@ THE CHINESE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Office of Academic Links

www.oal.cuhk.edu.hk
See You @ CUHK!
Welcome to
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

As the second oldest university in Hong Kong, CUHK is a comprehensive research university with a global vision and a mission to combine tradition with modernity, and to bring together China and the West. CUHK has been at the forefront of research, advancing the frontiers of knowledge and technology. It boasts a galaxy of distinguished scholars and researchers, who include four Nobel laureates, a Fields medalist, a Turing Award winner, and members of the Royal Society.

Overlooking the scenic Tolo Harbour, CUHK is the largest, greenest and most sustainably designed campus in Hong Kong. CUHK distinguishes itself from other local universities with its firmly rooted Chinese culture, multiculturalism, and a unique college system. It houses a range of facilities essential for an all-round campus experience, such as world-class libraries, art museum, music halls, swimming pool, sports fields, tennis courts, squash courts, water sports centre and gymnasiums.
The Office of Academic Links (OAL) 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, tolerance and a global perspective.

OAL will serve as your home department during your time at CUHK and provide a single point of contact to facilitate all aspects of your studies, both before and after arrival. Some of the assistance you will receive include:

- Admission & visa application
- Course registration
- On-campus housing arrangement
- Pre-arrival preparation
- Orientation activities
- Cultural programmes

The first student exchange programme at CUHK was launched in 1965 with the University of California system. Since then, CUHK has continued to receive students through 380 programmes with partner institutions in more than 30 countries. With a population of over 1,400 international exchange students each year, the CUHK campus is truly an international melting-pot.
Hong Kong

Asia’s World City, City of Life

Hong Kong is Asia’s World City. 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. A variety of rich and diverse experiences packed in an easy and fast to get around city.

Experience life in an international cosmopolitan
Seven percent of Hong Kong’s population of over seven million are from foreign countries, creating multi-cultural lifestyles that are unique to the city.

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.

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 Asian headquarters here. Many people come to learn the secrets of Hong Kong’s success.

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 available and delicious night snacks can be found at 24-hour eateries.

Explore the outdoors
Over seventy percent of Hong Kong is covered by national parks and greenery. Escape the buzzing city life on one of the world’s most convenient public transportation system and indulge yourself in the spectacular countryside.

Travel to Mainland China and Asia in a blink
The commuter train from CUHK reaches the boarder of Mainland China in just 25 minutes. A day trip to Shenzhen or study breaks to Beijing or Shanghai are only some of the extensive options available. Being in the centre of Asia, travelling around is extremely fast and easy. Flying to Japan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand or Vietnam only takes a nap.
Come Study @ CUHK

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

Getting around the city
At the bottom of the campus is the University Station. Travelling north for 20 minutes will take you to Lo Wu, the border of Hong Kong and China where travellers and locals frequently go for delicious food, handbags, electronic gadgets, and cheap massages. Travelling south for 30 minutes will take you to the CBD of the Kowloon Peninsula and another 10 minutes will get you to Central on the island. The campus is conveniently located in Shatin, a suburb in the northeastern part of the city. It is primarily a residential area with a population of approximately 650,000. There's nothing short to do in Shatin. It is home to one of two horse racecourses, the Hong Kong Heritage Museum, the Ten Thousand Buddhas Monastery, and the New Town Plaza shopping centre where you can shop til you drop!

Living on campus
There are 41 residential halls (or hostels as they are called) at CUHK. International students are placed in the hostels, providing not only convenience, but also additional opportunities to get to know the locals through the many formal and informal activities organised by the hostels and its residents. Besides, on-campus accommodation at CUHK is extremely

Studying about China and other disciplines
Given its geographical location, traditions and ties, students enjoy special advantages in the study of China at CUHK. This ranges from the humanities and social sciences, to business as well as the sciences. Different specialties in engineering including electronic, information, automation engineering command world-leading positions. CUHK's Business, Law, and Medical Schools are reputable training grounds for professionals in their respective fields as well as centres of seminal research.
Academic Experience @ CUHK

Areas of studies open to international students include:

**Arts**  

**Business Administration**  
Accountancy, Decision sciences & managerial economics, Finance, Hotel & tourism management, Management, and Marketing

**Education**  
Sports science & physical education

**Engineering**  
Computer science & engineering, Electronic engineering, Information engineering, Mechanical & automation engineering, and Systems engineering & engineering management

**Law**  
(Only available to law major students meeting individual course pre-requisites)

**Medicine**  
Public health & primary care

**Science**  
Chemistry, Life sciences, Mathematics, Physics and Statistics

For a comprehensive list of courses which are taught in English and normally available to international students, please visit [www.oal.cuhk.edu.hk](http://www.oal.cuhk.edu.hk).

**Faculty of Social Science**  
Architecture, Economics, Geography & resource management, Government & public administration, Journalism & communication, Psychology, Social work, and Sociology

**Other Special Studies**  
Chinese language for non-native speakers, Contemporary China studies, General education, and Global studies

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Chinese Language Courses

With a history of over half a century, the Yale-China Chinese Language Centre (CLC) is at the forefront of Chinese learning techniques and is one of the largest centres of its kind worldwide. The CLC offers Putonghua and Cantonese courses at all levels. International students are welcome to take up to 6 units of approved Chinese language courses per term as part of their programme of study.

**Centre for China Studies**  
Courses offered by the Contemporary China studies programme are all taught in English and are popular among international students who are either striving for in-depth 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:

- China on Screen
- Chinese Business and Economy
- Chinese Society in Transformation
- Contemporary Chinese Popular Culture
- Investment and Finance in China
- War and Revolution in China
Cultural experience is an integral part of your experience at CUHK and is something which you cannot acquire from the classroom. To fully maximise your experience at CUHK, cultural, extra-curricular and sports programmes are available to you.

**Orientation**

An extensive orientation programme prepares you for your stay and study at CUHK and covers information on academics, student life, Chinese culture, Hong Kong society and support services available at CUHK. It will be an excellent opportunity to get acquainted with fellow international students.

**Cultural and extra-curricular programmes**

Many informal learning opportunities are provided outside the classroom. Cultural activities include field trips, teaching-in-China programme, teaching-in-Hong Kong programme, martial arts classes and many more.

**Accommodation**

Undergraduate international students live in shared on-campus accommodation at one of the nine colleges. They are conveniently located across the campus and easily accessible with the on-campus bus system. Living with a local roommate will no doubt help you quickly adapt to the new environment and culture.

**Meeting the locals**

There will be countless opportunities to meet local students at classes, canteens, karaoke boxes, hiking trips, BBQs and other social gatherings. Be active, 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 still participate with rewarding results.

**College activities**

Colleges at CUHK organise a variety of cultural and sports activities including singing contests, varsity sporting competitions, drama nights, festive celebrations and language enhancement programmes. Dessert nights are not to be missed.

**Community service programme**

Opportunities are available to international students to engage in community service. For example, CLOVER is a cultural diversity and voluntary service programme in which local, Mainland and international students join hands in providing community services to those in need.

**Student services and facilities**

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

CUHK welcomes you, as an exchange or study abroad (fee-paying) student. You can come for one term, one year or one summer. Application is open to university students of any nationality with sufficient proficiency in either English or Chinese. No prior knowledge in Chinese is necessary.

Exchange or study abroad
You will be considered an exchange student if your home institution has a formal bilateral student exchange agreement with CUHK. You will be considered a study abroad student if your home institution has no formal bilateral student exchange agreement with CUHK.

Admission requirements
• Completed at least 2 semesters of university studies
• Be in good academic standing with a grade point average (GPA) of 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

Application procedures
For exchange students:
1. Apply through home university
2. Be nominated by home institution
3. Complete online application
4. Submit hardcopy of supporting documents to home institution

For study abroad students:
1. Complete online application
2. Submit hardcopy of supporting documents to CUHK

Application deadlines
First term/year (September): 1 April
Second term (January): 2 October
Summer (July): 30 April
Summer (August): 31 May

Fees
For exchange students:
• Tuition paid to home institution
• Hostel fee paid to CUHK (or to home institutions depending on specific exchange agreement)
• Administration and other miscellaneous fees paid to CUHK

For study abroad students:
• Application fee paid to CUHK
• Tuition paid to CUHK
• Hostel fee paid to CUHK
• Administration and other miscellaneous fees paid to CUHK

Academic calendar

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

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 following table shows the approximate living costs at CUHK for an undergraduate.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Items</th>
<th>$US per year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On-campus hostel fee</td>
<td>1,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meals on campus</td>
<td>4,650</td>
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<tr>
<td>Personal expenses (e.g. books; daily expenses such as laundry and local transportation)</td>
<td>1,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural activities</td>
<td>130</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visa application fee</td>
<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administration fee</td>
<td>136</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total yearly cost</td>
<td>8,285</td>
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* Hostel fees vary depending on the hostel building.

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.
CUHK has been offering a summer programme to exchange and study abroad students since 2004. Some 500 international students are attracted to CUHK annually from all over the world. International students are joined by local students in 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

A five-week programme commencing in late-June. You enroll in up to two 3-credit courses. Areas of study include business, Chinese language (Cantonese and Putonghua), Chinese medicine, engineering, environmental studies, humanities and social science. An optional tour to Beijing allows you to visit major local attractions including the Great Wall, Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Olympic stadiums and Summer Palace.

August Session

A three-week programme in the month of August offering intensive Chinese language training. You enroll in up to two 3-credit courses. There is opportunity to acquire pragmatic competence through classroom learning and immersion activities.
Summer Undergraduate Research Programme

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

Office of Academic Links

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
i-Centre
1/F Yasumoto International Academic Park
Shatin, New Territories
Hong Kong SAR
Tel : (852) 3943 7597
Email : iasp@cuhk.edu.hk
Web : www.oal.cuhk.edu.hk

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