EXCHANGE & STUDY ABROAD
For Visiting Students

Office of Academic Links
www.oal.cuhk.edu.hk
The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) is a comprehensive research university with a global vision. It was founded with a mission to combine tradition with modernity and to bring together China and the West. CUHK’s firmly rooted Chinese culture, multiculturalism and its unique college system sets itself apart from other universities in Hong Kong and in the region.

CUHK has always been at the forefront of teaching and research, nurturing the next generation of leaders in all fields and advancing the frontiers of knowledge and technology. The galaxy of distinguished scholars and researchers at CUHK include a Nobel Laureate, a Fields medallist, a Turing Award winner, and countless academics with international recognition.

Located in Shatin, a suburban area of Hong Kong, the CUHK campus overlooks the scenic Tolo Harbour and is nestled in lush greenery. Over the years, it has evolved into the largest, greenest and most sustainably designed campus in the city. A wide range of academic, residential, sports and leisure facilities provide an all-round campus experience for anyone studying at CUHK.
The Office of Academic Links (OAL) at CUHK serves as the international relations arm for the University. OAL promotes and facilitates the internationalisation of the University in its research, teaching and learning programmes so as to seek recognition for the University as a leader on the global stage and to nurture students to have a high degree of inter-cultural sensitivity, acceptability and a global perspective.

**Student exchange and study abroad programmes**

The first student exchange programme at CUHK was launched in 1965 with the University of California system. Since then, CUHK has continued to expand its exchange partner network to receive students from over 280 institutions in more than 30 locations worldwide. With a population of over 3,500 international visiting students each year, CUHK is truly an international melting pot.

**We are here for you**

OAL will be your home department at CUHK and is the single point of contact to facilitate all aspects of your study at the University, both before and after arrival:

- Admission & Visa Application
- Pre-arrival Preparation
- On-campus Accommodation
- Course Registration
- Orientation Activities
- Cultural Immersion

OAL’s i-Centre is on the first floor of the Yasumoto International Academic Park and offers a range of services to international students.
Hong Kong is not just an ordinary metropolitan city. It is the hub of Asia. A city that never sleeps with non-stop intensity. A perfect blend of fascinating contrasts where East meets West, where busy city pace meets natural countryside, and where endless skyscrapers meet traditional lifestyle. Here, you can find a variety of rich and diverse experiences packed in an easy and fast to get around city.

Experience life in an international cosmopolitan

About 600,000 of Hong Kong’s population of 7.52 million are from foreign countries, creating multicultural lifestyles that are unique to the city.

Learn about business and trade in the world’s freest economy

Hong Kong has exceptional autonomy in trade and business where many multi-national corporations establish regional headquarters here. Many people come to learn the secrets of Hong Kong’s success and to establish networks for their future careers.
Follow traces of Chinese and Western cultures

Traditional Chinese values such as loyalty to friends and family, and respect for the elderly are well preserved while its history as a former British colony has left a legacy of western ways.

Explore the outdoors

Escape the bustling city life and enjoy the wide variety of outdoor activities available, just minutes away from the urban centre.

Eat and shop around the clock

Street stalls and shopping malls offer great bargains and operate until late in the evening. Chinese and international cuisines are abundant and delicious night snacks can be found at 24-hour eateries.

Travel to mainland China and Asia in a blink

The train from CUHK reaches the border of mainland China in just 25 minutes. A day trip to Shenzhen or a study break to Beijing are just some of the extensive options available. Being in the centre of Asia, travelling around is extremely fast and easy.

Sources:
Getting around the city
CUHK has its own train station, connected to the city’s extensive MTR metro network. The nearby suburban town of Shatin, the urban centres of Mong Kok, Tsim Sha Tsui and Central, and the border with mainland China are all within reach in 30 minutes. An abundance of public transportation modes including metro, buses, minibuses, trams, ferries and taxis take you to virtually all corners of Hong Kong.

Living on campus
Living on the CUHK campus is convenient and affordable. International students at CUHK have guaranteed on-campus accommodation (hostel) placement, where there are plenty of opportunities to get to know the locals through the many formal and informal activities organised by the hostels. A wide range of facilities, including world-class libraries, art museum, music halls, swimming pool, sport fields, tennis courts, squash courts, water sports centre and gymnasiums provide an all-round campus experience.

Studying about China and other disciplines
CUHK is the best place for you to learn about China given Hong Kong’s special geographical and political context, and CUHK’s rich Chinese tradition, culture and ties. This is reflected in a wide variety of disciplines at the University, including humanities, social science, business and the sciences. CUHK’s Business, Engineering, Law and Medical Schools are reputable training grounds for professionals in their respective fields as well as centres of seminal research.

Experiencing the unique college system
CUHK is the only university in Hong Kong with a collegiate system. The nine colleges offer a plethora of non-formal learning opportunities to complement the formal curricula. Undergraduate international students are affiliated with one of the colleges and benefit from the college community through which they get to know the locals and their customs.
ACADEMICS

At CUHK, you can tailor-make your study plan from 150 major and minor options available. The majority of courses are taught in English. You can further your major or minor studies, explore a completely new discipline, or concentrate on language and cultural studies. Areas of studies open to international students include:

**Arts**
- Anthropology, China Studies, Chinese Language and Literature, Cultural and Religious Studies, English, Fine Arts, History, Japanese Studies, Linguistics and Modern Languages, Music, Philosophy, Theology, Translation

**Business Administration**
- Accountancy, Decision Sciences and Managerial Economics, Finance, Hotel and Tourism Management, Management, Marketing

**Education**
- Sports Science and Physical Education

**Engineering**
- Biomedical Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Information Engineering, Mechanical and Automation Engineering, Systems Engineering and Engineering Management

**Law**
- Only available to law major students meeting individual course prerequisites

**Medical**
- Public Health and Primary Care

**Science**
- Chemistry, Life Science, Mathematics, Physics, Statistics

**Social Science**
- Architecture, Economics, Gender Studies, Geography and Resource Management, Government and Public Administration, Journalism and Communication, Psychology, Social Work, Sociology

**Other Special Studies**

**Chinese Language Courses**

With a history of over half a century, the Yale-China Chinese Language Centre (CLC) at CUHK is at the forefront of Chinese learning techniques and is one of the largest centres of its kind worldwide. The CLC offers Putonghua (Mandarin) and Cantonese courses from beginner to advanced levels. As an international undergraduate student, you can take up to 6 units of approved Chinese language courses per term as part of your study programme.

**Centre for China Studies**

Courses offered by the Chinese Studies Programme of the CUHK Centre for China Studies are all taught in English and are popular among international students who are either looking to deepen their knowledge on China or just want to catch a glimpse of Chinese culture or society irrespective of what majors they are. A sample of the many courses include:

- Science and Technology in China
- Cultural History of China
- China's Business Environment
- China's Financial Reform
- Unofficial China

Please visit [www.oal.cuhk.edu.hk/getting_started](http://www.oal.cuhk.edu.hk/getting_started) for a comprehensive list of courses taught in English and available to international students.

CUHK’s world-class library facilities are hubs for knowledge and idea exchange.

Immerse in Chinese culture through traditional Chinese arts and crafts.
Cultural and social experiences are integral parts of your exchange at CUHK besides classroom education. A wide range of activities are available outside the classroom for you to get in touch with local and international students, explore Chinese culture, experience Hong Kong and enjoy your time at CUHK.

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Orientation

The orientation prepares you for your time at CUHK and covers extensive information for surviving on campus and in Hong Kong. It is an excellent opportunity to network with fellow international students.

Cultural and extra-curricular activities

Field trips and excursions around town, gatherings, and classes in Chinese martial arts, calligraphy and cooking are just some of the many activities available to international students at CUHK.

Community service programme

Opportunities are available to international students to engage in community service. For example, The Rural Schools Service Project brings you to teach English or Putonghua at local secondary schools and gives you an opportunity to join cultural activities organised by the schools.

Accommodation

Undergraduate international students live in shared accommodation at one of the nine colleges. They are located across the campus and are easily accessible with the on-campus bus system. Living with a local roommate is the quickest way to adapt to the new environment and culture.

Meeting the locals

There will be many opportunities to meet local students at classes, canteens, karaoke, hiking trips, BBQs and other social gatherings. Be curious, open-minded and daring.

Student organisations

CUHK boasts a variety of student organisations, from Chinese martial arts to photography to drama. Those within academic departments and colleges are often the most active. Most take place in Cantonese but international students can participate with rewarding results.

Student services and facilities

A range of facilities, resources and support services are available to support your life at CUHK. They include computing labs, libraries, health clinic, counselling services, sports facilities, canteens, bookstores, supermarket, banks and even a hair salon.

College activities

Colleges organise a variety of activities, including singing contests, varsity sports, drama nights, festive celebrations and language enhancement programmes. Dessert nights are not to be missed.
Generally speaking, living in Hong Kong can be expensive, however living at CUHK is extremely affordable as on-campus hostels and meals at student canteens are heavily subsidised. The table on the right shows the approximate living costs at CUHK for an undergraduate in one term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>HKD</th>
<th>USD*</th>
<th>EUR*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>1,032</td>
<td>874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals</td>
<td>30,000</td>
<td>3,871</td>
<td>3,279</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandatory Meal Plan#</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>273</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books and Necessities</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Transportation</td>
<td>3,100</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visa Application Fee</td>
<td>630</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration Fee</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hostel Deposit (Refundable)</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caution Money (Refundable)</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>51,780</td>
<td>6,681</td>
<td>5,659</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Based on an exchange rate of 1USD to 7.75HKD and 1EUR to 9.15HKD.
# Applies to students assigned to Morningside, S.H. Ho & C.W. Chu Colleges only.
* Assumes three meals per week.

The above table is for reference only. Costs are based on on-campus living. Costs may change due to inflation and will vary depending on individual lifestyles and preferences.
ADMISSION & APPLICATION

You can apply to CUHK either as an exchange or study abroad (fee-paying) student, and study for one term, one year (two terms) or one summer. Application is open to university students worldwide. Prior knowledge in Chinese is not required.

Exchange or study abroad?

You will be considered as an exchange student if your home institution has a formal bilateral student exchange agreement with CUHK. In other cases, you will be considered as a study abroad student. Check with the international office of your home institution to find out if you can come to CUHK on an exchange or study abroad basis.

Admission requirements

- Completed at least 2 terms of university studies
- Be in good academic standing with a grade point average (GPA) of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (B average or better); applications with a slightly lower GPA will be carefully assessed
- With good disciplinary record and standing

Academic calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>First Term</th>
<th>Second Term</th>
<th>Summer (July)</th>
<th>Summer (August)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orientation</td>
<td>Late August</td>
<td>Early January</td>
<td>Late June</td>
<td>Early August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day of class</td>
<td>Early September</td>
<td>Early January</td>
<td>Late June</td>
<td>Early August</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last day of exams</td>
<td>Late December</td>
<td>Mid-May</td>
<td>Early August</td>
<td>Late August</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Application procedures

Exchange students:

01. Apply through home institution
02. Be nominated by home institution
03. Complete CUHK online application
04. Submit hardcopy of supporting documents to CUHK

Study abroad students:

01. Complete CUHK online application
02. Submit hardcopy of supporting documents to CUHK

Application deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Term / Year (September)</td>
<td>1 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second Term (January)</td>
<td>2 October</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer (July)</td>
<td>30 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer (August)</td>
<td>31 May</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To whom should I pay the fees?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Exchange students</th>
<th>Study abroad students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application fee</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>CUHK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition</td>
<td>Home institution</td>
<td>CUHK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation fees</td>
<td>CUHK*</td>
<td>CUHK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration and other miscellaneous fees</td>
<td>CUHK</td>
<td>CUHK</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Exceptions apply to some institutions.
The CUHK International Summer School (ISS) was first offered in 2004 and has since become one of the most popular university summer programmes in the region. Each year, over 600 international students gather at the CUHK campus to join local students in an intensive programme of academic and cultural immersion. This is a great opportunity for you to gain a Hong Kong and Asian perspective from your peers and to explore Chinese culture through activities, excursions and field trips.

July Session
The ISS July Session is a 5-week programme that takes place in late June to early August. You can enrol in up to two 3-credit courses in a wide range of academic disciplines and join the optional Beijing tour to explore China’s historic capital city.

Some 20 courses are on offer in these areas:
- Business and Management
- China Studies
- Chinese Language (Putonghua / Mandarin and Cantonese)
- Environment, Science and Technology
- Humanities and Social Science

August Session
The ISS August Session is a 3-week programme that runs from early to late August. You can enrol in two 3-credit courses of intensive Chinese language training in Putonghua (Mandarin). Beginner to advanced levels are available. There is opportunity to acquire pragmatic competence through classroom learning and immersion activities.

Visit [www.summer.cuhk.edu.hk](http://www.summer.cuhk.edu.hk) for more details on the CUHK International Summer School.

Summer Undergraduate Research Programme
The Summer Undergraduate Research programme (SURP) is an opportunity for international undergraduate students to undertake research attachment at CUHK for eight weeks from June to August. Students will conduct research under the supervision of a CUHK faculty member and earn 3 credits upon successful completion of the programme.

Visit [www.summer.cuhk.edu.hk/surp](http://www.summer.cuhk.edu.hk/surp) for more details on the Summer Undergraduate Research Programme.