

The Hong Kong Institute of Education  
English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Program

# ETA Handbook

April, 2008

## **The Hong Kong Institute of Education English Teaching Assistant Program**

The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd) English Teaching Assistant (ETA) Program has received support from the Lee Hysan Foundation, the Sylvia Shive Memorial Fund, and University Grants Council of Hong Kong matching funds to bring 16 U.S. university graduates to HKIEd annually for a one-year programme to enhance language and cross-cultural opportunities for future teachers and primary students. In collaboration with the Institute of International Education, the ETAs have been recruited through the long-established Fulbright ETA program. The Program will be evaluated by the Hong Kong – America Center.

This handbook is intended to provide basic information to arriving ETAs, with sections on preparing for departure from the United States and arrival in Hong Kong, housing and campus life, employment, orientation, transportation, and other information on living in Hong Kong.

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# Departure and Arrival

## Before Departure

### Passports and Employment Visas

ETAs will be employed by the Hong Kong Institute of Education on 11-month contracts. The HKIEd Human Resources Office (HRO) will prepare employment contracts for each of you and send these to you for your signature. At the same time, we will send you information and application forms for Hong Kong employment visas. Once you return these forms to the HRO, they will submit your employment visa applications to the Hong Kong Immigration Department on your behalf (there is no need to send your original passport). Processing time for the visa takes approximately 6-8 weeks. Once visas are approved, a visa sticker will be sent to you by courier, for pasting into your passport. When you arrive at the Hong Kong International Airport immigration counter, please be sure to have your passport open to the page where the visa is pasted.

Passports should be kept in personal possession at all times while traveling to or from Hong Kong, or in a secure place if staying in one place for an extended period. Lost or stolen passports should be reported to the U.S. Consulate immediately (<http://hongkong.usconsulate.gov/acs.html>). The Consulate can issue a new passport within a few days for a small fee. Fulbright recommends making at least two photocopies of the passport picture page and the Hong Kong visa. One copy should be left at home and one taken to Hong Kong. This will make getting a replacement easier in the event of a lost or stolen passport. It is also recommended that ETAs bring an additional form of identification with a recent photograph, such as a driver's license, as well as an extra set of passport photos.

### Luggage and Packing

*Airline Baggage and Excess Baggage Allowance:* Subject to later confirmation, all ETAs will most likely be flying to Hong Kong on Northwest Airlines. Northwest's regulations and advice on luggage can be found at <http://www.nwa.com/travel/luggage/index.html>. To cover any excess baggage charges, each ETA will receive a one-off HK\$800 (US\$100) baggage subsidy, to be reimbursed upon arrival in Hong Kong. This allowance is for the entire round trip. ETAs may use the allowance completely for the trip to Hong Kong, save it all for the return trip home, or divide it. Any additional baggage costs are at ETAs' own expense.

*Clothing and Dress Code:* With regard to packing clothing, how much to bring depends on luggage space and budget. Clothes of all kinds can be purchased in Hong Kong at a wide range of price levels. When you arrive in August, the weather will be hot, humid, and possibly rainy, with temperatures normally around 32° Celsius (89° Fahrenheit). Fall is generally cooler and dry, while winter has little rain, and average January temperatures rarely drop below 10° Celsius (50° Fahrenheit). The weather starts to warm up and regain humidity in the spring.

As Teaching Assistants, ETAs will not be responsible for teaching formal classes at the HKIEd and in your work can adopt a "smart casual" dress style. However, your responsibilities may also include an attachment to classes at HKIEd's on-campus Primary

(Elementary) School, where the dress code should be more modest/conservative. In that respect, ETAs should not wear jeans, shorts, flip-flops, or trainers/sneakers in the Primary School. As affiliates of the Fulbright Program, ETAs will also have opportunities to attend various Fulbright functions, at which it would be a good idea to dress more formally.

*Bedding, towels, etc.:* As ETAs will be living in dormitories, you should bring the necessities for dormitory living. Bedding (sheet for a single bed, pillow, pillowcase, and blanket) will be provided temporarily for the first few weeks at a charge of approximately US\$4 for those who need it, so you can either bring your own bedding, or purchase bedding after you have settled in.

*Electronics:* For those who bring a laptop computer, there is an internet port in each dormitory room, but you will need to provide your own ethernet card software and ethernet cable. Bring your computer's original operating system, driver, program CDs, manuals, and serial numbers in case you need to reinstall anything. Also, keep in mind that viruses are just as common in Hong Kong as in the U.S., and make sure you have up-to-date anti-virus software installed.

The standard electrical voltage in HK is 220 volts AC, 50HZ, so you will need an adaptor for your 100-volt appliances and electrical equipment. Even if your laptop computer cord has a voltage adapter, you may still need an adapter to fit the three-pronged outlets (as pictured below). This type of adapter is easily purchased in Hong Kong, but if possible, you might want to get one before you arrive to make ready use of any electric appliances you may need to. If possible, you could try to purchase a dual-voltage cord for your laptop or other dual voltage electric appliances such as hair-dryers, shavers, etc. before your departure.



*Toiletries:* It would be a good idea to bring a small supply of toiletries for immediate use upon arrival, but most toiletries you will need can be easily found in Hong Kong supermarkets and drugstores. Deodorant/Anti-perspirant can be more difficult to find, and the brands are relatively limited. Several American brands of contact lens solution are also available in Hong Kong.

*Books:* English-language books tend to be slightly more expensive in Hong Kong than in the U.S. On the other hand, the HKIED library has a very extensive collection of English language books.

*Medications:* Those currently taking medication should bring prescriptions and all pertinent medical information a doctor might need in the event of an emergency.

## **Arrival in Hong Kong**

We will make all travel arrangements for your flights from your home point of departure in the United States to Hong Kong, with all of you meeting up and flying together from the last stop in the United States (last year, Los Angeles). This way you will all arrive in Hong Kong at the same time. The arrival date is tentatively scheduled as August 4, 2008 (leaving

the United States on August 3, 2008). You will be provided with e-tickets before the departure date.

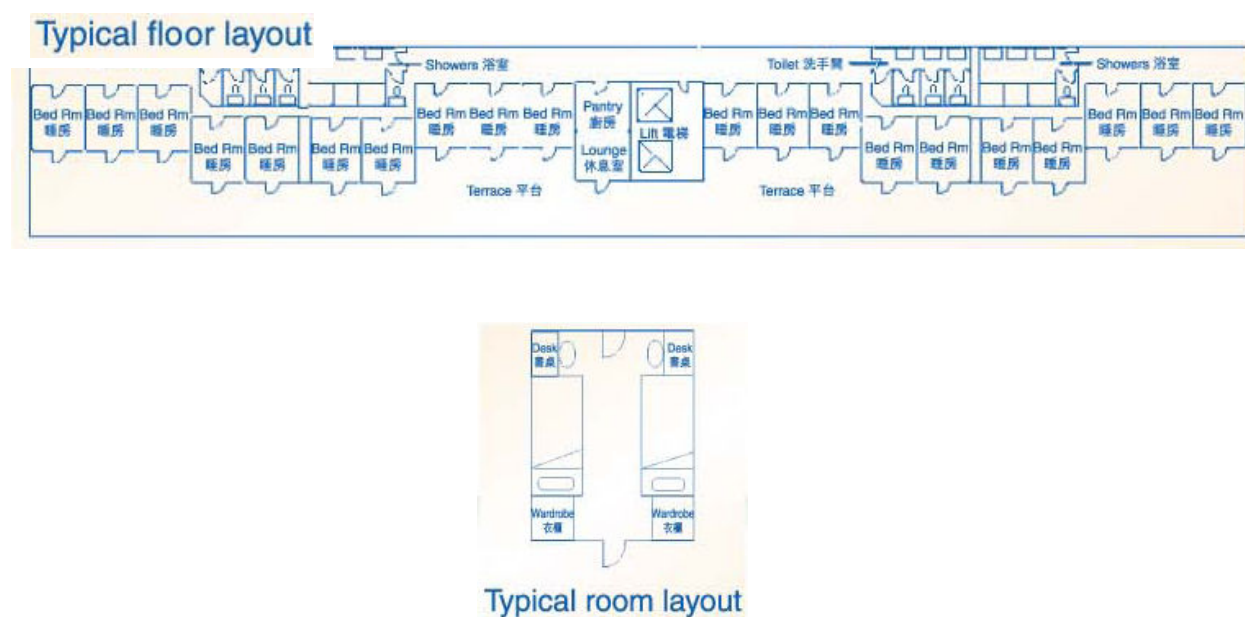
After you pass through baggage claim and customs at the Hong Kong International Airport, staff from the HKIEd will meet you in the airport Greeting Area and accompany you by hired coach to the HKIEd campus for check-in to the dormitories.

Information on immigration and customs procedures upon arrival at HK International airport maybe found at [www.hongkongairport.com/eng/tbu/index.htm](http://www.hongkongairport.com/eng/tbu/index.htm) and [http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/mustknow/information/mk\\_info\\_entr.jhtml](http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/mustknow/information/mk_info_entr.jhtml).

# Living at HKIEd and Other Practical Matters

## Housing

All ETAs have been assigned single rooms in three of HKIEd's student dormitories (hostels): Northcote Hall, Grantham Hall, and Robert Black Hall. Within each Hall, ETAs will be housed on two floors in groups of two to four in neighboring rooms. Because the Residential Year does not start formally until mid-August, ETAs may be housed temporarily in rooms other than those you will be living in for the rest of the year.



Each room for the ETAs is provided with one bed, wardrobe, desk, and chair, (half of the room as in the layout pictured above) as well as an air-conditioner, telephone, and internet port. International Direct Dialing is not available from dormitory-room phones, so you will need to apply for a calling card with a long-distance phone provider before you arrive in Hong Kong, or apply for a local long-distance telephone service after arrival. Air-conditioning is charged by use and is controlled with a smart-card. ETAs will be provided with a smart-card with a starting amount upon arrival, and the value can be topped up later. The ETA program provides for a HK\$1,000 (US\$125) air-conditioning subsidy.

*Communal facilities:* Each dormitory floor has toilets, showers, and a lounge/pantry with refrigerator, microwave oven, and drinking water dispenser (tap water is safe to use for washing and brushing your teeth, but it is not recommended for drinking). There is a common hot-plate in the pantry for each floor, but hot-plates are not permitted for use inside rooms (because of fire alarms). Also, if you wish to purchase your own electric cooker/hot-plate after your arrival, you can take it into the pantry for cooking. Other facilities in the dormitories include open terraces, a laundry room with electric irons and smart-card-operated washers and dryers, and TV, music, study and multi-purpose rooms.

More details on dormitory living will be provided in a check-in kit to be distributed upon arrival.

## Terms and Conditions of Student Accommodation

The dormitories on campus, while primarily for students, also house other residents such as the ETAs. The Terms and Conditions of Student Accommodation have therefore redefined “Resident” as “any person, but not limited to students of HKIED, who has been approved by the Institute and accepted an offer of residence in a student hostel or student quarters.” With this definition, ETAs are **strictly required** to abide by these Terms and Conditions during your stay at HKIED. You may find these to be more stringent than U.S. dormitory rules and regulations, but keep in mind that hostel life in Hong Kong is but one part of the local culture. The Terms and Conditions will be distributed to you upon arrival.

## **Eating on Campus**

There are three outlets for eating on campus: A cafeteria (Student Canteen), a Chinese restaurant (Staff Restaurant), and an outdoor coffee shop serving beverages, sandwiches, pastries, and snacks. Normal opening hours are as follows:

	Monday to Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Student Canteen (The Cove View), Block C Podium	7:30 AM to 8:00 PM	7:30 AM to 7:00 PM	Closed
Staff Restaurant (Ridges Green), Block E, 1/F	To be announced	To be announced	To be announced
Coffee Corner	8:00 AM to 6:30 PM	8:00 AM to 5:30 PM	Closed

We will provide you with the summer season operating hours for the catering outlets when you arrive.

## **Convenience Shop and Supermarkets**

The on-campus convenience shop located next to the student canteen is operated by 7-11. Opening hours are 8:00 AM - 12:00 AM daily.

The nearest Wellcome supermarket to the campus is located at the basement of Retail Block, Richwood Park, 33 Lo Fai Road, Tai Po. It is a 10 minute walk up the hill to the left upon leaving the campus. Opening hours are 8:30 AM to 10:00 PM daily.

Other supermarkets, Wellcome and ParknShop, are located in Tai Po Centre, by Bus 275 from campus. The nearest supermarket with a more extensive range of Western/American food products is Taste, located at the Festival Walk mall in Kowloon Tong.

## **Sports Facilities on Campus**

Comprehensive amenities and sports facilities are provided on the HKIED campus. See more details at [http://www.ied.edu.hk/pe/rev\\_fac/taipo.htm](http://www.ied.edu.hk/pe/rev_fac/taipo.htm)

## **Office Space**

ETAs will be provided a common office space in the Block D1 Academic Building with 16 work-stations. Each ETA will be allocated a computer, with a shared network printer. The office space will also have a refrigerator, a coffee maker, a microwave oven, a water dispenser, a photocopying machine, 2 telephones, and lockers for storing personal belongings.

## **Money and Banking**

You will receive an advance on your salary shortly after arrival, but we recommend that you bring sufficient cash for immediate expenses. We strongly recommend that you exchange currency to Hong Kong Dollars while still in the United States. With regard to salary payment, you can arrange for direct deposit into a local bank account. For this purpose and for convenience we will assist you to open an account at the Bank of East Asia, which has a HKIEd campus branch located in the Administration Building (Room 09, G/F, Block A). Automated teller machines (ATM) for the Bank of East Asia and Hang Seng Bank are also located on campus and at numerous locations throughout Hong Kong. Holders of U.S. ATM cards with the “Plus” and “Cirrus” symbols can withdraw money from these ATMs.

Legal tender is the Hong Kong dollar (HK\$). There are 100 cents in a dollar. Coins, issued by the government, are bronze-coloured for 10 cents, 20 cents and 50 cents; silver-coloured for HK\$1, HK\$2, and HK\$5; nickel and bronze for HK\$10. Notes issued by HSBC and Standard Chartered Bank have denominations of HK\$10, HK\$20, HK\$50, HK\$100, HK\$500, and HK\$1,000. The Bank of China issues all of the denominations except HK\$10.

## Credit Cards

In general, most shops and restaurants accept VISA, MasterCard, and American Express cards. However, some shops and restaurants in Hong Kong may not accept payment by credit card for purchases below HK\$200 or they may charge bank service charges. You are advised to check with the shop attendant before payment.

There are a variety of ways to pay American credit card bills from Hong Kong. These days, the most popular method is online payments. You could also bring your checkbook to Hong Kong and send checks to the U.S. each month. Wiring money directly tends to be costly. An alternative would be to run up a surplus on your credit card account by writing checks in advance so that you have essentially already paid your bills before making purchases. Giving power of attorney to a relative, or adding a relative as a co-signer to your account, and having that person pay your bills from your account is also an option. It is possible to get cash advances using your credit card (Visa or MasterCard) at ATMs in Hong Kong. To do this you need your credit card's PIN. Contact your credit card company to receive it and confirm before your arrival that it works. Also, check your daily withdrawal/advance limit and be aware of any fees or interest rates associated with such transactions.

## Taxes

ETAs must file U.S. taxes while in Hong Kong. The basic principle of U.S. taxes is to report all income, even if it may not be taxed. Tax forms and information may be obtained from the U.S.

Consulate in Hong Kong ([http://hongkong.usconsulate.gov/acs\\_tax.html](http://hongkong.usconsulate.gov/acs_tax.html)).

As paid employees of the HKIED, ETAs will also need to file Hong Kong income taxes before departure from Hong Kong, but the necessary payment is not expected to exceed HK\$200 (US\$26).

## **Health, Hygiene and Safety**

### Health Services and Insurance

In addition to your medical coverage through the Fulbright program ([http://us.fulbrightonline.org/resources\\_current\\_insurance.html](http://us.fulbrightonline.org/resources_current_insurance.html)), HKIED's Health Services provides primary care facilities and clinical services. The Health Centre is located at the Administration Building (Room 09, 1/F, Block A). You will be entitled to participate in the Institute's outpatient medical benefits from the first day of assumption of duty. Details will be provided during orientation.

For more health advice, visit Hong Kong's Department of Health website <http://www.dh.gov.hk/index.html>.

### A Smoke-free Hong Kong

HKIED is a smoke-free campus, and smoking is prohibited in most enclosed public places, including restaurants, karaokes, malls and some bars as well as some outdoor areas effect from 1 January 2007. No person shall smoke or carry a lighted cigarette, cigar or pipe in such areas, or will be liable to a maximum fine of HK\$5,000.

### Public Hygiene

Hong Kong has strict laws to maintain environmental hygiene, including fixed penalty fines of HK\$1,500 for littering or spitting. Please help keep Hong Kong clean and beautiful!

### Safety

Hong Kong is a safe city day or night. Police officers patrol frequently and are very helpful. However, as in most large cities you should take care of your belongings in public places to guard against pick-pocketing.

The HKIED campus is also well-served by a 24-hour security service. Relevant contact numbers are as follows:

Security Hotline:	(852) 2948 8002 or ext 8002
Emergencies:	(852) 2948 8000 or ext 8000
Fax:	(852) 2948 8001
Security Control Centre:	Room A-G/F-03, G/F,

A Safety Manual for residents in campus accommodation accompanies this handbook and will be provided upon arrival.

Typhoon (hurricane) season is May to November. When a typhoon is approaching, warnings are broadcast on TV and radio and various levels of alarms indicate its degree of strength, the latest position and expected movement of the center of the tropical cyclone, information on the wind strength, rainfall and sea level in the territory. When a typhoon signal 8 is hoisted, business and shops will temporarily cease to operate and flights may be cancelled. Heavy rains will be classified under a different separate warning.

## **Communications**

### Mail

You may have mail sent to you at the following address:

Your Name  
English Teaching Assistant  
The Hong Kong Institute of Education  
10 Lo Ping Road  
Tai Po, NT  
Hong Kong

There is a mailbox at the back of Block C, opposite the residential halls for regular posting of mail. For purchasing stamps, registered mail and other postal services, a mobile post office visits campus at the Main Spine Road, between Block B3 and B4, each Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:45 AM to 11:45 AM. The nearest post office from the Institute is Fu Shin Post Office, 1/F, Shop No. 106, Fu Shin Shopping Centre, Fu Shin Estate, Tai Po.

### Telephone

Each hostel room provides one telephone which can be used to make local calls or IDD calls with a calling card. For mobile/cell phone usage, most of the telephone systems used around the globe like GS 900, PCS 1800 and CDA operate in Hong Kong. Pre-paid SIM cards are popular and easy to find at most mobile services companies in Hong Kong such as Smartone, Three, New World mobile; One2Free and People. You can also consider a mobile service plan for the duration of your stay in Hong Kong; these can easily be arranged at mobile service provider outlets throughout the territory. In applying for an account you will need proof of a Hong Kong address. You may use the welcome letter that we distribute to you upon arrival for this purpose.

### Internet and Email

Each dormitory room has an Internet port, but you will need to provide your own cable. Computers in your office, in the library, and in dormitory common rooms also have internet access. You will be assigned a HKIED intranet account and email account shortly after arrival. You can also access the Internet for free at many coffee shops, large shopping malls, major MTR stations and public libraries in town. For people bringing their laptops to Hong Kong, Wireless Broadband service is common at major shopping malls and coffee shops. If you use a modem, note that the BT system used in Hong Kong will gradually be replaced by the RJ system. If you are still using the BT plug, you can buy a BT-RJ adaptor in Hong Kong to solve the connection problem.

# Employment

ETAs will have two main areas of responsibility while at HKIEd, and will be expected to work approximately 20 hours per week.

First, the group of 16 ETAs will be split up and attached to individual academic departments within HKIEd, with 1-4 ETAs per department. This allocation will be made largely on the preference of individual departments for expertise of individual ETAs based on the information in your ETA program applications. These departments include the Departments of English; Educational Psychology, Counseling, and Learning Needs; Curriculum and Instruction; Mathematics, Science, Social Sciences, and Technology; Education Policy and Administration; Early Childhood Education, Creative Arts and Physical Education; and the Centre for Language in Education. Plans are for ETAs to work closely with lecturers responsible for courses taught through English medium of instruction to assist with tutorials, facilitating class discussions, assisting with students' writing assignments, forming reading groups for students, and helping lecturers in other ways. More details will be provided at a later date, but will also depend on individual departments' and lecturers' needs.

Second, you will be expected to carry out approximately 2-5 hours per week of work in your dormitories (Halls). This work can include assisting Hall Associations in the organization of cross-cultural extra-curricular activities for HKIEd students; organizing other activities (field-trips, cultural activities) oriented around enhancing students' English language skills; and providing English-language consultation services on an appointment basis. Generous funding is available to facilitate the organization of these activities on and off campus.

Occasional other opportunities will arise for voluntary participation and work on and off campus.

# Orientation Program

An Orientation Program will be provided to ETAs in the early part of your arrival at HKIEd. There will be several components to the program, as outlined below:

A campus orientation will address further some of the practical matters covered in this handbook, including housing, banking, human resources matters, application for identity cards, transportation, and other issues.

A three-week training program in English Language Teaching will be provided jointly by the English Department and the Centre for Language in Education. Topics to be covered will include teaching speaking and writing, grammar, pronunciation, and error correction.

We will also provide a course in Introductory (Survival) Cantonese of approximately 30 hours. The purpose of this course is to provide a basic introduction to Cantonese with emphasis on using the language for everyday, basic needs for communication in Hong Kong.

A cultural orientation programme will introduce ETAs to issues of cross-cultural communication and adaptation and will provide an introduction to Hong Kong and Chinese history and culture. ETAs will participate in two cultural and geographical tours to Hong Kong's historical Central and Western District and the New Territories. From September, ETAs will take a course, along with exchange students studying at HKIEd, in Hong Kong History and Culture.

# Off-Campus

## **Transportation to and from HKIEd**

The HKIEd campus is located in Tai Po in the northeastern New Territories of Hong Kong (See maps at the end of this handbook). There are several options for getting from campus to other areas of Hong Kong. In planning for travel off campus, remember the limitations in hours of service: the last train to Tai Po Market leaves East Tsim Sha Tsui station at 12:23 AM.

### To Tai Po

Bus 275 and 275S provide regular service to Tai Po Centre and the Tai Po Market station of the Mass Transit Railway (MTR), by which you can then travel to other parts of Hong Kong. A 275 bus schedule will be provided to you upon arrival. For evening outings, remember that the last 275 bus to campus leaves Tai Po Market station at midnight. After this, you will have to take a taxi.

### To Kowloon Tong

An additional “School Bus Service” is provided from the campus to Kowloon Tong, where you can access the MTR. A School Bus service schedule will be provided to you upon arrival. Other School Bus services provide transport to Kwun Tong, Tsuen Wan, Shatin, Tuen Mun, Yuen Long, and Sheung Shui.

### Staff Bus Service

The HKIEd Staff buses leave campus at 5:30 PM for a variety of destinations throughout Hong Kong, including directly to Kowloon Tong and Hong Kong Island’s Central district.

### Taxis

A taxi to Tai Po Market KCR station will cost approximately HK\$40, and will take less time than taking the 275 bus. If sharing with up to 5 people, the cost may be approximately the same as taking the bus. Green taxis operate only in the New Territories, and are not permitted to travel to Kowloon or Hong Kong Island. Red taxis can travel anywhere throughout the territory.

## **Transportation throughout Hong Kong**

Public transportation via bus, ferry or train is efficient, relatively inexpensive and user-friendly. The system covers extensive areas of Hong Kong with signs in English and Chinese. Hong Kong is geographically compact and boasts one of the world's most efficient, safe, affordable and frequent public transport systems.

### Octopus Cards

Most public transport requires exact change, so it is advisable to purchase an Octopus card.

This electronic stored-value card is just like money and is accepted on most public transport including buses, minibuses, trains, ferries, the Peak Tram, and some taxis. It is also accepted for payment at convenience stores and fast food restaurants, including the student canteen on campus. To pay a fare, simply place the Octopus card on the reader located next to the fare box and the fare gets deducted electronically. A new Octopus card includes a refundable HK\$50 deposit. Any leftover money is also refunded when you return the card. For your convenience upon your arrival we will provide you with an Octopus card with HK\$100 value, deducted from your HK\$800 baggage allowance cash reimbursement.

### Mass-Transit Railway (MTR)

The MTR is fast, clean, efficient and inexpensive. Fares range from HK\$4 to HK\$26 and can be paid with single-journey tickets or travel passes like the Octopus card. Look for signs pointing to nearby MTR station entrances. The MTR is great for getting to Hong Kong's attractions as well as a host of shopping and dining outlets. The MTR website provides details of routes, traveling times, fares, and area maps.

<http://www.mtr.com.hk/eng/train/intro.html>

### Buses

Bus routes, with double-decker and single-level buses, cover almost all of Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories. Kowloon Motor Bus (<http://www.kmb.hk/>), New World First Bus (<http://www.nwfb.com.hk>) and Citybus (<http://www.citybus.com.hk/>) operate routes to cover Hong Kong Island, Kowloon and the New Territories. Final destinations are prominently displayed in English and Chinese on the front of the bus. Fares are low, usually ranging from HK\$1.20 to HK\$45, and are based on distance travelled. Exact change is required. Octopus cards are accepted.

Bus 370 travels directly between Central (Hong Kong Island) and Tai Po Market. The Schedule and location of stops can be found by searching for “370” on the Citybus website (<http://www.citybus.com.hk/>)

### Minibuses

Minibuses are small passenger buses that carry about 16 people. Red minibuses operate on routes that are not always fixed and passengers can get on and off anywhere along the route except where special prohibitions apply. Pay as you alight. The driver can provide change for small notes. Green minibuses operate on specific routes at fixed prices. Exact payment is required when getting on, and Octopus cards are accepted. Fares for minibuses are a little higher than regular buses, usually in the HK\$2 to HK\$22.50 range, but minibuses are sometimes faster. Once filled, minibuses won't stop until someone asks to get off. Please note that minibuses are best suited for people who can speak some Cantonese and who are familiar with Hong Kong.

### Taxis

Often the best choice for short distances, taxis are ubiquitous in major areas and fares are comparatively low. Flag fall is HK\$16 in Kowloon and on Hong Kong Island, lower in the New Territories and Lantau Island. Many drivers speak some English, but it is wise to have your destination written in Chinese characters.

## The Star Ferry

“Star” Ferry provides service between Kowloon and Hong Kong Island from piers in Tsim Sha Tsui and Hung Hom in Kowloon and Central and Wan Chai on the Island. It offers a memorable and scenic boat trip across one of the most-photographed harbours in the world for just HK\$2.2 to \$5.3 for the upper deck, depending on the route.

## Outlying Island Ferries

A plethora of ferries ply the waters of Hong Kong connecting Hong Kong Island, Kowloon, the Outlying Islands, Macau and Mainland China.

## Trams

Trams travel along an east-west path across north Hong Kong Island. Trams run from early morning until midnight. The flat fare is HK\$2 (HK\$1 for seniors aged 65 or above and children under 12) and exact change is required. You can get on at the back of the tram and pay the exact fare when you're alighting at the front. Octopus cards are accepted.

## **Food, Culture, Shopping**

The following websites have good information on food, culture, shopping and other aspects of life in Hong Kong:

<http://www.discoverhongkong.com/eng/index.jsp>

<http://www.lonelyplanet.com/worldguide/destinations/asia/china/hong-kong>

Although written for professionals moving to Hong Kong to work, the following website also has information that can be useful for living in Hong Kong:

<http://www.amcham.org.hk/content/view/5130/267/>

## **Hong Kong**

More comprehensive information on all aspects of Hong Kong society may be found at

<http://www.gov.hk/en/about/abouthk/index.htm>

# Outside Hong Kong

The HKIEd ETA program also provides for two study visits and educational attachments to Mainland China, in the latter part of each semester when HKIEd students are in schools undertaking teaching practice and preparing for examinations and final assignments. All arrangements and expenses for these visits will be covered by the program. Further details about this aspect of the program will be provided in the weeks after arrival.

## **China Visas and Independent Travel Outside Hong Kong**

According to Fulbright regulations, ETAs are permitted 14 days of out-of-country travel. Although the Fulbright program considers Hong Kong as a distinct entity from China for program administration, through discussions with IIE, the 14-day rule on out-of-country travel for the ETAs will take the “country” to mean the People’s Republic of China.

Visitors to Mainland China require a separate visa. Because the HKIEd ETA program includes two separate study visits to the Mainland, the program will help arrange for China visas for those two visits. Arrangements and expenses for additional independent travel to the Mainland will be the responsibility of ETAs themselves. While the visa application process is relatively simple and straightforward, it is rather expensive, and difficult, if not impossible, to get multiple entry visas for short-term Hong Kong residents.

Additional information on travel in Guangdong province and arrangements for China visa applications may be found at <http://www.amcham.org.hk/hongkong/lhk/CH20-P293-309.pdf>



