Exchange Scheme with the University of Hong Kong

Where is the University of Hong Kong?
- Established in 1911 -
HKU is the oldest tertiary institution in Hong Kong. The university is situated in Pokfulam, Hong Kong, 4.4km from the city centre. Ranked 43rd in The Times world ranking, HKU is a public, research university with nearly 20,000 students.

Who can go?

- Four places will be made available for university-wide undergraduate York students in 2017/18.
- An additional two places will be made available, specifically for York Law School students and two places for York Management School students.
- This will replace your 2nd year of study at York for integrated 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 department webpage to see if your subject is eligible for exchange.
  https://www.york.ac.uk/students/study-abroad/opportunities/

Courses

- Students will be required to take a full course load of 48 credits in total/24 credits per semester (i.e. four 6-credit courses). If a student wishes to take extra courses in other non-degree related subjects, they should limit this to an additional 6 credits per semester.
- Every course has a numerical code, students should choose 200- and 300-level courses in the student’s degree subject in order to achieve the equivalent of 120 York credits.
- HKU has a policy which requires students to study a minimum of 50% of their credits in one faculty.
- Students should be aware of prerequisites for courses and their availability in different semesters, this information can be found in the course catalogue.
- The course catalogue can be found here http://www.als.hku.hk/admission/exchange/incoming/incoming-student-programme-offered.

How will my marks be assessed/converted?

- Grade Conversion Tables for each institution will be made available to successful applicants.
  - Please ensure that you are fully aware of how your grades will be converted on your return to York.

Costs

1) Tuition Fees: Students will pay no tuition fees to HKU and in 2016/17 their University of York fees were reduced to 15% of the full academic fee.

2) Visas: A payment of HK$500 (approx.) will be charged for the visa.
3) Medical insurance:

- All non-Hong Kong students who are intending to stay for more than 6 months should obtain a Hong Kong Identity Card (HKIC), more information can be found at http://cedars.hku.hk/nonlocal/visa.html.
- The HKIC can only be obtained once you are in Hong Kong, so it is advised to obtain your own insurance for the first month of your stay.
- Students with a HKIC will be eligible for medical treatment in Hong Kong, if you don’t have this card you would be liable for all costs.
- The University Health Service (UHS) provides comprehensive primary health care, consultations are usually free of charge, however certain treatments and operations come with a cost.

4) Additional costs to consider: The average cost of living in Hong Kong (excluding tuition and accommodation fees) is estimated to be around HK$45,000 (approx. £4500) per student for 10 months of study to pay for meals, transport, education expenses such as books and stationery, laundry and other personal items, etc. (2016/17).

Visa

- The visa application form must be submitted along with photocopies of your passport, a recent photograph, a financial declaration and any other applicable documents detailed in the guidance notes – http://www.oal.cuhk.edu.hk/files/incoming/IASP_Visa_GuidanceNotes.pdf
- 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), by providing a photocopy of either your bank statement, your parents/guardians bank statement or a letter issued by your home institution.
- Applicants are required to nominate a sponsor who is a resident in Hong Kong, over 21 years old, and who knows the applicant personally. If the student has trouble finding a sponsor, the student may seek assistance from the Office of Students Affairs.
- 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.

Where will I live?

Accommodation is not guaranteed. Students will be given details on how to apply for accommodation following their successful application to HKU.

For more information on both on-campus and off-campus accommodation, follow this link http://www.cedars.hku.hk/sections/accommodation.php, there will be advice and support for finding off-campus accommodation.

On-Campus Housing: Accepted students should apply online for one of the halls of residences as soon as possible. For more information on the Halls of Residences, follow this link http://www.cedars.hku.hk/sections/accommodation.php.

Off-Campus Housing: CEDARS (Centre of Development and Resources for Students) provides a database of property listings which can be accessed by students to find off-campus housing. Students are advised to arrive in Hong Kong 2-3 weeks to allow themselves enough time to find accommodation before the academic year starts.

Contact details at University of Hong Kong

Janice Lam - email: exchange@hku.hk
Global Affairs Office, The University of Hong Kong, G/F Fong Shu Chuen Amenities Centre, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong
Tel: +852 2219 4549

Useful web links:

HKU main site: http://www.hku.hk
Study Abroad and Exchange: http://www.als.hku.hk/admission/exchange/incoming
Third Year Abroad - http://www.thirdyearabroad.com/

All information included in these guidelines correct at time of printing, October 2016.