



# NOTES OF GUIDANCE FOR YOUR EXCHANGE DESTINATION

## University of Hong Kong, China

### Fast Facts:

<b>Website:</b>	<a href="#">General university website</a> <a href="#">Exchange student website</a>
<b>Language of instruction:</b>	English
<b>Semester dates:</b>	Semester 1 (Fall): August to December Semester 2 (Spring): January to May
<b>Number of students currently enrolled</b>	>30,000
<b>Academic restrictions at a glance</b> <i>Please note: These are guidelines. It is your responsibility to research whether the partner provides appropriate courses for your degree programme.</i>	Students are not allowed to take courses in the Faculty of Dentistry, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, BSc (Exercise and Health) Programme, and most final year project courses provided by all faculties  The Faculty of Architecture has limited spaces available
<b>General Costs</b>	Estimated over HK\$100,000 for the academic year, not including flights, insurance or visa costs. Costs may vary significantly depending on housing and lifestyle.
<b>About the University</b>	The University of Hong Kong is the territory's oldest institute of higher learning and also an internationally recognized, research led, comprehensive university. While recognising the strength of its heritage and traditions, HKU also engages in frontier research and academic endeavours that reflect and address the needs of a fast changing, knowledge-based world.  HKU's total land holding is about 49 hectares which cover some 39 hectares of land in the University campuses that stretch along the north-western slopes of Hong Kong Island between 50 and 150 metres above sea level. It provides a total gross floor area of about 441,000 square metres for teaching, research, office accommodation, amenities and residential purposes. The main campus is around 10 minute's bus-ride away from the city centre.

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## What to expect

### Application process

You apply for study exchanges through SWAY. You can find out more about our [study exchange routes here](#), and more about the [application process here](#).

After applying, if you are allocated an exchange place at the University of Hong Kong, you will be officially nominated by the International Programmes Team. We will then provide you with your detailed application instructions. **You can ONLY apply to any exchange destination if you have been allocated a place there, and if you are officially nominated by us.**

### Academics

For support with the academic side of your exchange, your best point of contact is your Exchange Coordinator, [found here](#). The Exchange Coordinator is a member of academic staff who will be a key contact throughout your exchange.

<b>Course Load and Credit Load</b>	<p>You are normally <b>required</b> to take whatever constitutes a full academic credit or course load at your host university.</p> <p>The page linked below contains a copy of the <b>International Exchange Credit Requirements</b>. This outlines the number of credits you are required to take at your host institution. There are also more answers to frequently asked questions about the academic side of your exchange.</p> <p><a href="#">Academic matters   The University of Edinburgh</a></p>
<b>Courses</b>	<p>Academic information can be found at the bottom of <a href="#">this page</a></p> <p>50% of the course load must be chosen from ONE faculty with the remaining credits from other faculties.</p> <p><b>**Please be aware, there may not be an up-to-date course catalogue available at this exchange destination. Please use the information available to get an idea about what you can study while on exchange**</b></p>
<b>Academic Restrictions</b>	<p>Students are not allowed to take courses in the Faculty of Dentistry, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, BSc (Exercise and Health) Programme, and most final year project courses provided by all faculties</p>

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	<p>Some courses may also be highly competitive. In particular: Business and Economics courses are highly competitive.</p> <p>Faculty of Architecture has limited spots for accepting incoming exchange students. Application to the Faculty of Architecture would be considered on a case-by-case basis and subject to whether the Faculty is included in student exchange programme agreement between HKU and the partner institution. Students should check with their home institution before the application period for whether they are eligible to apply for the Faculty.</p> <p><b>Please note:</b> These are guidelines. It is <b>your</b> responsibility to research whether the partner provides appropriate courses for your degree programme. <b>Even if there are not restrictions on your degree subject, it does not mean that there are appropriate courses for you. Please check.</b></p>
<b>Orientation</b>	<p>Orientation happens the week before semester courses start. You are strongly encouraged to join the Orientation Day to help familiarise yourself with studying in Hong Kong and at HKU, and also to get to know some new friends! <a href="#">See more arrival advice here</a></p>

## Accommodation

Finding accommodation that you are happy with on your year abroad is very important and there are often many aspects to consider when looking for somewhere to live.

Many host institutions do offer university accommodation but please do note, **this is not always guaranteed**. You may also need to pay for things like agent or administrative fees that is not always the case here in Edinburgh. It is a good idea to do your research so you do not have any surprises!

<b>University Accommodation</b>	<p>Students should make application online through CEDARS Accommodation Office <a href="#">Accommodation Application Link</a></p> <p>Housing resources are limited, so students are suggested to apply for accommodation as soon as possible. Students who cannot be allocated a place in halls or colleges will be housed in non-hall student housing managed by the Center of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS). In some extreme cases, students would have to look for other housing options like privately rented housing in the vicinity of the University on their own. CEDARS can assist them to find such places.</p>

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## Costs

It is important to budget for different expenses while on exchange. Your exchange destination may be more expensive than Edinburgh, and different expenses may be required. For example, rent may be higher; you might need to take public transport more; essentials may be more expensive or different, like sun cream in warmer climates or woolly socks in colder climates! These costs will add up so it is good to have an estimate of how much money you might need.

<b>Tuition Fees</b>	<p>While on exchange, you will continue to pay fees to the University of Edinburgh, as appropriate, and your fee status will determine how much you pay.</p> <p>Consult our webpage <a href="#">here</a> and follow the link to consult the university's information on tuition fees for students studying abroad.</p>
<b>Estimated Cost of Living</b>	<p>All costs are in HK dollars</p> <p>University accommodation: \$20,000 to upward of \$50,000 per academic year. This is much cheaper than private housing.</p> <p>Meal plans may be mandatory depending on what housing you are in. They do not cover all meals. They cost around \$10,000 but this can differ a little depending on the accommodation.</p> <p>Food, groceries, and transportation: \$5,000 per month</p> <p>Books and supplies: Around \$10,000 – will depend on courses</p> <p>Other personal expenses with vary on lifestyle choices</p> <p>Flights may be extremely expensive, especially if booked last minute</p> <p>Caution Money will be paid on first registration and shall be retained by the university as a deposit of HK\$350 from which it may make deductions in respect of fees, fines, breakages, damages, losses and other charges incurred by the student. If at any time, as a result of deductions made, the balance of the deposit be inadequate to meet future charges outstanding, the student will have to restore the balance therein to its original level. On withdrawal from the university, the balance of the students caution money shall be returned to the student.</p> <p>Students' Union fee – students are required to pay approx. HK\$250 towards the student's union.</p> <p>Estimated total: Over HK\$100,000</p> <p>The university provides some more information <a href="#">here</a></p>

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	You may also be required to pay for administrative fees at your host institution. This can include paying for your transcript to be sent to us at the end of your exchange.
<b>Insurance</b>	Health and travel insurance is optional but highly recommended
<b>Student Loans and Grants</b>	<p>Consult our <a href="#">funding webpages</a> for more information about the Funding available to you through SWAY while on your year abroad.</p> <p>If you receive a student loan or grant, you may still be eligible to receive them during your exchange. Contact your funding providers for more information on the availability and eligibility of funding during your exchange, as well as any additional support they may offer. For example: some loan providers offer travel grants to students.</p>

## Other

<b>Passports</b>	<p><b>Make sure that your passport will be in date for the entirety of your stay, and for any additional required time after the end of your exchange for entry requirements and visa purposes.</b></p> <p>If you need to apply for a new passport during the application process to your host institution, this may delay the application and visa processes.</p>
<b>Visas</b>	<p>The visa process will vary from country to country, and your own citizenship will influence the visa process you need to undertake. You must make sure to enter your host country on the appropriate visa.</p> <p>Students must complete online visa application by the visa application deadline and send hard copies of application documents to designated visa office after receiving instructions. Please do not mail the visa application to International Affairs Office</p> <p>Please note that it will take at least 10 weeks to process student's visa application and the visa application fee is non-refundable. For general visa application procedures, please refer to <a href="https://www.studentvisa.hku.hk/">https://www.studentvisa.hku.hk/</a></p> <p>Important information: You will be asked to provide proof of your finances in order to receive your visa.</p> <p>Here in SWAY we cannot give specific visa advice. Please research using the relevant embassy and government websites for more information. There is more information on our webpage about things to consider regarding visas <a href="#">here</a>.</p>

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	Once you have received an offer from a host institution, you will be given more advice from them about the visa processes.
<b>Employment</b>	Exchange students are NOT allowed to work in Hong Kong under Student Visa conditions.
<b>Disability Statement and Accessibility</b>	<p>Some destinations may be more accessible than others for disabled students. If you require any adjustments due to disability or specific learning difficulties or disabilities and you wish to study abroad please contact The International Programmes Team via email: <a href="mailto:international.outgoing@ed.ac.uk">international.outgoing@ed.ac.uk</a>.</p> <p>We will work together with you to explore the help available at your host institution. It may also be helpful if you discuss this with your Personal Tutor and the Disability and Learning Support Service as well.</p>