

Mobility Scholarship Questionnaire

Introduction:

I went on exchange to Hong Kong Baptist University in the Fall 2018. My exchange semester was the last semester of my undergraduate studies at uOttawa as a Telfer student studying International Management.

A. Program of Study

As an exchange student at HKBU (Hong Kong Baptist University), I had a lot of courses to choose from. There are lots of courses offered in the School of Business, they range from human resources to finance, just like at Telfer. Because I had already completed all my courses at Telfer, I could not take the same courses twice so I decided to take GDBU courses (General Education Business). GDBU courses are usually easier and they are also offered to non-business students, there are very interesting courses that are not offered at Telfer. I took 5 courses (3 hours each) and equivalent to 15 credits total, they are listed below:

- GDBU 1026: Globalization & Trade Liberalization
- GDBU 1075: Marketing Yourself
- GDBU 1077: Social Entrepreneurship: Opportunities to Change the World
- GDBU 1025: Economic Indicators and the Business World
- ORGC 2027: Interviewing

The format of the courses is similar to university of North America, there is a virtual campus called Moodle where the professor will post assignments, slides, etc. Generally, courses have midterms, assignments and a final but GDBU courses are less demanding. I had group projects and presentations in all my GDBU courses except ORGC 2027, open book midterms in GDBU 1075 and 1025, and a final in GDBU 1026, 1075 (open book) and ORGC 2017.

B. Timetable

The academic calendar and all the important dates for the Fall 2018 are below as well as my class schedule. My timetable was compacted in two days, it allowed me more time to study and also plan trips around Hong Kong and Asia. In the fall semester, we had two public holidays. The professors provide a complete syllabus at the beginning of the semester so that students can manage their schedules. I arrived in Hong Kong five days before my move-in date so I stayed in a hotel and visited the city. Most students arrived on the move-in date or the day after because our orientation only started on Friday (two days after move-in).

During the add-drop period, you can make changes to your timetable and courses as long as Telfer approves the courses. Most of the time, exchange students try to compact their courses in two or three days to give them some more time to explore HK and travel around Asia. Also, the majority of the courses are in one 3-hour block but some courses have two 1.5-hour blocks. I had hours of classes on Wednesday and nine hours on Thursday but it was manageable.

Important Dates for 1st (Fall) Semester 2018/19

Online Course Registration	13-19 July
Required Arrival Dates (Free "Meet & Greet Service" available on these two days)	29-30 August 2018
Release of Course Enrollments and Timetable	Late August 2018
Orientation for Incoming Exchange Students (Mandatory)	31 August, 1 & 3 September 2018
Classes Begin	4 September 2018
Add/Drop Courses	4-17 September 2018
Fees to HKBU Due	17 September 2018
Classes End	4 December 2018
Final Examinations <i>Important: No early examinations can be arranged.</i>	8-21 December 2018
First Check-in Day for Undergraduate Halls	29 August 2018
Last Check-out Day from Undergraduate Halls	27 December 2018 (before noon)

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
08:30					
09:30				GDBU1026 (00001) AAB204	
10:30					
11:30					
12:30			GDBU1075 (00004) AAB609	GDBU1077 (00001) AAB204	
13:30					
14:30					
15:30			ORGC2027 (00001) CVA210	GDBU1025 (00001) AAB613	
16:30					
17:30					

C. Procedures upon arrival

The International Office at HKBU is amazing! They will give you all the details and they will send very precise e-mails about the procedures. They also offer different activities throughout the semester such as hikes, HK tours, etc. There are also many opportunities to get involved in the community, for example, I was given the chance to teach French to some Master students for one hour per week

during 6 weeks. Just like this one, there are many other things you can do on the campus to occupy your free-time or just connect with more students from Hong Kong.

All the information regarding the orientation, the move-in to the halls and more will be sent to you in advance. The International Office is also very responsive so you can send them e-mails and they will respond the next day. Some of the services they offer for exchange students are HKBU buddies, airport pick, academic consultations, etc.

D. Budget

As many people assume, Hong Kong is an expensive city however that only depends on the type of life you want to live. I did not pay for my plane tickets to Hong Kong because I travelled with a family member that works for Air Canada. The cost of housing on the campus is very cheap (approximately \$1200 for four months) so do everything to get a room on campus because a tiny studio in Hong Kong will cost more than 1500\$ per month. HKBU has a very good accommodation system and you will most likely get a room in the halls if you submit all the applications on time. The cost of meals and daily activities are similar to Canada, some produce at the supermarket such as fruits and vegetables are most expensive because they reflect the cost of living in HK but it's affordable if you budget well. I had a budget of about \$400 per month for food and some activities but I increased it to \$500 after the first month. I ate breakfast in my room, I cooked sometimes (two or three times a week) in the halls but most meals I had from the canteen (about \$3-\$4 for a meal) or outside (about \$5-\$10 for a meal). As a student at uOttawa, I cooked meals everyday but in HK it's more difficult because ingredients cost a lot so eating out is cheaper. I did not have to buy any textbooks for my classes so I did not spend money on that. For vacation and trips, all Asian destinations are very close and cheap to travel to. Most exchange students at HKBU took at least two trips a month or more.

E. Procedures before arrival

The International Office is going to send all the details regarding the application procedures. The visa is all done by HKBU but you have to submit all the papers on time to the Telfer office so that they can send it to Hong Kong. The documents required for the visa was passport, financial statements (or parents' letter of financial support + their financial statements), and application form. All the information regarding course registration was also sent by e-mail with specific steps. The registration is similar to uOttawa where you choose the course, the section, the times, etc. All the fees associated with the visa and the housing deposit is going to be part of your HKBU statement. For the Fall 2018, the deadline was 18 days after school started, my total was HKD\$10,008 (CAD\$1675) including the HDK\$1000 deposit for the room and it was easy to pay.

F. Housing

The HKBU halls are very affordable and as mentioned above, for one semester it was approximately \$1200. The rooms are double rooms (Stanton style at uOttawa), they are furnished and include a mini

fridge. Unlike uOttawa traditional residences, our room has a bathroom to share with our suite-mates (room next door) and each floor has a common room with a kitchen to share with the floor. I lived in a co-ed floor but you can choose to be on a female only or male only floor in your housing application. You can also choose your preferences in terms of roommates, you can choose another exchange student, an international student or a local student. Almost all of the exchange students had other exchange students as roommate. There also is a canteen attached to the halls where you can get some meals as low as \$2. The halls are located in the heart of the campus so it's very easy to get to classes.

My address is:

S606R - 5 Baptist University Road

Student Residence Halls

Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong

G. Experience in Hong Kong

My experience in Hong Kong is great so far! I wanted to come on exchange in Asia because I have visited all other continents (except Australia) so I was looking forward to being immersed in a new culture. HKBU is a great university because they have so many activities and clubs to be involved in but also because they care about all exchange students to the point when staff and students will greet you when you are walking. I also love the fact that they have activities almost all week for exchange students but also the fact the amount of exchange students is significantly lower than other universities in Hong Kong so you can get the opportunity to know and really interact with your peers. The Asian culture is very different from North America; however, it is very interesting to see how Hong-Kongers live compared to Canadians. Two months in my exchange in Hong Kong, I am really enjoying my time here. It took me some time to get used to the Chinese cuisine (not the same as western Asian cuisine) but I adapted well. Students and staff on campus speak English so it is easier to communicate and ask for help but it can be a bit difficult when you leave the campus, however it's part of the experience. Living in Hong Kong, a special administrative region (SAR) of China, is also very interesting because when you live here you can see that Hong-Kongers and Chinese people are completely different in almost everything so I encourage you to put all your judgments and pre-conceptions about Hong Kong on the side (unless you've been to HK before). My experience so far in Hong Kong is also special because I am black. Being black in Asia is special because you are the center of attention everywhere. Hong-Kongers are more comprehensive but Chinese people are not but this was never or is a discouragement to enjoy my time!

H. Recommendations

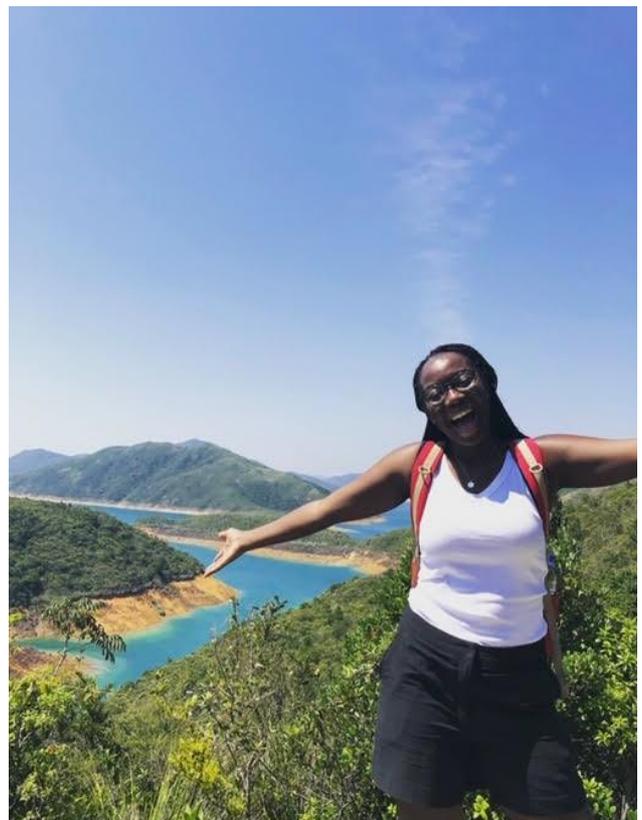
Below are some recommendations that I would give students who are going to study abroad in HK;

- Open a bank account in Hong Kong; it's very easy to open an account because there are two banks on campus. I made the error to not book an account because I was told by previous students that you can use your debit and credit card in most places that it is not necessarily true. Usually, only high end restaurants will have machines. If you do not open an account like me, you risk to pay lots of fees every time you withdraw money (\$5 at TD and Scotiabank) and also every time you make purchases because the conversion rates are higher with banks.
- Arrive in Hong Kong a few days in advance if you can to get used to the time difference. In the summer, the time difference is 12 hours and 13 hours in the winter and it can be difficult. Lots of students had a hard time to enjoy the orientation activities because they were so tired.
- Save money and work hard during the summer. I have always been used to working while studying and living off a budget is difficult so save as much as money as you can especially because Hong Kong can be expensive and you want to do nice activities and trips, save enough!
- Don't be shy of interacting with local students! Hong-Kongers can be very shy but once you get to know them, they are so much fun. HKBU students love exchange students so you will definitely have a great time meeting others!

B. Pictures



A-Ma Temple in Macau (September 2018)



Sai Kung in Hong Kong (September 2018)



Central Market in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (October 2018)



Batu Caves in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (October 2018)



Ruins of Saint Paul's Church in Macau, (September 2018)
Group photo with HKBU exchange students from Italy, France, UK, Denmark and Canada.