

Part A

Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.

I am in my fourth year of the Bachelor of Commerce program with a focus on finance. While at HKU, I enrolled in four courses, all of which were business/ADM courses. I would recommend taking some classes that you find interesting, but also, maybe select 1-2 easier courses, as the academics can get quite tough and competitive in Hong Kong. That being said, I recommend trying 1-2 more challenging courses that interest you, because the education quality at HKU is top-notch, and you will learn a ton.

1. FINA3336 Institutional Investment Consulting and Family Office

Course is delivered in a weekly 3-hour lecture. Course breakdown is as follows: Participation (10%), Group Midterm Presentation (20%), Individual Midterm Paper (20%) and Final take-home examination (50%). This class is divided into two parts, with 2 different professors - one for institutional investment consulting, and one for family office investment consulting. The professors rotate every 2-3 weeks. The class has been super interesting, you learn a lot about how to make investment decisions and also how to pitch it to institutional clients, or family offices. The professors are both highly respected in their fields (one is a CEO of a large asset management company, the other is an investment director at a large family office) and you will learn how the field of investment consulting works in real-life, not just based on theoretical knowledge from textbooks.

2. FINA3337 Venture Capital and Private Equity

Course is delivered in a weekly 3-hour lecture. Course breakdown is as follows: Case presentation screening (10%), Midterm Exam (30%), Term Sheet Assignment (10%), Hackathon Group Project - Buy/Sell side negotiation (30%), Peer review (10%), Participation (10%) This class is quite interesting but I found it to be quite a heavy courseload, and very technical. This class is perfect if you're looking to explore a career in VC/PE, and the professor was the CIO of a \$50M VC fund, and he was quite kind to answer and explain any content that I didn't understand. If you're looking to have a more chill experience in Hong Kong, I don't recommend taking this course, because it is quite a bit of work and studying - but you can definitely learn a lot.

3. FINA3386 Digital Assets

Course is delivered in a weekly 3-hour lecture. Course breakdown is as follows: Class participation (20%), Assignments (40%), Group Case Study (40%). This was my favourite class at HKU. You get to learn about cryptocurrencies and other digital assets as an investment class. The professor is extremely nice and will help you land a career in digital assets if you're interested in that. Most of the class so far has just been discussion regarding various digital assets. This is a more relaxed class that doesn't require as much work as the others. Highly recommend you take this class while at HKU.

4. STRA3706 China's business environment

Course is delivered in a weekly 3-hour lecture. Course breakdown is as follows: Participation (15%), Quizzes (6-8 total, worth total 20%), Group Seminar (35%), Final Paper (30%)

This class focuses on navigating the Chinese business environment, and how to do business in China or with Chinese business partners. I've found this course quite interesting as well, and the professor lets you choose topics that are interesting to you for presentations. Decent workload, but nothing too crazy. The quizzes are fairly easy, and are based on assigned readings that you are supposed to do prior to class.

Part B

The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.).

*For the Winter 2025 Semester

Orientation - January 17th

Beginning of Classes - January 20th

End Of Classes - May 3rd

Add/Drop Class Period - January 20th - February 10th

Accommodation Move in Date - January 10th

Lunar New Year Break - January 29-February 4th

Reading Week - March 10-15

Move Out of accommodation - Before May 30th

Final Exam/Assessment Period - May 12-27

Part C

Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities.

- Pick up a prepaid SIM card at the airport when you arrive, or an e-sim. I got my sim at 711 and was only \$8 CAD for 30 GB of data.
- Pre-arrange with the residence and let them know when you will be arriving, so that they can have your room ready for you when you arrive
- Try to go to IKEA or Japan Home Center to purchase bedding and other things for your room
- Get an octopus card, this is used for the MTR and other public transport in HK. You can get a physical version at the airport or most convenience stores, or a digital version on your phone, which you can load with the Octopus for Tourists app if you don't have a local HK bank account.
- I would recommend taking a taxi if you have a ton of luggage. Taxis are quite expensive and expect to pay \$80-100 CAD to get to Jockey Club Student Village IV. If you only have 1-2 pieces of luggage, you can take the "Airport Express" MTR line which will take you to Hong Kong station, where you can then walk to Central station, ride it to Admiralty station, then transfer to the South Island line and take that to Wong Chuk Hang. Once you reach Wong Chuk Hang Station just walk through the mall and over to Jockey 4 which is only a short walk.
- Download the MTR app, it shows the best route for your MTR trips and how long it will take and the cost.

- I recommend using WISE for banking as it allows you to convert CAD/HKD easily. They also offer a debit which works quite well for travelling. This way you also don't have to go through the process of setting up a HK bank account.
- Bring some cash with you, as cash is still used a lot and some places only accept cash.
- CEDARS offers help with most things and offers welcome events. Highly recommend signing up for the welcome events with CEDARS and feel free to reach out to them if you have questions regarding anything.

Part D

Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.).

Item	Monthly Cost (In Canadian Dollars)	Total (In Canadian Dollars)
Round Trip Flight (United Airlines)	-	(\$1100)
Housing Total	(\$860)	(\$4300)
Food	(\$350)	(\$1750)
Transportation	(\$60)	(\$300)
Activities/Misc	(\$100)	(\$500)
Mobility Scholarship		\$1000
Total		\$6950

Notes - Hong Kong can be quite expensive but also quite affordable. Certain foods, especially meat & dairy can be quite expensive. You can find cheap restaurants serving noodles or roast meats with rice for under \$10 which is nice. I mostly cooked my own food rather than eating out and shopped at a local grocery store called "Parknshop". Textbooks weren't necessary so I didn't include these. Vacations to other parts of Asia are also quite cheap, I recommend making the most of this if you have time.

Part E

Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Once your home institution nominates you, CEDARS will provide you with the application link, along with your login name and password. Please keep in mind the following:
- You will receive an invitation email on or after the application start date at the email address provided by your home institution's exchange office. If you do not receive the invitation email within the first week of the application period, please contact the uOttawa exchange office.

Documents to Submit

- The exchange office will submit a transcript for you (you might need to contact them to ask them to do this)
- You need to submit your scanned passport and information
- You will need to submit a soft and hard copy of your visa applications to them. You will need to mail a hard copy of your visa application to HKU.
- It can take 8-10 weeks for them to process your visa application AFTER you mail them your document, so I recommend completing everything ASAP.
- The Visa documents are issued electronically, so no need to worry about waiting to receive them via mail.

Part F

Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.

Jockey Club Student Village IV - 4 Police School Road, Wong Chuk Hang

Jockey Club Student Village IV is a brand new residence for students, and it is mostly other international students who are staying there. Every person at Jockey IV gets a single room (most of the other residence halls have shared rooms I believe), which includes a bed, chair, desk, and cabinets for clothes. Be prepared, as the rooms are quite small in Hong Kong, but I found it to be plenty enough for a bedroom. Jockey IV has great perks and facilities, such as fast and free wifi, dedicated working spaces, a game room where you can hang out with friends, a laundry room with plenty of washers and dryers, a shared kitchen on every floor, a gym (the gym didn't have too much equipment, but it's enough). It's located in Wong Chuk Hang, which is around 30 minutes on the MTR by train to campus. This can be annoying, but I still found the area quite nice and is kind of away from the hustle and bustle of the main city area. There's great hiking nearby and it's by the sea. The cost of this residence for the winter semester was \$23,520 HKD which is roughly ~4300 Canadian Dollars as of the time I am writing this. It's one of the more expensive halls, but you get your own room so I'd say it's worth it, and it is quite new so everything is nice. Even though it's far from campus, it's not too bad since the MTR is amazing.

Pros of Jockey IV

- Very modern building
- Very clean
- Good facilities (gym, laundry, study room, game room, kitchen, etc)
- Kitchen with a water filter on every floor
- Quieter location close to nature

Cons of Jockey IV

- Distant from campus and main city
- Fire alarm can go off quite often sometimes
- More expensive than other halls
- Strict policy on visitors

Part G

Other comments or recommendations.

- Get an octopus card when you arrive
- Bring some cash with you.
- Jockey Club Student Village IV has a really good water filter on each floor for drinking water. I'm unsure about other halls though - wouldn't recommend drinking the tap water here. If you're staying outside of Jockey IV I would probably bring a filter or kettle.
- Get involved with local activities! I made lots of friends doing this. I also participated in woodworking classes and cooking classes to make traditional Hong Kong food. I highly recommend doing stuff like this when here.
- You honestly don't need a Hong Kong bank account, Wise with the physical debit card was perfectly sufficient for me for my entire trip.
- Hike! Hong Kong has amazing hiking trails that have amazing views. I recommend hiking when the weather is a bit cooler. Some of my favourites were: Dragons Back, Violet Hill, Victoria Peak, Brick Hill.

Part H

Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience..

Hong Kong has been an amazing experience so far - I am really glad that I decided to study abroad here! The culture and people here are fantastic, and there's so much stuff to do for all kinds of people. Studying at the University of Hong Kong has also been fantastic because the quality of education is very high and also very practical - most of the professors are highly ranked in their respective fields and just teach on their days off (this is why most of the classes are 1 3 hour session per week I think) and they genuinely want to help you succeed. HKU is a top-tier institution and make sure to make the most of your school experience here, as I find that the overall academic experience is more valuable than in Canada. If you're unsure whether to come to Hong Kong, just do it! Hong Kong is an amazing place with something for everyone. There are lots of other international students you will be able to make friends with here, and mostly everyone speaks English except some local people, so daily life won't be difficult for you. Overall, Hong Kong was an amazing experience and I will cherish my time here for the rest of my life!