to ask other students who have studied in Hong Kong about their experiences. We were able to ask for simple tips or advice. The International Office also provided useful tips and told about things that you may not think about before leaving.

Academic preparation:

I had no specific academic preparation before going to HKUST.

Language preparation:

I already knew the basics of Cantonese, the language they speak in Hong Kong. Even without this knowledge it is easy to get by in Hong Kong. Since it was a former British colony, (almost) everything has English translations. Moreover, the majority of the people living in Hong Kong speak (the basics) of English. Compared to Japan, Taiwan and China for example, their English proficiency is quite good.

Finances:

I made a budget for myself because that was advised. Also you have to send the university a bank statement stating that you have enough money to survive in Hong Kong. Hong Kong is on the same level as the Netherlands, maybe a little bit more expensive sometimes. The dorm room provided by the university is around 250 euros per month, you do have to share the room though. In total I spent around a thousand euros a month, including food (did not cook once, because it's more expensive to cook), travelling and going out on a regular basis.

### **Study abroad period**

Study programme (concerning content and organisational issues):

You are able to choose your courses beforehand. You can check the syllabi from previous years and look into the courses that might seem interesting. During the first two weeks, you have the so-called add/drop period. You can attend classes and check out if they are interesting. You can drop them if you don't like them and you can add some courses that you check out in person. Note that there are some waiting lists for popular courses if they are full, so be on time!

Academic quality of education:

HKUST is highly ranked on multiple ranking. It also really depends on the faculty. The quality of education is the same or a little worse compared to Utrecht University. That doesn't mean that you can't find challenging courses. Depending on your curriculum you can make it as hard as you want by following a lot of third and fourth year courses.

Counselling/support at host institution:

It did not need much support from the host university, but I did get a buddy, which is a local student. I saw her once during the whole semester as our scheduled often did not align.

Transfer of credits:

The transfer of credits went through effortlessly. Note that some higher-year courses may be graded as a first-level course at Utrecht University, so if you really need the higher-level ones, I



would try to make sure that you have those.

### **Student life**

Welcome/orientation programme:

The orientation programme lasted only three days. In those three days, we got a welcome speech, welcome reception with drinks and food provided, some tours through the campus and nearby town and a tour to the IKEA to get your sleeping necessities.

Accommodation:

HKUST is a campus university, so you will most probably live on the campus, if you are not too late with the application for a room. If you do not get a room on campus, you have to find something for yourself, which get really expensive real fast, since HK has one of the most expensive real-estate prices.

Leisure/culture:

In my leisure time, I went to explore the city with friends, have drinks together, go travelling or go out. The city has enough to offer, even if you don't want to travel during your semester abroad. There are many islands, hikes, forests, towns and tourists hotspots to check out. Many events take place in the city throughout the year. For drinks and going out, Lan Kwai Fong is the place to be. The clubs are all nearby and you are able to meet a lot of new people over there. Wan Chai, SoHo and Tsim Sha Shui are also places to party, but Lan Kwai Fong is the most popular one under internationals.

Suggestions/tips:

I would strongly recommend you to socialize during the orientation programme and in the first two weeks. Don't sweat about not being able to find friends or being alone. Everyone just arrived and are looking for people to hang out with. Try to introduce yourself to as many people as possible and you will see if you click with that person or that group. So join the tours, the welcome reception and all the other things where people get together. After a couple of weeks, people have established their groups, which means that it will be much harder to find people.

### **Conclusions**

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I would highly recommend Hong Kong and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Hong Kong is a vibrant, modern and highly populated city. It is nothing compared to Utrecht, Amsterdam or other European cities. If you are looking for a new experience and indulge yourself in a new culture, Hong Kong is the place to be. As one of the best universities of Hong Kong, HKUST is really recommended for business or technology students. Also, if you are majoring in something else, this university has still enough to offer. It was only founded in 1991, but is already a leading university in certain fields.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

I would not hesitate to apply to this university. If you are looking to challenge yourself academically you are at the right place. If you want to enjoy yourself besides studies, Hong Kong is also the place to be. Join random hikes, go out, see places and enjoy the food, there is really nothing to lose. Honestly, I would advise you to study abroad anywhere, even if it's Belgium or Germany. But how often do you get to chance to live and study in Hong Kong?



Can students contact you for additional info? If so, please write down how they can get in touch with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)

For additional questions or if you want to get persuaded into applying, you can contact me

Contact info available at IO

### **Contact details Student Services / International Office**

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## UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	Faculty of Geosciences
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD
Name degree programme:	Earth sciences

Destination city & country	Hong Kong
Name host institution	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	01-09-2017
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	19-12-2017

### Preparation

#### Exchange/placement application process:

Even though there was a lot of information to be handed in and forms to be filled out, the application process at HKUST was quite easy and self-explanatory. There is an specific web-page here you can log on to, and fill in all the forms and follow your application status. Everything was divided in different steps and spread out over a longer period of time. If you have any questions about the application, you can always email HKUST, who are very helpful.

#### Counselling/support at Utrecht University:

Before the exchange there will be a pre-departure meeting with all students going to all universities in Hong Kong and students who have already went on exchange. I would strongly advise to visit this meeting, and socialize with the other students as you will probably meet them in Hong Kong as well.

#### Academic preparation:

I had no specific academic preparation.

#### Language preparation:

I had no specific language preparation. Most courses are taught in english, which for me was already the case at UU. Everyone in Hong Kong you come into contact with most (teachers, taxi drivers, shopassistents, waiters, etc.) know enough English to communicate.

#### Finances:

The UU and HKUST already made an estimation of what your spendings were going to be, and





these estimations were accurate. Of course, in Hong Kong they use the Hong Kong Dollar. I took a credit card (ING studenten creditcard), and I had my regular bank card, which I could use to get money at most ATM's. I would advise to bring a credit card, as this might come in handy if any problems occur.

#### **Study abroad period**

Study programme (concerning content and organisational issues):

It is easy to find courses and sign up for them. This is all explained during the signing up process. You can find the courses, descriptions, credits and time slots online. You can plan your own days, as you can choose the courses and classes with the most favourable time slots. To sign up for Chinese language courses, you need to email the teacher to get accepted, because there is a high demand for these courses. It will take some time to get accepted in these courses. I heard I could follow the course when the lectures had already started. I took courses on Mandarin language, biodiversity, ecology and energy resources and usage.

Academic quality of education:

HKUST has a high position in most academic rankings. Especially the engineering and economics departments have a high prestige. The other departments are of a very high quality as well. My experience is that the teachers tend to take more time explaining the matter and go through the information quite slow, whereas at the UU, teachers explain everything faster, and there is more home-studying needed. Most courses are in English, but there is a small possibility that the teacher's english is not that great. However, it is unlikely you will fail a course because because of that.

Counselling/support at host institution:

For information you can always email the international student office of HKUST. If you are having problems with transitioning and need more counselling or professional help, HKUST does provide counseling with psychologists.

Transfer of credits:

The transfer of credits took some time, but went smooth. HKUST sends a copy to both the UU and your home address. After 1-2 months, you can pick up the copy send to the international office of the UU, and bring this to your own department, where it will be transferred by the examination board. This can also take some time. Your personal copy takes longer to arrive.

#### **Student life**

Welcome/orientation programme:

The university organized welcome events. They started off with a presentation about life on campus and explaining all practical matter. They organised a collective dinner, tours of the campus, a collective dinner, a cultural and touristic tour through the city, trips to Ikea for bed linen, a buddy program and a lot more.

Accommodation:

You can sign up for accommodation on and off campus. On campus, HKUST has 9 buildings, or halls, for student housing, and off campus they have got halls as well. You will probably get a room you share with another student. You can give your preference for the student to be a local student, an international student, or an international student that may come from your home country. The



rooms are not very spacious, but they do the job. You get a bed, desk, closet and a shared refrigerator. All rooms have a ceiling fan and air conditioning. The air conditioning has to be paid for, but it is cheap. In some halls, you get your own restroom and shower you share with one other room (so with 4 persons in total). Other halls have shared restrooms and showers, shared with the whole floor. All halls have their own laundry facilities. I stayed on campus in hall 3. I shared my room with another Dutch student from UU, who was a really nice roommate. it felt good to share your experiences in Dutch, and have someone to talk to. Even though you share your room with someone else, it is also really easy to just do your own thing. Our hall had shared bathrooms and showers. I would rather have had my own bathroom, but it was ok to live with shared bathrooms.

Leisure/culture:

There are a lot of fun things to do on and off campus in your spare time. The campus offers several moderate restaurants, a big canteen and a smaller canteen, which is well suited for hanging out and socializing with friends. On campus, there are many facilities for sporting. Among others, they have a gym, indoor and outdoor pool, football field, a track, basketball fields, badminton, etcetera. There is a mall in the small village near the campus (Hang Hao) with several dining options for when you've had enough of the cafeteria food (what you will have after a few months). Going to Hong Kong takes some effort, as you'll have to take a bus to Hang Hao and from there the subway. If you're going with more people, you can also split a cab. There are endless things to do in Hong Kong. Hong Kong also has a lot of nature, far more than you would expect from a metropolis. I would advise you to do the hike to the 'Suicide Cliff', go to beach and neighbouring pools where you can go cliff-jumping. The cliff looks high, but it is worth it! Also, make sure to plan trips abroad. I went to Macau and Taipei (Taiwan). Many others also visited mainland China, Japan, Cambodia, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia.

Suggestions/tips:

Talk to everyone you see and try to meet as many people. My experience is that you can start talking to every other exchange student as an exchange student yourself. Knowing many people will make the whole experience more special. If you are planning on crossing the border with China Shenzhen by train, you cannot get a visa on arrival if your passport is less than 1 year old. Then you'll have to get a visa at the consulate. If you've got your passport for longer than 1 year, you should be fine. I had to find this out the hard way...

**Conclusions**

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I would definitely recommend HKUST! Of course every exchange experience is destined to be amazing, with every location having their own distinct characters. HKUST has an amazing, modern campus on a location that literally looks like a postcard from a tropical resort. I am a down to earth guy, but I was still amazed by the view every time i stepped outside. This will be accompanied by an awesome community of international students from all over the world with whom you will become friends for life. Hong Kong is the culinary capital of the world, with the best food from all over Asia. Everything I just told doesn't even scratch the surface of how cool an exchange to HKUST is, so please go there yourself and experience it yourself!

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:



Can students contact you for additional info? If so, please write down how they can get in touch with you (e-mail, Facebook, Instagram etc)

Feel free to contact me with any questions. Contact info available at IO.



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Geosciences
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Science and innovation management

Destination city & country	Hongkong, (China)
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	HKUST, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	30-08-2016
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	27-01-2017

### Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

Application went online through the website of [mystudyabroad.ust.hk](http://mystudyabroad.ust.hk). Sometimes new information was required and I received an email when this was the case. Sometimes it took a bit long before I received information about the exchange but eventually everything will end up fine, you just have to be a bit patient.

Counselling/support at home university:

I had an urgent question once and got handled fast by the emergency line.

Academic preparation:

I didn't prepare for my courses. Bought the books over there in the bookshop. Was only 5 euro for my Chinese workbook. I didn't need books for my other courses.

Language preparation:

Didn't prepare, thought my English level was good enough and it was.

Finances:

Saved some money before going.

### Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

A lot of students heard that they did not get placed in the classes they wanted and had to choose other classes. I never had this problem, I directly got placed in the classes. Maybe it was because I directly submitted the courses I wanted to attend when it became available. So, I would recommend to directly submit your courses when registration opens.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

I was quite surprised about the high participation in most classes. I was not used to this and was



positively surprised. Classes were easy to pass with a C, but difficult to get a high grade like an A.
Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:
Received all kind of information folders the first few days at HKUST. Some were useful and some were not. Eventually I found out how most things worked by just doing it or asking someone.
Transfer of credits:
Received the letter with my grades by regular mail (few months after my last exam in HK). Let them scan in at the geoscience student affair and in a few weeks my grades were in Osiris.
<b>Student life</b>
Welcome/orientation programme:
There were so many societies at HKUST, from sports to arts to business to country specific. They all hosted something. I went to a boat party with the I think south-east Asia society. Didn't join the society but the boat party was fun. The first weeks I was there all the exchange people met up at the bbq spot left from the swimming pool to get to know each other.
Accommodation:
I was placed in Hall 3. Placement is random. The rooms were small and you share it with someone else. I shared it with a German roommate and we became friends for life. I had the choice on the mystudyabroad system between a local and non-local. I was doubting between a local and non-local roommate. But now I am so happy I choose a non-local roommate. Non local roommates also want to explore the city and see new things while the locals stay in most of the time. (Of course there are exceptions for both)
Leisure/culture:
There are many societies like I mentioned earlier. One time I received an email about a dinner at a local family for exchange students. I participated in it and it was fun. Always check your hkust student mail for things coming up and join some of them, most of them are free anyway. Furthermore the city centre is also something you shouldn't miss. Most of the time we went by public transport to the city centre and when we wanted to go back we shared a taxi (around 18 euro for 4 persons) I also travelled to some countries when we had long weekends off (Japan, Korea, Thailand) would really recommend to travel a bit to also see some other cultures from Asia.
Suggestions/tips:
Get a local sim, get a student octopus, make sure you have multiple bankcards. Horseraces on Wednesday evening are really fun only sometimes they are at another place so check the schedule before you go there.
<b>Conclusions</b>
Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:
Yes I had the best time studying at HKUST. Also learned a lot of course.
Do you have any additional advice or comments?:
No

## Contact details Student Services / International Office

Visitors' address: Bestuursgebouw, Heidelberglaan 6, Utrecht



**Universiteit Utrecht**

+31-(0)30-253 7000

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## UU Study Abroad Report Form

Family name:	xxx
First name:	xxx
Student number:	xxx
Faculty/college:	FSW
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Psychologie

Destination city & country	Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	27/01/2016
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	15/08/2016

### Preparation

#### Exchange/placement application process:

The application process for to study at the HKUST went smoothly, simply apply and wait for all the information to arrive at your own home! You get to decide whether or not you would like a local, Chinese or exchange roommate (yes you have a roommate) and also get the option of signing up for an exchange-buddy who, if you are lucky will show you around Hong Kong in the first week. After this it's just a matter of finding out which courses you would like to follow and get the UU to accept these courses. Be warned though, most courses change throughout different semesters.

#### Counselling/support at home university:

As the process is very straightforward a few correspondences with the UU exchange office will be sufficient.

#### Academic preparation:

Considering that you will be staying at a very different university with different rules which could be really frustrating and stressful is a definite must. Although I would recommend anyone to go it is important to understand that there will be many times where you will feel out of control or left alone by the system. Don't worry though, you will learn the system fast enough. Examples: grading system, housing system, lecture system, whole semester courses, and so forth.



Language preparation:

Before I left I tried to learn a little bit of Mandarin as I would also take a Mandarin course at the University there. Don't expect this to be of any help though as the general population of Hong Kong speaks Cantonese which is very (very) different! None the less every little bit of general sign language and Mandarin is helpful!

Finances:

On average I spend the amount of 25-35 euro's a day. This sounds like a lot but it includes trips to Taiwan x2, China, and Thailand, my flight here and back, food, new technological accessories and so on.

**Study/placement abroad period**

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

My study programme consisted of 5 courses which accounts for 5x6 ect's, some are easy, some are hard. All of them were fun. Fortunately you get 2 weeks of try-out time where it is easy to switch courses. Most courses consist of lectures only but some, such as Mandarin are group-work only. The hardest about this is the computer system you will be unknown with, it's not easy but a few hours of trying should be enough. If not the different course-offices are more than willing to help. Most information is gathered through other exchange students though.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The academic quality of education is highly dependent on the course, some I found were very high in quality, others not so much.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

Counselling at the HKUST is probably easy to get however I have not made use of it.

Transfer of credits:

As the HKUST works with grades from A to F it can get a little annoying to transfer but in general a D is a marginal pas (5.5) and most courses give you 3 study credits, which back in Europe account for 6 etc's each.

**Student life**

Welcome/orientation programme:

The welcome programme is, as any welcome programme, awkward. This is where everybody meets, stands around and tries to see who they will probably hang out with a lot, don't worry too much. All your friends will probably change at least once over the course of the semester. Just enjoy all of it. The HKUST prepared a few city and culture-trips for us but also made sure we had some original Hong Kong food. I had to discover the University myself.

Accommodation:

Accommodation here is highly dependent on your assigned hall. I have heard some horror-stories about 6 people on room and so forth but since you are an exchange, chances are that you will be assigned a nice 2 person room in one of the newer buildings. This doesn't mean that your roommate will not invite friends or have his girlfriend move in permanently but that just adds to the experience. Expect a highly functional room where air-conditioning and ventilation is everything. The student halls are usually a long walk from the lecture buildings so prepare for a nice uphill morning walk!





Leisure/culture:

One of the things I have learned is that time, however busy you may be, will pass way too fast! Make use of every minute you have! Money, weather and even grades do not really matter anymore when you are 3 days away from having to return home with at least another semester of things to do! You cannot do it all, but seriously, do as much as you can. Go Hiking, travelling, eat something weird or just wander around this immensely interesting, crazy busy, but most of all beautiful city, enter random buildings and just walk all the way to the roof, you will find the most weird things on your way there, this city is built vertically, not horizontally so get climbing!

Suggestions/tips:

Travel! Most of it is cheap if you plan it right and it will be the coolest thing to do here, don't worry about forgetting specific things from back home, this is Hong Kong, just buy it here or on the road, it is cheaper anyway! Don't be afraid to just walk into the most weird looking places, this city as said before is built vertically meaning that a lot of cool stuff will most likely be happening somewhere halfway a very sketchy looking, windowless and smelly building, just go! Welcome to the fragrant harbour.

**Conclusions**

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Yes, because this city will give you whatever you need.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Get excited!

**Contact details Student Services / International Office**

Visitors' address: Bestuursgebouw, Heidelberglaan 6, Utrecht

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[www.uu.nl/students/exchange](http://www.uu.nl/students/exchange)



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Geesteswetenschappen
Level:	<input type="checkbox"/> bachelor
Name degree programme:	Liberal Arts & Sciences

Destination city & country	Hong Kong
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Chinese University of Hong Kong
Purpose of exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> study/courses
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	31/08/2015
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	17/01/2016

### Preparation

#### Exchange/placement application process:

The process seems more work than it actually is. This doesn't mean it's little work though, as it is important to get everything done on time and prepare for a long wait. I was only told that I was accepted by the Chinese University of Hong Kong halfway through June, which made everything feel a little chaotic. Also, CUHK stated to not take students with an average lower than 7/10. My average was about 6,8 and it wasn't an issue. Possibly due my letter or recommendation, possibly because it just isn't as important as they portray it to be.

#### Counselling/support at home university:

I got in touch with Sahra, the coordinator for Asia just a few times. She was very helpful and even if she didn't know the answer to my question she helped me find people who did. I did not make use of counselling so I cannot share an opinion about that, but for general questions the contact with UU was really easy. For example, we had to send our acceptance letter through the mail instead of e-mail, which was quite a hassle, but the UU helped us sort it out to make sure everything was done in time.

#### Academic preparation:

I did not prepare academically, at least nothing different than I would at home. Before leaving we had to sign up for our courses, which was a little complicated as there was an immense amount of choice but not all courses could actually be signed up for through internet. In the end the courses I wrote on my studyplan weren't even all on the list. But as there was so much choice, it wasn't an issue at all.

#### Language preparation:

English and Cantonese are the main languages in Hong Kong, but there is no need to prepare for speaking Cantonese.



**Finances:**

Hong Kong was expensive, and I felt like I had not realized this properly before leaving. Yes, the housing on campus is cheap and canteen food is ok priced as well, but things like groceries and taxi's as well as going out is expensive and something to consider when looking in to your financial situation. I saved up money, received support from my parents and had a loan during my semester.

**Study/placement abroad period**

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

CUHK is relatively well organized. I signed up for 6 classes even though I only had to take 5, and got all six classes. That being said, some students only got assigned one preference course (mostly business and economics students). They had to find new courses, which seemed stressful for them. There is a 2 week period in which you can take all classes you want and try to switch to other classes if necessary which was really nice. They are very slow with giving back grades though. I received back all my midterm essay grades less than a week before the final essays were due, meaning that it is basically impossible to improve greatly for your next assignment.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

When it comes to the assignments themselves, I felt that a lot of the assignments were comparable with the ones I would be writing at the UU. I took a first year course which was so extremely hard I almost failed it, and I took fourth year courses that seemed comparable to the third year courses at UU. My conclusion about this is that it differs (greatly) per class and that it is smart to ask around on the facebook pages what peoples experiences are with these classes. One major difference between the UU and CUHK is that during tutorials in Utrecht everyone engages so it is important that you read all the readings for that week. In Hong Kong a group of students would give a presentation and you would only engage by asking questions, meaning that you didn't necessarily have to prepare as well as at home. Also, I have received my final grades, meaning the grades I scored for the entire course, but I never received information on what I scored for a certain test or essay specifically (after the mid-terms). I emailed my teachers about it and they did reply, but looking in to you mistakes is not a thing here and I got no extra information on why I received a specific grade.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

I have not made use of any counselling in Hong Kong, but there was an international office open on weekdays where you could walk in and talk to your coordinator about any possible issues.

Transfer of credits:

The transfer of credits hasn't taken place yet.

**Student life**

Welcome/orientation programme:

The orientation programme isn't great. It seemed like we had a full programme but we ended up having a lot of time to ourselves. Though there is a city tour and a dinner, as well as a welcoming speech.

Accommodation:

Accommodation quality depends greatly on your "college", which is the building you stay in. In



general, expect a down-grade from your Dutch accommodation. It wasn't great but it wasn't bad either. Just be sure to not have extremely high expectations. They do clean the communal areas several times a week so it is clean. My flat in I-house (which is probably the worst building to be in quality wise, but the best one to be in socially), had 12 girls, 6 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms and a kitchen/living.

Leisure/culture:

CUHK is a place where you can get to know people of so many different backgrounds, but do realize that it is not an 'international university' it is a Chinese university with international students. What this means is that Hong Kong people are not friends with mainlanders and exchange students tend to have a hard time becoming true friends with locals. I made so many new friends from different countries, but when it came to locals I knew some but I wasn't as close with them as with exchange students. Leisure wise, Hong Kong is amazing, there is so much to do you will never get bored. CUHK is a little far out of central, about 40 minutes. But it is green and quiet, which is definitely worth the 40 minute MTR ride to the city as you can always choose to be in the chaos or the quiet.

Suggestions/tips:

Suggestions: be sure to check that the classes you sign up for are in English and not Cantonese. Do not expect local students to speak better English than yourself, as this is rarely the case. Also, don't hesitate to become friends with locals. They are a little tough to socialize with at times, and they seem very scared of having an opinion in class. In my experience I got along great with my local group, only to find out later that they thought I was intimidating. This shocked me a little as I honestly did not realize it, but I then understood that at home it is very normal for everyone to take initiative and yell their opinions, whereas in Hong Kong people are not used to it. You might not always agree on how things go in Hong Kong, but take into account that you are a guest in their country and their home university, so try to understand why locals think and act in a certain way. And definitely don't hesitate to ask them questions.

## Conclusions

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I would definitely recommend CUHK to every single student. Obviously not everything was perfect, as it won't be at a single university. But CUHK gave me the semester of my life. There are about 600 exchange students, creating an international community, which can help make your time in Hong Kong amazing. The climate is great, going from around 34 to 10 degrees through the semester. There are a lot of international teachers and generally it is well organized.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

Ask students who went to CUHK specific questions if you have them. They know the most about the university and can help you out!



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Faculty Medicine
Level:	bachelor
Name degree programme:	Biomedical Sciences

Destination city & country	Hong Kong, China
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Purpose of exchange	<input type="checkbox"/> study/courses
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	28/08/2014
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	28/01/2015

**You are requested to write on the following topics.**

Text boxes will expand automatically while typing.

### Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The exchange process is very well guided by the host university. They'll send you the necessary documents and counselling when needed. If you still have questions or problems, you can send them an email. I was really surprised how good everything was organized.

Counselling/support at home university:

Not bad. Since the administration at HKUST was much faster than the other universities in Asia most of the information given by the university was too late. If we had questions the counsellors could help us, so it was not really a problem.

Academic preparation:

Not much. Most of the courses I wanted to take at HKUST, fit perfectly in my bachelor.

Language preparation:

None. They teach in English.

Finances:

The university in HK send me a estimate of how much everything was going to cost. I estimated that it will probably cost a little more. I spend around 700 eu per month included rent.

### Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

As you can read in the next part, I had some problems with the courses I wanted to follow. Except for that, they gave a lot of guidance in what kind of courses you can follow. They even have a 2 week tryout for what kind of courses you can follow. You sign up for the course and if you don't like it you can drop it within the two weeks and follow another course. Other questions can be answered



by specific guidance advisors, which will be available.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

Business and Computer science is pretty good. The BMS field is OK, I was a

Fourth year student when I got there, and most of the courses they gave I already did back at UU.

During the sign up for courses before going there, they offered 3 courses I was interested in taking.

But when I got there these courses were not giving anymore. So, it is highly recommended to send a E-mail about which courses are most likely to be giving during your stay.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

When you sign up for the University, you have to fill

paperwork that says in which area of expertise you are in. Science, Business etc. When you need to know things about courses, they can help you. Other questions about the university or paperwork you can go to the information desks. If that not works, you can ask your buddy for a specific person who can help.

Transfer of credits:

6 ECTS per Course. You can follow 5 courses per term.

### **Student life**

Welcome/orientation programme:

After you signed up for the university, they give you a buddy. This buddy can help you with questions on what to do when you arrive what to bring etc etc. Most of the buddies picked exchange students up from the airport. The university also gives a lot of guidance the first week after your arrival from information about how the term is going to be and a tour around hong kong on the first Sunday.

Accommodation:

There is a campus where most exchange students will be placed. You can also chose to go off campus. The university also helps with off campus accommodation but i don't know more about it. The campus accommodation is pretty standard. You share a room with a roommate(s), depending where you get placed. There is no possibility to cook, because there are multiple canteens on campus.

Leisure/culture:

It is pretty western. The best i can describe it is, western asia, since it is my eyes a perfect mix between what we know and like and asia. Personally i did not really have a culture shock.

Suggestions/tips:

Enjoy.

### **Conclusions**

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

Yes, Everything was pretty good guided. Beautiful environment, nice people, perfect campus and a awesome experience.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:



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### **Contact details Student Services / International Office**

Visitors' address: Bestuursgebouw, Heidelberglaan 6, Utrecht

+31-(0)30-253 7000

[exchange@qdesk.uu.nl](mailto:exchange@qdesk.uu.nl) (information) / [verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl](mailto:verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl) (report)

[www.uu.nl/students/exchange](http://www.uu.nl/students/exchange)



## UU Study Abroad Report Form

Faculty/college:	Science (Computer Science)
Level:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor <input type="checkbox"/> master <input type="checkbox"/> PhD <input type="checkbox"/> other
Name degree programme:	Gametechnology

Destination city & country	Hong Kong, China
Name host institution and/or company/organisation	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Purpose of exchange	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> study/courses <input type="checkbox"/> work placement <input type="checkbox"/> field work <input type="checkbox"/> other
Departure date (dd/mm/yyyy)	26/08/2014
Return date (dd/mm/yyyy)	26/01/2015

**You are requested to write on the following topics.**

Text boxes will expand automatically while typing.

### Preparation

Exchange/placement application process:

The application process was not difficult, it is just a lot of paper work. And when I say a lot of paper work I mean a huge pile of paper work. The forms however were straight forward and not that difficult to fill out.

Counselling/support at home university:

The support from UU abroad office was great, responses to e-mails were quick, and the information given to me by one of the former abroad students in personal conversations was a real big help aswell.

Academic preparation:

Checking available courses and their general information was easy, however I would have liked a little more in-depth information about the courses.

Language preparation:

Nothing special done for this since the main language of communication was going to be English.

Finances:

Used mostly my student grant & loan, and had some saved up money as a backup.

### Study/placement abroad period

Study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues):

This was somewhat bothersome at times but it all worked out in the end. First problem was I had to take at least one course in the School of Science, but my major Computer Science, was in the School of Engineering, while at UU this is not the case. I took an entry level course in Physics, called Introduction to Astronomy and Astrophysics, and this solved that problem. Then we however



came to the next problem, which was HKUST had no idea I had followed any Computer Sciences courses at home, so for both Computer Science courses I wanted to enrol in I had to get special permission from the teacher of the course in question, providing proof I had done the pre-requisite courses, and this was done before placement in a class with limited places, so this created some tension but luckily I was still placed in both Courses. Finally I would recommend taking an entry course in either Chinese History or Chinese Language, since it helped me and my fellow exchange students appreciate the culture a lot more.

Academic quality of education/placement activities:

The quality of the education was great, considering I was doing three entry level courses, in fields I had no experience with, and actually picked up a lot. The two C.S. courses were well explained and fun, if not that hard. The history teacher was the only one hard to understand half the time because of his accent. The other teachers spoke English quite well if still somewhat accented. One last thing, I feel that exams are done quite differently at HKUST in comparison to UU, resting more on cramming in every fact as opposed to actually understanding what is happening, but that might just be the courses I chose.

Counselling/support at host institution/organisation:

There was little of this apart from the help I got once or twice from the student office.

Transfer of credits:

Transfer of credits was quite easy, I had it approved and then handed it in at the office at UU.

## Student life

Welcome/orientation programme:

I had an exchange buddy appointed, who picked me up at the airport and brought me with busses to the campus, she was nice and explained some things about Hong Kong, after this I never saw her again. The welcome programme was also nice and took us to some places around Hong Kong, such as a temple and the big Buddha. My welcome was also helped by a friendly international full-time student at HKUST, who showed me and some new made exchange friends around the campus and took us to Ikea to buy some much needed bedding for the rooms. Apart from this the best part welcome was made when we went partying the first night in Lan Kwai Fong with a big heap of other exchange students.

Accommodation:

The room was not big, and there was almost no privacy seeing as you sleep with someone else in your room. It is however big enough to sleep and use your computer in, and you should not be spending your time there while in Hong Kong, because there is far too much to see and do while you are there. The view from the balcony of my floor was simply amazing looking right at the sea.

Leisure/culture:

The local students are mostly the hard working no nonsense types and seem to have little interest in exchange students, however if you approach them first and talk to them you will find that almost all of them are really friendly and would love to hang out with an exchange student. The locals however don't enjoy the night life that much, and don't really party as far as I could tell, this however shouldn't stop you as the night life in Hong Kong is amazing, with hundreds of other internationals and some locals. Apart from all this there is a lot more to do in Hong Kong, awesome

sites to see, hikes to do, parts of the city to visit.

Suggestions/tips:

First suggestion is get involved in some kind of local group at the university, even if you are only in it for a little while, you can make great local friends.

If you have a day off and don't know what to do, go in to the city, take the metro and get off at a random stop where you have never been before and just explore.

Whenever you have a longer period of time off, visit a different country somewhere in Asia, look at flight offers, you can get them really cheap.

Join in every activity that is organized for exchange students, as most of them are a lot of fun.

Finally I would advise to get a small group of likeminded exchange students and travel after the semester is done, I did this and I will never forget that trip and experience.

### **Conclusions**

Would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? Please explain:

I would definitely recommend this destination to others, and have been to be honest. The half year in Hong Kong was one of the best times of my life and definitely a time I will never forget in my life. I still miss Hong Kong sometimes now that I'm back in the Netherlands.

Do you have any additional advice or comments?:

If there are any questions that you, the reader/upcoming exchange student, think I could answer, please feel free to ask the exchange desk for my contact information.

### **Contact details Student Services / International Office**

Visitors' address: Bestuursgebouw, Heidelberglaan 6, Utrecht

+31-(0)30-253 7000

[exchange@qdesk.uu.nl](mailto:exchange@qdesk.uu.nl) (information) / [verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl](mailto:verslagen.internationaloffice@uu.nl) (report)

[www.uu.nl/students/exchange](http://www.uu.nl/students/exchange)