



## The Chinese University of Hong Kong

2022 – 2023

<b>PREPARATION</b>	
exchange application process	In my experience the exchange application process was easy to follow due to the information that I could find on the students.uu website. On the website I could find all the information that I needed for the exchange application process.
counselling & support at Utrecht University	I received good counselling and support at Utrecht University. The exchange presentation given at the University gave me more clarity about what an exchange is supposed to be and if it was something that I would be interested in. I also found the support that I got from the international exchange office quite useful, they were very helpful when I had some unclarities concerning the application process.
academic preparation	I would say that the academic preparation that I received at Utrecht University was good enough for understanding the economics courses given at CUHK. I feel like the course load and difficulty at UU is harder than in Hongkong.
language preparation	All the courses that I followed were in given in English, so I had no problems with understanding the courses. Outside campus most people also speak a decent amount on English and because of that I had no difficulties concerning the language.
finances	Life in Hongkong is quite expensive, therefor I would recommend anyone planning on going there to have enough money, especially if you're planning on doing a lot of fun activities. I would also recommend applying for the Holland Scholarship since you can get a decent amount of money from the Dutch government for going on exchange there, and extra money is always useful!

<b>STUDY ABROAD PERIOD</b>	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	Depending on the courses the study programme can be very similar as well as very different than the study programme at UU. For the more general economics courses the study programme is very similar to UU, with similar course loads and topics. For more Hongkong specific courses the course load will be similar to UU but the topics will be different which makes these courses quite interesting. I would say that the courses in Hongkong tend to be a little less difficult than the courses given at UU although this can of course vary with courses.
academic quality of education activities	the academic quality of education activities will be very similar to that of UU. The lecturers tend to be very knowledgeable concerning their courses and are happy to answer any questions you have. Courses in Hongkong tend to be less focused on tutorials though, so if you encounter any problems concerning the topics addressed in class your best bet will be to either ask the lecturer after class on to send an email.



counselling & support at receiving university abroad

Just like the academic quality the counselling and support will be very similar to UU. I would say that it is almost identical. If you encounter any problems, you can always check blackboard and otherwise you can send an email to one of the lecturers or tutors (who tend to be quicker with a response compared to UU).

transfer of credits

In Hongkong you don't earn credits, but you'll earn units. Most courses award 3 units per completed course. 1 unit is equal to 2 ECTS so for most courses you will get 6 ECTS once completed, off course this may vary between courses. The transfer of credits was well organized, the only thing I had to do was email my results to the board of examiners so that my units could be transferred into ECTS.

**STUDENT LIFE**

welcome & orientation programme

My welcome and orientation programme was mostly online because at that time there were still quite some covid measures still active in Hongkong. But because most of these measures have been scrapped by now, I expect the welcome and orientation programme to change from what I experienced. Because of that I don't think that my experience will reflect the current welcome and orientation programme.

accommodation

The accommodation where I stayed was on the CUHK campus, as such you will meet a lot of fellow exchange and local students. Living on a campus took a little while to get used to but it is quite nice. Everything you'll need you can find on campus so you shouldn't experience any difficulties concerning accommodation.

leisure & culture

Hongkong offers a rich culture and lots of leisure activities. It is impossible to be bored there. Every day there will be a host of activities organized by fellow students, either inside or outside campus. One of the first things I would recommend anyone to do is to check out the impressive Hongkong skyline from The Avenue of Stars. You'll certainly not have difficulties with finding fun activities to do!

suggestions/tips

I don't have a lot of suggestions or tips concerning this exchange. If you choose to go on this exchange, you'll have the time of your life! The only tips I have is to enjoy the exchange because it's over before you know it and to bring a jacket because the winter nights in Hongkong can be quite cold.

**CONCLUSIONS**

would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain

I would wholeheartedly recommend this exchange destination. I had the time of my life in Hongkong, I have met amazing people and witnessed beautiful cultures while I was there. I have learned some interesting things during my courses that I had there, and I feel like I have grown more as a person due to the exchange. But most importantly, I had a lot of fun!

do you have any additional advice or comments?

My advice would be to choose to go on exchange to this amazing location.



<b>PREPARATION</b>
Exchange application process at Utrecht University
Start application on Osiris, fill in all the information required, choose two to three desired exchange university, hand in motivation letter for the first choice.
Counselling & support at Utrecht University
University had support me with recommendation letter that helped me get in to my second choice; university also support me with recommendation letter for my first choice, but I was not eligible for the first choice, thus I got the second one.
Academic preparation
Hand in the transcript to the exchange university, they will check whether you are eligible or not, if not you will need to prepare a recommendation letter from one of the professors in the university.
Language preparation
In Hong Kong, better prepare to learn Cantonese for daily conversation, but for classes or have a conversation with teachers or students English will be enough. Some classes are taught in Cantonese, so will have to be careful when choosing courses.
Finances (living costs)
In Chinese University of Hong Kong, they will provide you an accommodation, which costs around 1000 euros for the whole semester, the rest of the living cost is around 1000 euros per month. The food in campus is cheap, but it is much expensive outside the campus.

<b>Study period abroad /About the host university</b>
Study programme (content and organisational issues at partner)
International Asia Studies Programme
Academic quality of education activities
The Chinese University of Hong Kong education quality is very high, teachers and teaching assistants are always happy to give help, gives all the material that are helpful and answers all the questions, in a course students complained about the way of teaching, the teacher immediately adjusted the teaching load. Information and resources relating to teaching and learning at CUHK can all be found in this website. Lot of libraries in the campus, so there are a lot of place to study, the University Library opens for 24 hours, so you can study until whenever you want.
Counselling & support at receiving university abroad (before and during your stay)
The exchange university had guide me how to do all the preparation work, how to apply for visa, and always answers my questions very quickly no matter before or during my stay.
Transfer of credits

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
Welcome/Orientation programme
Accommodation
Depending on which college you will be assigned to, some are close to the campus, and some are far away. It



will be a double room, kitchen, restroom, and washing machines are all in public use.
Leisure & culture
Lot of foods and museums to discover, Hong Kong itself and university will provide you all kinds of activity, also because it is mostly covered by green, so one of the big hobbies here is hiking.
Suggestions/tips (need to know)
Get an octopus card, that can be used almost everywhere.

<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain why (or not)
I will recommend CUHK, because of its high quality of education, and the study atmosphere, university and your college will provide you as much activity as they can, activities about future career, culture, studies, interns and also activities to take care of mental health.
Do you have any additional advice or comments?



<b>PREPARATION</b>
Exchange application process at Utrecht University
The application process is drawn out and there are many applicants.
Counselling & support at Utrecht University
Actively communicate with the instructor in the help desk.
Academic preparation
My score was higher than 6.5 when I applied, but when I took Chinese classes in Hong Kong, I discovered that the difficulty between level 3 and level 4 courses varied depending on the major. The course selection process should be careful because the SQL course I selected required a foundation in programming.
Language preparation
English, Chinese, and Cantonese are the available languages.
Finances (living costs)
12,000 Hong Kong dollars for six months.

<b>Study period abroad /About the host university</b>
Study programme (content and organisational issues at partner)
Nicely arranged
Academic quality of education activities
In general, the courses are of high quality, the workload is heavy, and the amount of study time is minimal.
Counselling & support at receiving university abroad (before and during your stay)
The institution responds to emails right away (almost every working day)
Transfer of credits
To transfer credits, it is best to look at the courses taken by previous students. Our institution will ask to choose your courses first, and then make a standardization of your chose courses.

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
Welcome/Orientation programme
You can meet more than 170 international students there
Accommodation
The lodging setting is quite noisy; there are two people per room in a communal dormitory.
Leisure & culture
There are many extracurricular activities and restaurants at every college.
Suggestions/tips (need to knows)
You always need an Octopus card pay for your meal and don't forget to complete the check-out application for your apartment.



<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>	
Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain why (or not)	
Yes, I advise it. Hong Kong has high academic resources that are concentrated due to its status as a global metropolis. Hong Kong is a hub for gourmet food from all over the world while also having a vibrant and rich way of life. The majority of students at the school are Asian, and there are numerous extracurricular activities but sporadic school holidays. The curriculum is interesting, the population is dense, and the academic pressure is high, but you can frequently hear the teachers' lovely Hong Kong English.	
Do you have any additional advice or comments?	



<b>PREPARATION</b>
Exchange application process at Utrecht University
See in the UU website <a href="https://students.uu.nl/en/leg/economics-and-business-economics/study-programme/study-abroad/exchange-programme">https://students.uu.nl/en/leg/economics-and-business-economics/study-programme/study-abroad/exchange-programme</a>
Counselling & support at Utrecht University
UU will send email with related lectures and detailed instructions when applying for the exchange
Academic preparation
Average Grade should above 6.5
Language preparation
Teaching language is English, communication skills of Cantonese and Mandarin could be plus
Finances (living costs)
about 1000 eur

<b>Study period abroad /About the host university</b>
Study programme (content and activities/conditions issues at partner)
IASP Exchange Program
Academic quality of education activities
Very high. Especially for the data science and computer science are very impressive for me.
Counselling & support at receiving university abroad (before and during your stay)
Transfer of credits
For bachelor, 1 CUHK Unit = 2 UU ECTS*
*Note from the IEO: look at the conversion table, because this is subject to change <a href="https://students.uu.nl/en/credit-conversion-table">https://students.uu.nl/en/credit-conversion-table</a>

<b>STUDENT LIFE</b>
Welcome/Orientation programme
Very good. I solved the problems of the visa and registration process very efficiently with the help of CUHK tutors.
Accommodation
Allocate the activities/conditions by 9 colleges, each have different culture and experience. Some have good views and some have good meals in canteen. Traveling around different colleges and taste different canteens could be interesting.
Leisure & culture
A lot of school activities held by each college and student club. Always good activities to participate. Thanks for the CUHK, which gave me a real campus life.
Suggestions/tips (need to know)
Applying for an Octopus card is important, which could be used to buy almost everything in HK.



CONCLUSIONS
Would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? Please explain why (or not)
Very recommended. There is a very wonderful school life. And I have enough time for an internship though the study pressure is still heavy. The 24-hour library provide enough study materials. Everything is hard to experience in Utrecht. *
<b>*Note from the IEO:</b> An internship cannot be part of the exchange programme
Do you have any additional advice or comments?
Repeat the language recommendations, the communication skill of Chinese/Cantonese/Mandarin is important for a good life though the official language of teaching is just English in CUHK.



2017-2018

<b>preparation</b>
exchange/placement application process
I had chosen to apply for one of the U.S.E. partners because it is generally well-known that there is a good Economics department. The Simon Fraser University in Vancouver was my first choice, but while it was the second exchange during my bachelor, other students had priority over me. The first thing I had to do after I choose to apply for the Simon Fraser University was to write a motivation letter and a study plan and a financial plan. If you are not assigned to the location that has your first preference, make sure you send another study plan to the board of examiners (in time).
counselling/support at home university
The exchange office is very responsive and willing to help. They respond very fast on e-mails. You can also visit their office at the campus.
academic preparation
Because I never took part in a supply chain course, I decided to enrol in these kinds of modules in Hong Kong. And although one of the courses was given at the engineering faculty and was a level 4 course, which means it is a course for fourth year students, I did not miss any prior knowledge and it was not more difficult than a level 3 course at the Utrecht School of Economics.
language preparation
As it was already my second semester abroad, I did not take any actions to prepare for the language difference.
finances
Although there is an Erasmus grant for students going on exchange to a European country, I did not have any grant/scholarship.
<b>study/placement abroad period</b>
study programme/work plan (concerning content and organisational issues)
There is a wide range of courses to choose of. You have to choose the courses in the period (/summer holiday) before your semester starts and I would recommend to enrol in as much courses as possible because you will be able to drop courses after the second week of the term if you want to. You can also add courses in this add/drop period.
academic quality of education/placement activities
Although the economics courses are not the best ones, you can enrol in courses at any faculty (for law courses it's little bit harder).
counselling/support at host institution/organisation



The international office at CUHK is also very responsive and willing to help you. Because I had to graduate soon after my semester abroad she shipped my transcript of records earlier, which was very helpful!

transfer of credits

As mentioned above, normally they will send your transcripts halfway February but if necessary they can already send them halfway January. It will take 2-3 days then to arrive at the UU.

**student life**

welcome/orientation programme

When I did my semester in Vienna, there was a 3-week long introduction programme, while in Hongkong it was only a weekend. It is a little bit short and you won't meet all the international students in this weekend, so you will have to put some effort in joining/organizing social activities . I recommend to meet as many people as possible, so you will not be alone.

accommodation

Every exchange student is mixed up with at least one local student and sometimes a third student. I shared a room with 2 other guys; one from Germany and one from South-Korea, which were both very nice. The rent is around 150, - and in most dorms there's a common area where you can chill/pre-party till 12.

leisure/culture

To be honest, the most local people are not very bothered by internationals. Students sometimes felt a little ignored by the locals, even when you tried to approach them. This is probably because most of the locals do not speak English. However, if someone does speak English they are more than willing to have a conversation with you. The teachers for example are really interested in you as an international student.

suggestions/tips

As most international students are making trips to other south Asian countries during the weekends, I would recommend applying for this Uni if you saved enough money to make these trips as well. The student culture is very much about travelling and exploring.

**conclusions**

would you recommend this host organisation/destination to others? please explain

I would recommend the Chinese University of Hong Kong as it is a great opportunity to live abroad in one of the most famous financial metropolises of the world. You will meet a lot of interesting students and will see a lot of nice places. Furthermore, the weather is good, and the Uni is well organized. One disadvantage: it takes 40 minutes to get to Hong Kong Central (the city centre). The trade-off is a big campus to meet international students and a low rent. All shops you need are located in Sha Tin which is 2 stops away from the campus.

do you have any additional advice or comments?



If you like to play in a Dutch hockey team, join DHC! It's a Dutch hockey club, but open for all international students who like to combine a game of hockey with a nice chat and a beer afterwards.