



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Science
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Master mathematical sciences

destination city & country	Hong Kong, Hong Kong
name university abroad	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)
start date	05 / 02 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	01 / 06 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION	
exchange application process	
Very smooth, I had a lot of help from the exchange officer at the UU to get my documents ready and on time.	
counselling & support at Utrecht University	
Did not have any counselling, but quick reactions on questions were always appreciated.	
academic preparation	
I did no specific academic preparation	
language preparation	
I did no specific language preparation	
finances	
I had enough saved due to a part time job at a covid testing facility during the pandemic. The financing predicted by the HKUST exchange officer/ uu abroad agreement was very accurate. A expenditure that is extra ordinary was the reservation for the quarantine hotel	

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD	
study programme (content and organisational issues)	
I followed a mix of courses including Putonghua (aka Mandarin), Macroeconomics, Sustainability sciences, Microbiology and psychology of language. Even though the courses were online, I encountered almost no organisational issues and most of them were diligently solved by the professors. I was to late for an exam due to circumstances out of my control, and they even called me to make sure I was okay!	
academic quality of education activities	
The quality is high, the professors I met were experts in their field and could easily relay this information to the students in a manner appropriate for the course. Most were very patients and capable of teaching.	
counselling & support at receiving university abroad	
The Exchange officer is amazing. Every problem I had was quickly addressed (if possible, it was still during covid)	
transfer of credits	
As of yet, the credit transfer has not been completed	



STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

Unfortunately, the organised programme was cancelled due to covid. That said, this created a wonderful opportunity for all the exchange students to get to know each other. Because there were very little organised activities outside our group, everyone could organise their own stuff and people were happy to go along. I'd say that, despite covid, I met many locals (very nice people) and even had many dinner sessions with a few of them.

Accommodation

You pay for what you get. The facilities on campus are absolutely golden. They have everything and more, but the room is very lackluster. I was lucky that I didn't have to share my 12 m² room with 2 or even three people. However, there is usually no reason to stay inside

leisure & culture

Leisure was plentiful. I had weekly trips to the beach and hikes across the country. We played games with people, I had amazing late-night discussions with local students. I still communicate with some of them as they are moving into their job or next year of study.

suggestions/tips

Go and enjoy it. Oh and, if you go, go to Mr Wongs, he is an absolute legend amongst exchange students for the past 7+ years. You will enjoy it, even if you don't like it, that guy is amazing

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes, absolutely. I had the time of my life, and Hong Kong is an extremely beautiful place with endless stories, mountains and enjoyable quirks.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Look, regardless of where you go, make sure you enjoy your study abroad. It is truly a fascinating experience. I mean, I lived through the exchange during covid and I look back at it fondly.

PS: Hong Kong is an amazing place to see other countries in Asia.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Geoscience
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Global Sustainability Science

destination city & country	Hong Kong, SAR CHINA
name university abroad	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
start date	1 / 2 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	31 / 5 / 2022 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Due to covid this was quite a struggle. Because we had to arrive at least 3 weeks earlier due to a 21 days mandatory quarantine, all files and the visa had to be there on time. I was leaving the beginning of January and my documents arrived at the end of December, which was quite stressful. However the whole process is relatively straightforward, there are just many things to do

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I received sufficient counselling, however I had to find my own quarantine hotel which was very difficult since everything was booked very fast. Furthermore, because of covid my flights got cancelled 3 times in the week I was supposed to go and many others had this problem. Would have been nice to get some support from the University.

academic preparation

I did little to no academic preparation, except looking for which courses I wanted to follow and when it was possible to sign up I did that immediately to secure my spots

language preparation

I did no language preparation, you can get around Hong Kong with only English

finances

Both the quarantine hotel and flight cancellations were incredibly expensive and unfortunately I had to borrow more money from DUO for this purpose. Furthermore, Hong Kong can be a bit expensive compared to other Asian countries so keep that in mind.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

Overall, I think everything at HKUST worked fine regarding this topic. It's quite similarly organised to UU but it is not as difficult as UU.

academic quality of education activities

Overall the quality was good, however not every professor is as good at English as others so keep that in mind. All the courses I took were very interesting and had a good amount of different ways to educate you. I especially liked the course the History of tea in East Asia



counselling & support at receiving university abroad
I did not really need any counselling or support but it seemed that they had a brought network for students to do this
transfer of credits
I have not done this yet

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Because of covid, there was only an online orientation programme which was not amazing to be honest. Still they tried everything they could within the strict covid rules and I appreciated that
accommodation
I stayed on the on campus accommodation and I would definitely suggest doing the same! Even though the quality at Jockey hall is better, the atmosphere on campus is really nice and there are so many nice spots on or near the campus to hang out. This was especially nice because of covid since many spots in the city had a 2 person limit and there was a lot of police to enforce that, this is not an issue on campus. However if Corona is not an issue it might be better to stay at Jockey hall since it is closer to the city
leisure & culture
The situation with covid made it very difficult to interact with locals. All my classes were online and people in the city were scared to get covid so they did not want to talk to many people. Nearing the end of exchange covid was not as bad anymore and people opened up a bit more. Other than that I had an amazing time in Hong Kong. There is so much to do in the city, but definitely to not underestimate the activities outside the city. From amazing beaches to camp, to the amazing mountains to hike, Hong Kong has everything you can wish for. Because of all the restrictions the total amount of exchange students in my year was significantly lower than other years, but everyone who was there had gone through so much trouble to get there and because of that the group became super close. We organised our own activities and this was so much fun!
suggestions/tips
If there is still a quarantine try to book your hotel as early as possible. Also don't forget to check out Mr Wongs in the city, as well as the smaller towns that are not directly in the city centre like Sai Kung.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Definitely! This was the best experience of my life and I would recommend it to everyone. Hong Kong is amazing and the campus of HKUST is so beautiful.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
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UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	Bèta
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Chemistry

destination city & country	Hong Kong
name university abroad	Hong Kong university of Science and Technology
start date	28 / 1 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	06 / 06 / 2019 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

Quite straightforward to do in osiris, the uu webpage on exchange has all the info you need.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I didn't need any counselling during my exchange, but the pre-departure meeting was very useful.

academic preparation

I expected to do less courses in HKUST, so I made sure to have a small excess of ects. Then I looked up which courses would be interesting and available during my exchange. My problem was selecting interesting courses which would be given in the spring semester because the winter semester had a more appealing choice for me.

language preparation

There wasn't much I could prepare because people speak Cantonese in Hong Kong. A few words in mandarin are nice to learn and entertain some locals.

finances

I didn't bother much with finances because the estimated amount listed online is quite accurate. It is nice to reserve a budget for trips while abroad because the surrounding countries are very beautiful.
I allocated €2000 to trips and expensive souvenirs, but you can spend way less and have some fun trips

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

All the courses run for the whole semester and most courses also have a midterm exam.
The courses were generally quite well filled although the knowledge of the professor varies.
As a chemistry student I chose some mathematics courses which were quite difficult for me. Mathematics courses generally assume that you know certain proofs and techniques. It's not terribly difficult to follow the courses but you'll need some time to catch up.

academic quality of education activities

Good quality of courses and plenty of choice for extracurricular activities.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There is plenty of opportunities for counselling. There is a mentor assigned to and every floor of the dormitory halls who can help you. I had a great mentor on my floor who was easy to talk to and helped me get to the people I needed to talk to.



transfer of credits
My credits are not transferred at the time of writing because HKUST will take a month after the end of your exchange to send your grades to the UU.

STUDENT LIFE
welcome & orientation programme
Awesome, many chances to meet fellow exchange students. A lot of fun activities are within the first month and before the courses get busy, which will keep you occupied in the meantime.
accommodation
I had a nice roommate and the hall also hosted some activities which created some opportunities to meet the locals. As mentioned before, every floor has a mentor as a designated person to talk to. The room was a not very large, but you can easily spend your day outside your room.
leisure & culture
Hong Kong is not a big country, but the amount of culture and leisure is very dense. Around halfway into my exchange I needed to go on a vacation because I thought the city was a bit too monotone.
suggestions/tips
Participate in as many activities as you can. And go to a nearby country because all the surrounding countries are very nice. Also try to join one of the various clubs because it's a lot of fun and the locals are very welcoming. There is also an international cuisine society which is fun to join, but I'd recommend you join an extra club/society.

CONCLUSIONS
would you recommend this university/destination abroad to others? please explain
Yes, the campus life is an awesome experience and Hong Kong is an awesome city where you can meet various cultures.
do you have any additional advice or comments?
I'd recommend a direct flight to Hong Kong because a stop over might give you a more severe jet lag. Pack hiking gear, there are some nice hiking trails.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	REBO
Level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	Economics and Business Economics

destination city & country	Hong Kong (China)
name university abroad	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST)
start date	01 / 09 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / 12 / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The application process was quite easy and went relatively smoothly overall. The announcement of the decision whether you received your first, second or third choice takes a bit too long but despite that you always have enough time to take care of the necessary steps such as sending some documents over or choosing whether to live in on-campus dorms or off campus.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

The UU exchange coordinators were very helpful and always responded very fast. However, it was really annoying and took very long to get sufficient information on the credit and grade transfer, the possible approval of several courses and requirements for the courses from USE.

academic preparation

I did not prepare anything prior to my arrival. I only checked the different available courses but that's about it. Any preparation besides looking at different course options would have been a waste of time looking back at it.

language preparation

I did not prepare anything since the university courses are taught in English. However, it is helpful to speak a bit of Cantonese in daily life, especially talking to the taxi drivers.

finances

I probably spent a bit more per month than I used to do in Utrecht. The on-campus accommodation is really cheap but eating every day 2-3 times in the canteen and doing other activities makes it difficult to spend less than 800 EUR in total per month. If you want to enjoy the time and do not want to miss out on going out and so on, expect to spend 1000+ EUR per month, dependent on your lifestyle.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

I had huge problems to enroll for courses I liked, and I needed regarding my graduation requirements. Overall, I managed to enroll for courses I liked and was able to obtain the minimum amount of credits needed. However, I think I was very unlucky having a very hard time to enroll for the courses since everyone else I met also had some difficulties but less than I had. Despite having difficulties, almost everyone got the courses they wanted to get in the end.

academic quality of education activities

The HKUST Business School can be found within the Top 20 in all worldwide rankings. Most of the courses have professors who went to famous universities and/ or worked as high-level executives in MNE's. Therefore, the



lectures can be very inspiring and, in many courses, the fellow students are also quite smart. Despite all these factors it was surprisingly easy to score good grades if you are willing to put in some effort. The workload was not higher than what I was used to from Utrecht, in some courses it was even less.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

The HKUST staff was very helpful when I needed help, mainly in the beginning during the add- and drop period.

transfer of credits

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

During the first two days, HKUST offered a campus tour, a trip to IKEA and other activities to get to know the campus and the university better. In the following two weeks, the university also offered multiple different activities to meet new people, especially exchange students. I did not really participate in these activities, but it is a good way to make friends. I would advise you to move in on the first day since it gives you the chance to meet many people right at the beginning of the semester when everyone is looking for friends. However, if that is not possible you can still meet a lot of people during class, while going out or other occasions.

accommodation

The on-campus dorm was very, very basic, however really cheap. I was a bit lucky since I have not had a roommate for the first weeks. Be aware that you share a room with someone else, try to get another exchange student since you would have more in common than with a local student.

Despite possible struggles I would highly recommend staying in the on-campus dorms since almost all exchange students are staying there, so it is very easy to meet up. Living in the Jockey Club Hall has the advantage of being close to the metro, but one might feel a bit isolated there. Living in the city can be fun but only if one is willing to spend significantly more (1500+ EUR per month), otherwise the rooms are tiny and worse than the ones on campus.

leisure & culture

I do not want to write much about the culture since it everyone should make their own experiences with it. In order to understand the local culture better I would advise to join an (sports) association or to make local friends. Besides that, Hong Kong is a great place to enjoy life. One can use it as a base to explore Asia, have amazing nights out at LKF, enjoy going to horse races every Wednesday evening or visit one of the many nice rooftop bars. Try to explore Hong Kong as much as possible in September since you have plenty of time then, whereas later you might do trips to other countries or have to study...

suggestions/tips

Get a local sim, apply for a student Octopus card as soon as possible and just enjoy every minute and do as much as possible, time will pass way too fast anyways!

CONCLUSIONS

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

Overall, I would recommend studying a semester at HKUST. The university is highly ranked and has a lovely campus. Yet one might feel a bit trapped on campus since it takes almost an hour to go to the city center by public transport and about 30 minutes by taxi or uber. If you want to be in the city every day, you might choose a university located in Central, TST or so. Nevertheless, I would still recommend HKUST due to its academic level, the lovely campus and the guarantee to be get an accommodation.



Regardless of the choosing HKUST or another university, Hong Kong is an amazing city and probably the most dynamic city in Asia. Almost everyone speaks English and Hong Kong offers both a stunning city life and many possibilities for amazing hikes. Overall, I can say that the few months in Hong Kong were one of the bests in my life so far. I could enrich my knowledge in exciting business courses, could experience a different culture, had the chance to meet great people and enjoy probably one of the best party cities in the world.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

HKUST or Hong Kong in general is a great destination for an exchange semester, most importantly study abroad, ideally outside Europe.



UU Study Abroad Report Form

faculty/college	social sciences
level	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> bachelor's <input type="checkbox"/> master's
name study programme	interdisciplinary social sciences
destination city & country	Hong Kong
name university abroad	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
start date	1 / september / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)
end date	20 / december / 2018 (dd/mm/yyyy)

PREPARATION

exchange application process

The whole process of application was very easy because I would receive e-mails about it and just had to follow the instructions. First I've got an account on the UST system and after that I had to submit some documents and some information.

counselling & support at Utrecht University

I didn't need a lot of help from Utrecht University, but the option was there. Exchange students from different cities or countries were assigned to a group with a counsellor and if we needed help we could contact her.

academic preparation

I didn't need to do a lot of preparation, because I actually followed courses from different faculties.

language preparation

I went to Hong Kong and I already know Chinese, so I didn't need to do a lot of preparation. But if you don't know Chinese at all that's also fine, because Hong Kong is very international, so you can easily communicate in English, except for some local places.

finances

It's recommended to save a lot of money before going abroad because it will cost a lot. Especially if you want to travel a lot. Although Hong Kong is a lot cheaper than in the Netherlands or other Western countries.

STUDY ABROAD PERIOD

study programme (content and organisational issues)

The first period is a bit messy because you have to assign for courses and a lot of them are full very fast. Overall everything is very clear and easy to find. During the first classes they explain a lot to you so nothing to worry about.

academic quality of education activities

The way of educating students was different from the Netherlands. And the grading system is also different. Personally I like the teaching system in the Netherlands better, but that might be because I'm used to it.

counselling & support at receiving university abroad

There was an office where we could go if we had questions or if we needed help, but most of the time you can also solve problems by asking other exchange students or friends.

transfer of credits



So the grading system is different and so are the grades.

STUDENT LIFE

welcome & orientation programme

The first week there were a lot of activities for exchange students to get to know each other and to get familiar with the campus. You can sign up for the activities before departure. The first day there was also a presentation about the campus and other important information. The most important thing to remember is to know what activities are taking place at what date, otherwise you would miss a lot.

accommodation

There were 9 halls for students to live in and they are assigned randomly. Some buildings are older than others. If you are lucky you get one of the new buildings. In general they are all fine and you have to share a room with another person. You can also choose if you want to share it with a local student or exchange student.

leisure & culture

In the first week there were a lot of activities planned, and after that just a few. Later during the semester there were no activities so you have to plan it yourself. But it is very easy to make friends in the first week so after that you can easily ask other people to hang out.

suggestions/tips

Make a lot of friends in the first week and join groupschat, because there are always people who want to do things and then you can easily join. And if you get the chance, make friends with local students because they know a lot. This way you can also learn more about the culture.

CONCLUSIONS

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

Yes I would. Although it's a bit further away from the more famous places in Hong Kong, you can still travel easily with the MTR. The view of the campus is so beautiful and the air is less polluted than in the city. So it is actually very nice at UST. There are a lot of islands in the neighbourhood of the campus so you will have the advantages of easy travelling to it.

do you have any additional advice or comments?

Enjoy your stay in Hong Kong and do a lot of hikes because the view is stunning and really worth it!



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.
Study abroad period
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.
Student life
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.
Conclusions
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



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?



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?:



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. 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.
Student life
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.
Conclusions
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

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