Exchange Scheme with the Chinese University of Hong Kong

Where is CUHK?

Established in 1963, CUHK is Hong Kong’s second oldest university and one of the top universities in Asia. The campus is located in Sha Tin, a suburb in the north east of Hong Kong, 30 minutes by train from downtown Kowloon. It hosts approx. 17,000 students.

Who can go?

- **Two places** will be made available to York Undergraduate students in 2020/21, with priority given to James and Derwent college students. Priority for **one** place will be given to **Politics 3+1** students.
- This will replace your 2nd year of study at York for credit-replacing programmes (or the 2nd/3rd year of study if you’re on a 4 year programme). Please speak to your department about the availability of extended degrees that allow you to take an additional year to study abroad.
- Please consult the [Opportunities by Subject](#) webpage to see if your department is eligible for exchange.
- Most courses are open to exchange students although some may require prerequisite confirmation. The only exclusions at CUHK are the Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Law, Education and Putonghua/Cantonese courses designated for degree candidates.
- This exchange is not suitable for students from Education.
- Further information on courses unavailable to exchange students can be found [here](#).

Courses

- Students will be expected to take a full course load over the academic year which will consist of **eight 3-unit undergraduate courses** (i.e. **12 units (credits) per semester**). 24 units should be taken in the student’s degree subject in order to achieve the equivalent 120 York credits.
- The course catalogue serves as a **general guide** to the courses available. However, not all courses may be available in each semester and some may be restricted. You should check the universities scheduling for a directory of courses available in the following academic year.
- Information on courses can be found at: [cuhk.edu.hk/getting_started/](#)

How will my marks be assessed/converted?

- Grade Conversion Tables for each institution will be made available to successful applicants. Grades will only be converted for credit replacement students.
- University of York staff can access Grade Conversion Tables here: [york.ac.uk/students/study-abroad/accepted/#tab-5](#)
- Please ensure that you are fully aware of how grades will be converted on your return to York. Students on additional years will have different arrangements to those on credit-replacing exchange.
Costs

Please note that the costs below are based on previous years and are provided for guidance only. Exact costs may vary due to exchange rates, inflation, personal circumstance and/or other reasons.

- **Tuition Fees**: Students will pay no tuition fees to the Chinese University of Hong Kong and in 2018/19 their University of York fees were reduced to 15% of the full academic fee.

- **Visas**: Please check the costs related to applying for a visa with the Immigration Department of Hong Kong [here](#). (For further information on visas see section below)

- **Medical insurance**: It is advised that any required immunisations are completed before you leave the UK as the costs are higher in Hong Kong.

- The University Health Service at CUHK provides free primary health care and clinical services to all exchange students. Exchange students should arrange additional accidental and medical insurance at their own cost during their stay in Hong Kong to cover their travelling around Asia.

- Students are advised to arrange, at their own cost, insurance coverage with provisions for emergency evacuation/rescuer’s expenses and repatriation for the full duration of their year in Hong Kong. More can be found on the CUHK [During Your Exchange](#) webpage.

- **Additional costs to consider**: Flights, accommodation, travel insurance, living costs (food, books, money for additional travel/activities)

- An example of [living costs](#) can be found [here](#). As you will be staying in Morningside College this will include a compulsory meal plan.

Financial Assistance

- **York Futures Scholarship** new for 2019/20. Support for personal and professional development. Funding of up to £6000 available to students applying to study abroad in 2020/21. There are two rounds of applications for this funding, Autumn Term and Easter Vacation/start of Summer Term. We recommend that you apply for the first round of funding to secure this before you have received confirmation of your study abroad place. For more information please see the following web pages: [york.ac.uk/students/work-volunteering-careers/skills/work-experience/yfs/](#)

Visa

Please be aware that Centre for Global Programmes staff are not qualified to offer consultations or in-depth advice regarding visa applications. Immigration laws are complex and subject to frequent changes. Therefore if you do have any further questions about the process of applying for your visa you will need to contact the appropriate Embassy directly. The information below is intended as guidance only and unless otherwise stated applies only to UK citizens without exceptional circumstances.

- The Chinese University of Hong Kong will ask you to apply for a **Student Visa** at the Hong Kong Immigration Department through the [Office of Academic Links (OAL)](#).

- The visa application form must be submitted along with photocopies of your passport, a recent photograph, a financial declaration and any other applicable documents.

- In order to receive a visa you must show that you have sufficient funds available in your bank account (minimum balance of **HK$66,000** for a full academic year 20109/20), by providing a photocopy of either your bank statement, your parents/guardians bank statement or a letter issued by your home institution.

- It takes approximately 5-7 weeks to process an application; therefore it is advised that students should submit their visa application **2 months** before the start of their exchange programme.

- International students going on exchange are advised to apply for a visa in their home country and not in the UK.

What’s it like to study there?

“The campus at CUHK is outside of the main city of Hong Kong and has the atmosphere of a small town all of its own, with plenty of shops, restaurants offering many different cuisines, and leisure facilities such as gyms, bars and even an outdoor swimming pool. Academically, the library is large (roughly the
same size as York’s) and there are lots of study spaces both indoor and outdoor around the college buildings. The campus is also very green and surrounds numerous natural beauty spots, all the while being only around 30 minutes train ride away from one of the world’s most dynamic cities.”

“On studying at CUHK and the atmosphere of the courses, there are a few differences with York. One is the length of the lectures, with two hours being the standard, and even three hours if the lecturer schedules the tutorial straight off the back of the lecture, as often happens. During the lectures, there tends to be more contact and questions and answers going between the lecturers and students than at York, which seems to be the way many lecturers keep track of whether students are understanding what they are being told. The workload is nothing to be afraid of, with the readings and assessments not being any more taxing than is the norm in York - I even found that some of the lecturers were a bit more forgiving towards exchange students than locals, understanding as they did that there was a lot more that exchange students wanted to do in Hong Kong than just work. Class sizes were generally smaller, with lectures having around 30-40 students in, and tutorials around 10-15. The final notable difference between York and CUHK is the variety of assessments. Whereas York tends to be very exam focused, in my subjects (history and politics) at CUHK I didn’t sit an exam all year, instead being assessed by essays, presentations and debate contributions among other things. Thus, if exams don’t work so well for you, this would be of great benefit.”

“If there was to be one piece of advice I would give to any student who likes the idea of studying abroad but who is hesitant about committing to it, it would be that any fears you have are more than likely unfounded and that any Utopian ideals you have about your friends’ lives at home are too. You might never again have the chance to be taking weekend trips to Vietnam, going on road trips in the USA or sitting on a beach in Australia, so don’t hesitate to grab the chance. You will make friends from around the world and gain valuable international experience that will benefit you personally and professionally alike, and at the end of the day, you’ll be back home and writing your final journal before you know it.”

Matthew, History and Politics, Year Abroad 2016/17

“The trip to CUHK allowed me to have a unique insight of living in a part of the world that both myself, and many other, would likely never otherwise see. Hong Kong is a vibrant and fast-paced city, with a blend of Western and Eastern culture on offer.”

“Alongside my academic work, I managed to meet new people who will hopefully keep in touch for years to come. I gained further experience of living independently, budgeting and getting to see the world; travelling to other parts of Asia, such as mainland China and Vietnam due to the flexibility of my timetable.”

Theo, PPE, Summer School 2017/18

“This year of experience helped me improve my confidence in communicating with other people. And I really enjoy the courses I’ve learned in CUHK, through studying these courses, I have found my academic interest about the modern history of East Asia, which could be the main goal of my postgraduate study. During the academic year, I travelled around Hong Kong and other cities, including Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Taiwan, Singapore, and Bangkok, and all of these cities showed me different charms of Asian Culture.”

Xinhao, Politics 2018/19

Where will I live?

- The Chinese University of Hong Kong will assign exchange students to accommodation in Morningside College: morningside.cuhk.edu.hk. This college founded in 2006, provides accommodation for 300 students. Three times a week there are college dinners with other Morningside students which creates a unique learning and living experience. For Information about Morningside College contact Agnes Fung: agnesfung@cuhk.edu.hk
The Hong Kong government heavily subsidises the college and this is reflected in the accommodation charges (between HK$7000 per term approx.) This does not include meal charges of approx. HK$2,200 per term at Morningside.

The college is situated next to the sports centre and is in full view of the Tolo harbour. Details of costs for 2019/20 can be found at: cuhk.edu.hk/files/incoming/feetable.pdf

Is it the right choice for me?

When thinking about choosing your destination for studying abroad please look through the Considerations Checklist on our web pages.

This will help you find the best opportunity for your degree and personal circumstances.

Contact details at Hong Kong

Your principal source of general advice at the Chinese University of Hong Kong will be the Regional Programme Officer – Heidi O. Email: heidio@cuhk.edu.hk

Address: Office of Academic Links, 13/F, Yasumoto International Academic Park, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shatin, N.T., Hong Kong SAR

Useful web links

- Main CUHK University Site
- Incoming Exchange Students
- Global Graduates
- Foreign Commonwealth Office Advice
- Hong Kong Tourist Information
- Cost of living Comparison Site
- Alternative cost of living comparison site

Please note: The websites listed here are not intended to represent a comprehensive list. The Centre for Global Programmes cannot be held responsible for the content of external websites.

All information included in these guidelines correct at time of printing, October 2019.

Students are responsible for researching their own exchanges and making sure that they have considered all costs and the compatibility of the overseas programme to their own degree, in discussion with their departments and supervisors. The Centre for Global Programmes are here to offer support.