Exchange Scheme with the University of Hong Kong

Where is HKU?

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 2019/20. Priority for two places will be given to **Politics and History 3+1** students.
- An additional **two** places will be made available specifically for **York Law School** students and up to **four** places for **York Management School** students.
- All courses are taught in English and there is no requirement for students to have knowledge of Cantonese to take part in this exchange.
- For Law students this will extend your degree programme from 3 to 4 years – please contact Professor Richard Nolan (richard.nolan@york.ac.uk) for more information.
- For York Management students you will study in Hong Kong during your 2nd year and remain on the 3 year programme. (not available to ABFM students) Please contact Dr Fernando Fastoso (fernando.fastoso@york.ac.uk) for more information on eligibility.
- For other 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 note that students from **PEP with Economics requirements** cannot apply for this exchange due to the incompatibility of modules.
- Please consult the [Opportunities by Subject](#) webpage to see if your department is eligible for exchange.

Courses

- **30 credits** per semester, 6 credits per course (in general). Students are required to take a minimum of 24 credits to a maximum of 36 credits in each subject to approval of Dean/Head of Department.
- The Faculty of Law at HKU require students to take 30 credits, they may be allowed to take 24 credits but this must be agreed by York prior to arrival at HKU in the form of a signed Learning Agreement.
- Every course has a numerical code, students should choose **200-** and **300-** level courses in their degree subject, taking **30 credits** 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.
- Information on courses available to exchange students can be found on [HKU web pages](#). These courses are from the 2017/18 academic year and so they are to be used only as a general guide.

How will my marks be assessed/converted?

- Grade Conversion Tables for each institution will be made available to successful applicants.
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 your grades will be converted on your return to York. Students on additional years will have different arrangements to those on integrated study.

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 HKU and in 2018/19 their University of York fees were reduced to 15% of the full academic fee.
- **Visas:** A payment of HK$500 (approx.) will be charged for the visa.
- **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: hku.hk/campuslife/visamatters/faq
  - 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 and consultations are usually free of charge, however certain treatments and operations come with a cost.
  - **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. (2017/18).

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 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: 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.

What’s it like to study there?

“My first impressions have been almost entirely positive, people are very helpful and many events have been laid on to help with orientation. Despite not having university accommodation, I have found it easy to find a large group of friends.”

“So far I have experienced very little culture shock. To ensure that it didn’t become an issue, I got involved with as many different activities as possible. By doing this, I made a good group of friends, all of whom are in the same boat as myself, meaning we could give each other support with any
adjustment issues. Hong Kong itself is very different to anywhere in the UK, but I have noticed fundamental similarities between Hong Kong and London. For example, most people speak a good level of English and public transport is very easy to use. This has meant that the whole transitioning process has been very smooth. The important thing has been to keep an open mind and to embrace the differences between Hong Kong and home. If you can do this, it is easy to settle into a routine and get used to life in the city."

Edward, Politics Student, Year Abroad 2017/18

“I am having a complete blast at HKU and have adapted to the learning environment. I love how interactive the lectures are and how they are discussion-based. Every day, I am in a constant awe of how beautiful the university campus and scenic views are. It still surprises me that the campus is bombarded with escalators and lifts. Only a few months into my study abroad experience, I can truly call Hong Kong my ‘home’. To be in such an exciting city that resembles London in some ways, it feels great to call another city ‘home’.”

“I did not think it could be possible for my mind-set to change in such a short amount of time. You do not realise the flaws you have in your mind-set until you shift out of your comfort zone and into a new environment. Battling my ignorance’s and prejudices has been rewarding where I can now view the world outside of all the assumptions I have built up over the years. Having met all the kinds of people from across the world triggered this process. I have met some of the most amazing, intelligent and open-minded people that have truly made this experience incredible. I feel like I have travelled across the world simply through conversations. In addition, physically travelling to nearby countries has developed my confidence, self-esteem, awareness and street understanding.”

Raman, Philosophy Student, Year Abroad 2017/18

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.
- More information for both on-campus and off-campus accommodation, can be found [here](#).
- 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: [hkhu.hk/sections/accommodation.php](#). Students are offered accommodation on a lottery basis and should be prepared to look for alternative private housing.
- **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 early** to allow themselves enough time to find accommodation before the academic year starts.

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 HKU

- Ms. Janice Lam. Email: janicews@hku.hk
- Address: Global Affairs Office, University of Hong Kong, G/F Fong Shu Chuen Amenities Centre, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong.
- Tel: +852 28598979

Useful web links

- [HKU Main 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, September 2018.

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.