



## My Exchange Evaluation

### Basic Information

<b>Host University</b>	Chinese University of Hong Kong
<b>Semester &amp; Year of Exchange</b>	Semester 2 2024
<b>Otago degree(s)</b>	Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Science
<b>Major(s)</b>	Economics

### Academics/ course load

Which papers did you take whilst on exchange?

Course title	Language of instruction	Otago equivalent
Development Economics	English	ECON200/300
Introductory Mathematical Economics	English	ECON200/300
Business Environment of China	English	ECON200/300
History of Economic Thought	English	ECON200/300
Industrial Organisation	English	ECON200/300

Total Otago credits gained:  54 points  72 points  108 points  \_\_\_\_\_

Any comments about these papers?

These papers offered a wide variety of technical and more descriptive approaches to economics.

How did the academic experience/ workload/ style of teaching differ from Otago?

Lectures were conducted in three hour chunks as opposed to 50 minutes lectures at Otago and no lectures are recorded. However, I found that the workload was similar overall. Most teachers lecture at a slower pace compared to at Otago.

### Accommodation

What accommodation did you stay in? What were the pros and cons of your accommodation?

I stayed in a student hostel at CUHK called "Bethlehem Hall". The hostel was small with a shared room and did not have many other exchange students. This gave the opportunity for me to meet

many Hong Kong locals. The beds are quite small, and the mattresses on offer are thin and not very comfortable. I ended up buying another small mattress.

## Money matters

*Please detail your basic costs, e.g. accommodation, flights, visa, food, insurance*

The major one-off cost were flights which amounted to around: The student hostel was relatively cheap only costing around \$1600 for the entire semester. There were plenty of food options on campus that were cheap as well as street vendors and cheap eats in town. My food costs averaged to around \$160 a week.

*What means did you use to access your finances? What would you recommend? (Credit card, Cash passport, foreign bank account, etc.)*

I mainly used cash, through withdrawals at an ATM. However, if I could do it again I would have used an international card provider such as "Wise".

## Visas & Insurance

*Did you have to apply for a visa? What was the process?*

Yes, I had to apply for a visa. The process was laid out to me simply by CUHK and they provided assistance. Unusually the process required me to send all of the necessary documentation via post.

*Did your host university have a mandatory insurance?*

I used the insurance agency recommended by the University of Otago.

## Extra-curricular/Social Activities

*What organised activities were available to students? What extra-curricular activities would you recommend to future exchange students?*

The CUHK student experience office provided many opportunities for exchange students to explore the city to get involved with local life and meet new people. It mainly took the form of workshops and tours to different cultural landmarks. There are plenty of clubs at CUHK, but Cantonese language dominates meetings and can be a barrier for international students. I spent a lot of my time at the University sports facilities playing tennis, squash, and basketball, where I met most of my new friends.

*What was the university/ city like?*

Hong Kong is a city like no other. Each district has its own distinct feeling and you are constantly faced with contrasts. I love the backdrop of the city's jutting skyscrapers superimposed in front of lush mountains. CUHK is located further away from the central business district of Hong Kong and it takes around 40 minutes to get to "town". However, I personally enjoyed the distance from the big city. CUHK has a tranquil campus with beautiful views.

*Any recommendations for things to do, places to visit, places to eat etc.?*

Try to eat at all of the Michelin Guide recommended restaurants! There are so many that it will likely be impossible but they are delicious and cheap! Visit all of the famous landmarks and attractions like Victoria Peak and the "Big Buddha" and at least try one hike!

*Any tips for future students?*

Make local friends and eat everything (even chicken feet)!

## Overall Experience

*Please write one paragraph (or more) about your exchange experience. Please include some photos!*

My exchange in Hong Kong has been the highlight of my entire university experience. It is a cosmopolitan city that has absolutely everything anyone could desire: a bustling city centre with shops, architectural marvels, world-class transport, incredible hikes, cultural depth, and amazing food. You should seriously consider an exchange in Hong Kong. It is an unique experience that opens pathways across all of Asia.



