

## **STUDY ABROAD in Hong-Kong**

*“What information do I wish I had known prior to leaving on exchange?”*

Name: **Dzuy-Tam Tran**

Exchange University: **University of Hong Kong**

UX : **U3**

Year : **2012**

McGill semester : **U3 Fall Semester**

### **Courses**

I was able to get 15 McGill credits for all of my courses in set D, no equivalency to another course.

Course List:

ELEC 3104 - Electric Vehicle Technology (6 HKU credits)

IMSE 2028 - Human factors engineering(6 HKU credits)

IMSE 2021 - Transportation and Distribution Planning (6 HKU credits)

MECH 3005 - Building Services (6 HKU credits)

IMSE 0201- Supply chain design and development (6 HKU credits)

I'd recommend ELEC 3104 as it is very interesting and the prof speaks well on top of being BIG in that field. Went to Montreal for a conference during that semester.

Building services is interesting too, covers HVAC, lighting and escalators and elevators, but not enough time to cover all the material and the first prof doesn't explain that well either. Tests are always way tougher than the covered examples in class. Taught by 3 profs, one prof per section.

IMSE 2021 was fun because you learn algorithms to solve optimization problems which are pretty easy, although the prof who teaches that one is

boring. The second teacher for the class which explains theory and logistics more is the chair of the department, a good speaker and has interesting examples using DHL which has a hub in Hong Kong.

### **Visa and health insurance**

Obtained Visa for the semester or 6 months (not sure), no real problems faced. Make sure to apply on time so that you get it. Watch out if you have a packed passport and you intend on going in and out of Hong Kong during the semester as they will have to restamp you a half to full page (depending on the customs agent) visa stamp each time you go back in. Can consume your pages. Possible to fit 2 side by side on a page. Ask nicely. Visa sticker is good for re-entry.

### **Cost of living**

Sign up and try to get a spot in residences (called halls), one without a compulsory meal charge (to have more flexible food expenses), as it is WAY cheaper than renting a place outside. Average 812 CAD/semester for the normal halls vs possibly 1000 CAD/month outside, depending where you live.

Apply at the time of exchange application for mobility award from McGill and Universitas 21 as they are affiliated too. Public transport is comparable to Montreal or cheaper depending how you use it (you might get confused at first). Meals span the range, easy to eat at university cafeterias or hall cafeterias. Cost generally 3-5 CAD a meal in cafeteria, Big Mac trio, 3CAD, food outside can be cheaper (chinese) or go higher if it's fancy stuff (western).

Very humid and hot there (A/C EVERYWHERE).

## **Location of Institution**

Best place for Town and Uni info: Google.

Recommended: explore the city, the outdoors, make friends. Eat all the famous and obscure foods. Sai Kung Outdoor park area is really nice and has best blue beaches. Cliff Diving into a pool of water too. Visit every community on HK island and Kowloon, all have their own character and charm. Visit Mong Kok a few times, eat, then get sick of all the people there and never go back lol.

## **Suggestions of items to bring with you**

Bring good microbrew beer, you can drink outside, no law against it. Missed poutine and smoked meat.

Don't bring warm clothes even if they are whipping out their down jackets in fall and winter months (for us). It's still warm, just a light jacket.

## **Overall Experience**

Fun, met lots of great people, made awesome friends, ate really good food. Do it again? Maybe not in HK but I'll visit and say hi to my friends (stay at their place, SAVE \$\$\$). I'd probably try something in Europe, Australia or New Zealand if I did another exchange. Just Asia was cheap and interesting, I chose between HK and Singapore, HK has more character I find and chaos compared to Singapore.

## **Contact information**

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