

Program of Study

During my exchange at CityU, I enrolled in five courses, each of which was designed to enhance my academic and cultural understanding. The following is a breakdown of my courses, assignments and course formats:

- **IS2022-Business Program with Spreadsheet**
 - **Class Hours:** 3 hours per week (1 session)
 - **Assignments:** Weekly spreadsheet-based projects, midterm exam and a final group project.
 - **Course Format:** Lectures combined with hands-on lab sessions.
- **IS2023-Mobile Application for Business**
 - **Class Hours:** 3 hours per week (1 session)
 - **Assignments:** Individual coding assignments, a group project to develop a business app and a final presentation.
 - **Course Format:** Interactive lectures with practical app development workshops.
- **MKT3601-China Business Environment**
 - **Class Hours:** 3 hours per week (1 session)
 - **Assignments:** Case studies, group presentations and a final open-book exam.
 - **Course Format:** Seminar-style discussions with guest speakers from the industry.
- **LC2973-Korean 1**
 - **Class Hours:** 3 hours per week (1 session)
 - **Assignments:** Weekly vocabulary quizzes, oral presentations and a final written exam.

- **Course Format:** Language immersion with a focus on speaking reading and writing.
- **GE2122-Cantonese Language in Use**
 - **Class Hours:** 3 hours per week (1 session)
 - **Assignments:** Role-playing exercises, weekly quizzes and a final exam.
 - **Course Format:** Interactive language classes with cultural context.

Total Weekly Class Hours: 15 hours (5 courses*3 hours each)

The workload is manageable, with assignments and quizzes closely aligned with the course material. In comparison to the University of Ottawa, CityU's courses are more condensed, with each class meeting once a week for a duration of three hours. That format allows for deeper focus during each session; however, it requires disciplined time management to complete assignments within the given week.

Timetable

The academic calendar at CityU is structured as follows:

https://www.cityu.edu.hk/arro/impd/acad_cald.htm Such a website can be referred to the academic calendar of CityU.

- **Orientation Week:** Early January 2025 (Jan 6, 2025, and last 1 week which is mandatory for incoming exchange students.)
- **Course Registration DDL:** In late January (Jan 20, 2025, and though AIMS is a platform similar to the uoZone).

- **Start of Classes:** Mid-January 2025 (Jan 13, 2025)
- **End of Classes:** Late April 2025 (Apr 17, 2025)
- **Exam Period:** From Apr 28 to May 13, 2025
- **Holidays:** Lunar New Year (1 week), Ching Ming Festival, and Easter break.
- **Number of Semesters:** CityU operates on a two-semester system (Fall A and Winter B), with optional summer courses.

The timetable is well-organized, and the International Exchange Office provides clear guidance on key dates throughout the orientation week, so it's necessary to join in it. The academic calendar is slightly different from the University of Ottawa, with a later start and end to the semester.

Procedures Upon Arrival and Services Offered

Upon arrival, I followed these steps:

1. **Airport Pickup:** CityU offers a free airport pickup service for exchange students, which I found incredibly helpful. Registering the service in advance is mandatory.
2. **Check-in at CityU Lodge:** I collected my keys and settled into my accommodation. In addition, this accommodation is short-term accommodation. I also list the cost later.

However, the default student accommodation is in the Ma On Shan area, and it will take 40 minutes to get to campus via MTR (Hong Kong metro).

3. **Orientation:** Attended a comprehensive orientation session organized by the International Exchange Office, covering academic policies, cultural adaptation and safety tips.
4. **Course Registration:** Finalized my course selection with the help of academic advisors.
5. **Student ID and Octopus Card:** Obtained my student ID on the first day of the semester and just followed the instructions mentioned in the email. You can buy a temporary Octopus card at any 7-11 store.

Services offered by the International Exchange Office:

- Pre-arrival support (visa guide, accommodation assistance)
- Orientation programs and campus tours.
- Cultural activities and city tours.
- Academic advising and course registration support.
- 24/7 emergency support.

Social activities:

- Welcome lunch for exchange students.
- Guide tours of Hong Kong landmarks.
- Language exchange programs and cultural workshops.

Budget Outline

Here's a breakdown of my estimated expenses for the exchange period:

- **Airplane Tickets:** ~1,500 CAD (round trip from Ottawa to Hong Kong)

- **Housing:** 15,000 HKD per month (~2600 CAD) at CityU Lodge.
- **Meals:** ~4,000 HKD per month (~700 CAD)-a mix of campus cafeteria and local restaurants.
- **Transportations:** ~500 HKD per month (~85 CAD) using the Octopus card.
- **Personal Expenses:** ~3,000 HKD per month (~515 CAD) for leisure and shopping.
- **Travel:** ~5,000 HKD (~860 CAD) for the short trips to Macau, Shenzhen, Japan and South Korea.

Total Estimated Cost: ~12,000 CAD for the semester.

Application Procedures Before Arrival

1. Visa Application

- Submitted the visa application 3 months before departure.
- Required documents: Acceptance Letter from CityU, proof of financial support, passport copy and visa application form.
- CityU will help you to send to the Hong Kong Immigration Department.

2. Course Registration

- Selected courses online and received approval from the University of Ottawa.

3. Housing Deposit

- Paid a deposit of 5,000 HKD (~860 CAD) to secure my spot at CityU Lodge.

Address and Description of Housing

Address: 81 Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Description:

CityU Lodge is a modern, off-campus student residence located within walking distance of the university. My room is fully furnished with a bed, desk, wardrobe, and private bathroom. The room does not include kitchens; however, the building includes laundry facilities, free Wi-Fi, a gym and a common lounge. The location is incredibly convenient, with direct access to campus and Festival Walk Mall across the street.

Cost: 15,000 HKD per month (~2,600 CAD), including utilities and Wi-Fi.

Summary

My exchange experience at the City University of Hong Kong (CityU) has been transformative, both academically and personally. I am deeply grateful to the University of Ottawa for providing me with this incredible opportunity as part of my International Management major. The University of Ottawa's emphasis on global exposure and cross-cultural learning has not only enriched my academic journey but also made my major more practical and relevant in today's interconnected world. The exchange has allowed me to apply theoretical knowledge in a real-world context, particularly through courses like *MKT3601-China Business Environment*, which deepened my understanding of Asia's dynamic markets. Thanks to the University of Ottawa's requirement for international exposure, I feel more confident and prepared for a global career, and my future feels brighter and more expansive.

Over the past few months, I have grown significantly in several areas. Academically, I improved my time management skills by adapting to CityU's condensed course format, where each class meets once a week for three hours. The structure taught me to stay organized and proactive in completing assignments and preparing for quizzes. Culturally, I enhanced my adaptability by immersing myself in Hong Kong's vibrant lifestyle and learning basic Cantonese, which has been invaluable for daily interactions. Additionally, I developed stronger teamwork and communication skills through group projects, particularly in *IS2023-Mobile Application for Business*, where I collaborated with students from diverse backgrounds to develop a business app.

Living in Hong Kong has also broadened my perspective on global business and cultural diversity. The city's fast-paced environment and international vibe have inspired me to think more creatively and embrace new challenges. I am truly thankful to the University of Ottawa for making this exchange possible, as it has not only enriched my academic profile but also shaped me into a more confident, adaptable, and globally minded individual. The experience has undoubtedly made my future "lighter" by equipping me with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to navigate the complexities of international management and pursue my career aspirations with clarity and purpose.