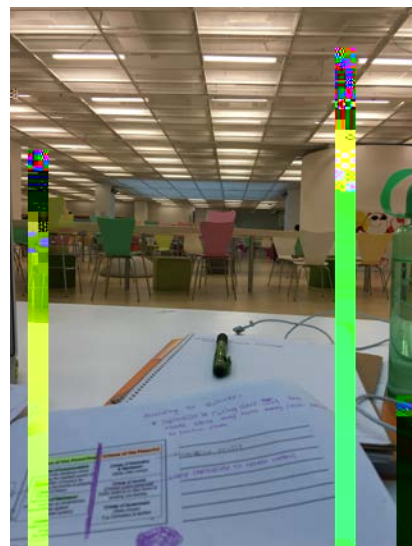


I spent my Fall 2015 semester overseas studying at the Chinese University of Hong Kong in Hong Kong. I major in International Studies with a minor in Sociology. I was born in Hong Kong therefore I did not have to apply for visa. In terms of what to pack, Hong Kong has a very warm and wet climate, therefore all you really need to pack is stuff you will wear during the spring/ summer in Vancouver. It was the wintertime during my time there, and never had I felt the need to wear more than a hoodie. Furthermore, if you find yourself lacking clothes or anything, just get them in Hong Kong since everything is pretty cheap there. For electronics, you have to bring travel adapter for power outlets; you need to get Type G power outlet to be exact. Hong Kong's transportation system is very convenient and makes it very easy for me to navigate within the city. MTR is the equivalent of our Skytrain but it's better; at least it will never stop working in the middle of rush hours. There is a train station

most importantly, they are all very affordable, and most of them have one or two vegetarian choices on their menu.

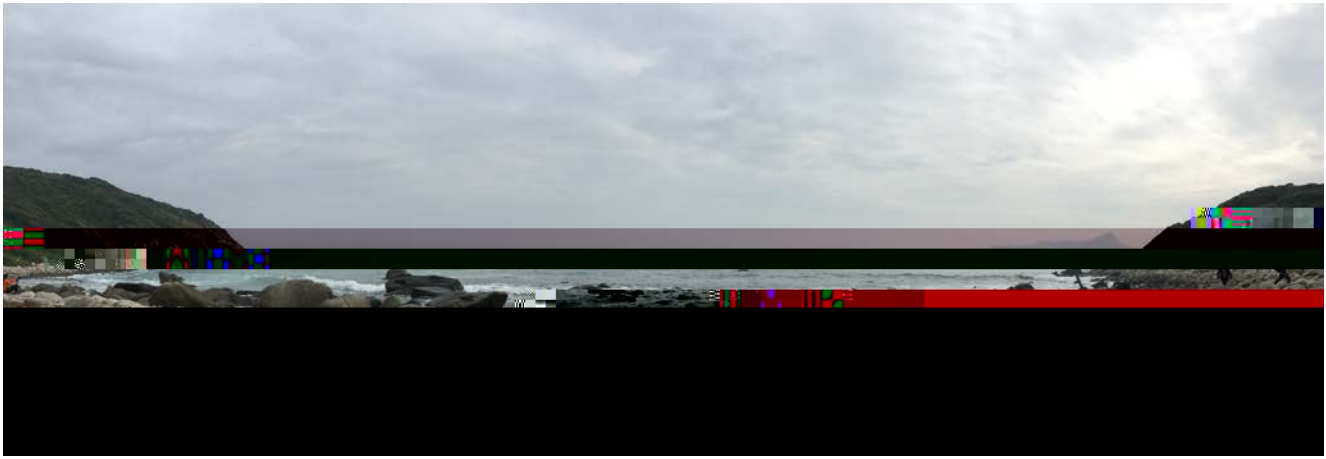
Upon my arrival, I took a taxi to the place that I am staying in; however, you can also schedule to have CUHK representative to come pick you up at the airport. Also, the exchange department at CUHK will set up a Facebook group specifically for incoming students and I saw that there are many people decided to meet up at the airport and go to university together. The Facebook group is very handy as it provided you with a support system that you can always go back to such as when you want a travel partner to accompany you or when you lost something or just general questions you have. The orientation is something that I highly recommend everyone to attend as it introduces you to the new environment and everything that will ensure you survive in HK.



(Library opens 24/7)

I stayed with my extended family when I was there so I did not have to pay for student accommodation on campus, however, if I knew before hand how far the university actually is from the place I stayed at I would definitely apply for on campus accommodation. CUHK has a very tight knitted student community and many of the activities such as are tied with the hostel or college that you are affiliated with and this is also a benefit of living on campus. Each student attending CUHK is affiliated with one of its nine colleges for both local and exchange students; as a result, you have a very





I did not go travel oversea as I opted to stay and explore various local



(Stilt houses on waterway in Tai O)

places in Hong Kong. I went to Macau, which is about 2 hours ferry ride away from HK, and I stayed there for three days. Macau is also known as the “Asia's Las Vegas” as the place is filled with casinos, and most of them required you to be 21

and over to get in.

I also went to a small fishing village called Tai O. Tai O is famous for its Stilt houses that are houses built on the river. You can also go on a boat ride there which will take you out to the ocean to see Chinese white dolphins.

Tap Mun is also a fishing village, however, it has a very different atmosphere compared with Tai O. Tai O is a very tourist centric spot while Tap Mun is a



(Tap Mun is also a habitat for wild cattle and you will see them grazing everywhere)

place that local people like to go hiking and camping at. One reason that makes Tap Mun a less common place for tourists to visit is because you need to take the train, bus and ferry to get there, but the view is definitely worth the trip.

There are also many places that you can go to visit in Hong Kong around the city. Such as the Victoria Harbor, Kowloon Park, the Ladies Market, and many more. The IASP, which is the study aboard department at CUHK, will also set up many sightseeing trips for exchange students.

I enjoyed my semester in Hong Kong very much. One of the advantages of going to Hong Kong is that because English is a commonly use language there you will be able to adjust to the environment very quickly. Also, the weather is very warm; therefore, I didn't have to stress having to fit too much clothing to my suitcases. One of the main things that I enjoyed the most, academic-wise, was the opportunity to interview local people and to learn more about the social aspects of the city. In terms of challenges, the campus is so big with many buses in the campus that all go to different buildings, it took me a while to get use to the transit system within the school and that there is actually an app for the transit system at CUHK which tells you what time the buses will come and a GPS tracking to tell you where you are.