

Comparison between studying Chinese in Chinese Language Center at Chinese University of Hong Kong and institutes in your home-country, other institutes in Hong Kong and cities in China.

THE STUDY				
	Study Chinese in CLC@CUHK	Study Chinese in other cities in China	Study Chinese in other institutes in Hong Kong	Study Chinese in your home-country
Teaching staff	Native speakers of the language taught and majority of them possess M.A. degree in language/ teaching from prestigious universities. Teachers here are all university level instructors and teach university programmes to undergraduates and postgraduates in CUHK as well.	Native speakers. Education level varies	Very rare teachers would have master degree and received formal teacher training	Usually non-native speakers with or without master degree
Classmates	Students from more than 70 countries. You can expose yourself to international environment during class and activities.	Varies	Limited nationalities	Classmates from your home-country of homogenous culture.
Medium of language	Mainly in Chinese supplemented by English at elementary level	Chinese and English	Chinese and English	Sometimes instructors speak your mother tongue too much in teaching Chinese.
Language environment	Chinese and English on campus and the society	Chinese and English on campus	Chinese and English on campus and the society	Majority in your mother tongue
Campus	CLC has a 3-floor premises solely for foreigners in learning Chinese language located in a beautiful 134 hectares campus.	Varies	Usually in a cramped room in a packed commercial building.	Unless you study in university, otherwise the place is usually small and crowded.
Class size	Small classes at 7-20	Usually big class of more than 15-30 students.	Varies	Usually big class of 15-30 students.
Curriculum	Focus on oral proficiency. Students can join the full time award-bearing programmes in January, May and September; and intensive programs I Summer, Winter and Spring. Flexible curriculum with a variety of course for	Usually rigid and conventional type of teaching	Varies	Too much focus on grammar and lack of speaking practice.

	you to choose based on your ambition, interest and aptitude			
Students and alumni	From all walks of life e.g. Embassies, diplomats, government officials, CEOs, journalists, housewives and students who wish to pursue high quality Chinese learning	Varies	Limited quality student background	You guess
Price	Value for money	Varies	May be cheaper, but you might bear risk	Varies
Value added items	Accommodation advice for students. On-campus dormitory may be available for Summer program students. Cultural activities and training for all students	Varies	Usually not available	Varies
Other credits	✓ CUHK is the only tertiary institution in Hong Kong to have both Chinese and English as the official languages by law and can be regarded as the only university in Asia Pacific which is truly practice bilingualism (Chinese and English) and multi-culturalism. ✓ CUHK is ranked above the world's top 50 universities (Times Higher Education 2006). ✓ The first and the only university teaching unit in Hong Kong that issues accredited awards in Chinese as a Foreign/ Second Language (TCFL) including Mandarin (Putonghua) and Cantonese. ✓	Varies	Rarely have outstanding credits	May or may not be available.

LIVING ENVIRONMENT		
	Study Chinese in CLC@CUHK	Study Chinese in other cities in China
Social order and security	➤ One of the safest cities in the world. ➤ Safe, convenient, sensational and dynamic.	Depends on city. But high crime rate in some cities mean it is not safe for a foreigner to walk on the street after 9:00p.m.
Living comfort	➤ In some countries, people stare at expatriates in an unfriendly manner. Here in Hong Kong rarely would this happen. Meeting expatriates is a part of Hong Kongers' life. ➤ Many people can communicate in 3 languages (English Mandarin and Cantonese). This can help non-native English speakers to improve English as well.	If you do not know Mandarin, it is rather difficult in daily living.
International exposure	➤ You can be truly international and multi-cultural.	Not as strong as in Hong Kong
Transportation	➤ Hub of Asia, gateway to other China cities and Asian countries. ➤ Relatively cheap air ticket available. ➤ Safe, clean and modern public transportation	Varies
Shopping	➤ Shopping paradise – AV/ IT product, clothing, food etc. ➤ Ready to access to commodities from worldwide. ➤ Shops normally open for more than 12 hours to ease shoppers	Many consumer products are not reliable. Many China main-landers buy things from Hong Kong for good quality.
Housing	➤ It is a little expensive here in Hong Kong. More information about housing is available on web site. CLC staff would be happy to give you more information.	Varies
Food	➤ food at all budgets available at short distance	Usually of limited selection, and sometimes hygiene is a problem.
Medical Support	➤ Reliable service at reasonable price in public hospitals and private clinics.	May or may not be reliable.

