

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Fall 2019 Exchange Report

Hello everyone, I am a third-year business student concentrating in Accounting. I went on exchange to the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) from August to December 2019. I have been wanting to go on

Transportation is very convenient in Hong Kong with MTR (Skytrain) and buses. They use a card called Octopus card which is like a Compass card expect you can use the Octopus card to buy food and purchase items as well. You can also apply for a student Octopus card during the first month of school. This is really convenient as with the student Octopus card you pay half of adult fare pricing which saves a lot of money. However, this student discount rate is only on MTR and not buses. Also remember to bring extra passport photos as you will need it for the hostel agreement forms and the application form for the student Octopus card.

In Hong Kong, it is more convenient to use cash rather than credit cards or debit cards. Many people there use their Octopus card to pay as it is like a gift card that can be used for transportation in almost every brand name store. Always have cash on you as there are many local restaurants and local places where only cash is accepted.

I arrived on my own but I know that CUHK arranges airport pick up during the first two days of the orientation week so look out for those if you don't want to get to the university yourself. Orientation is a good place to meet other exchange students from around the world. During the orientation, you will be assigned to a temporary hostel for one week. After this week, you will move to your permanent hostel.

I stayed at Chung Chi College in Pentecostal Mission Complex High Block. Chung Chi College is one of the older collages at CUHK but it's really convenient because it's the college closest to the MTR station. Unfortunately, as an exchange student, you do not get to choose which college or hostel to stay in as it is all assigned.

Pentecostal Mission Complex High Block is the furthest Chung Chi hostel from the MTR station, but it offers great views hence the name High Block. Many local students want to stay in this hostel if they are in Chung Chi because of the views. Make sure to bring bedding as it is not provided in the hostel. You can also buy your own bedding there if you don't want to bring extra weight. I suggest bringing one that you don't mind throwing away when you leave to save room in your luggage.

As for a meal plan, only Morningside, S.H.Ho and C.W.Chu colleges have mandatory communal dinners. If you are in these colleges then you have dinner covered for you three days a week. As for other colleges, there is no meal plan offered. CUHK is actually known to have the cheapest canteens in Hong Kong. Canteens range anywhere from 12-70 HKD. Hong Kong is also a place where tip is not needed and there is no tax. My favourite canteens were the Basic Medical Sciences Building Snack Bar (Med Canteen) and Pommerenke Student Centre Café (Paper &

Another place to visit is Tai O. This is a fishing village where you can find slit houses. Be sure to watch out for cows walking around in the residential areas as well. If you have time also hike to Fu Shan Viewing Point where you might be able to see Chinese White Dolphins.

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