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It's the opportunity of a lifetime! Studying abroad offers a unique and exciting chance to travel and see more of the world without taking time out from your degree. And there has never been a better time to do it. With global issues playing ever more a part of our daily lives, the experience of living and studying overseas has become an indispensable part of any well-rounded education.

**Hong Kong Baptist University** offers one semester and one year exchanges, and the freedom to take courses from more than 40 undergraduate degree programs. Our highly experienced faculty members provide expert and individual tuition. Our campus facilities located in the heart of the vibrant city offer world-class library and research resources. Student life is dynamic and varied.

Hong Kong itself offers a unique window into China and the many changes and challenges facing it as China assumes an ever larger global role. There is no better way to learn about such major issues than first hand – living and working with Chinese students not only from Hong Kong and the Mainland but also many other countries. Living in a multi-cultural environment in the heart of Asia, you will also learn what makes another society unique and gain a fresh perspective on your own home.
Hong Kong is, without a doubt, one of the world’s most vibrant cities; a cultural crossroads where East and West meet—and make great friends. Though very much an open society founded on the Western model, Hong Kong still has its feet firmly planted in Chinese cultural traditions.

Hong Kong is at the heart of Asia, and just a short hop by air takes you to many of the region’s countries, including Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, Cambodia and Vietnam. Each has its own distinct attractions and traditions. China of course sits on our doorstep. Daytrips across the border can be made by bus, boat or train. Slightly further afield are Beijing and Shanghai.

When you want to party after dark, Hong Kong is an ever-willing entertainer. The city has a hot club scene where you can dance until you drop or the sun rises. The oh-so-fashion-conscious clubbers move their feet to beats spun by top DJs.
Arts companies perform anything from traditional Cantonese opera—a colorful affair that often involves entire neighborhoods—to avant-garde interpretations of Shakespeare. Local performers provide some of the most enjoyable dance and drama in Asia and the list of visiting international acts is wide enough to satisfy all tastes. Recent visitors include Linkin Park and Prince, the Eagles and Elton John.

Shopping in Hong Kong is not just about buying stuff—it is a way of life for many people. Chanel, Prada, Tiffany and Gucci may be as common as corner stores, but there is a lot more to the city than malls and major labels. Hong Kong has always been a great place to find a real bargain—up a steep cobbled alleyway in Hong Kong Island’s Central district or down a backstreet in sweaty Kowloon.

Hong Kong hosts some of the world’s great sporting events. Every March, the city is invaded by rugby fans from every corner of the world for the Rugby Sevens tournament. The weekend-long festival is as much a social occasion as it is a sporting celebration. Horseracing is of course synonymous with the city, and a nighttime meet at Happy Valley is worth at least one visit to witness this local spectacle.

Hong Kong is compact enough that most residents don’t bother with cars. With abundant and affordable buses and taxis and a clean and efficient subway system, very few places are out of reach of the city’s public transport system. On Hong Kong Island itself the world’s only fleet of double-decker trams rock and roll along a 16km system track that first came into service in 1904.

The Peak Tram is even older, dating from 1888. Though thoroughly modernized, it still grapples up the steep-graded hills that rise sharply behind the office blocks downtown to The Peak, the highest point on the island. The venerable Star Ferry links Hong Kong to Kowloon, and at only HK$2.2 a trip it offers the world’s best value trip—and the world’s best harbor view.

Hong Kong also has a hidden side of rolling green hills and unspoiled shores. The New Territories, which stretch north to the border with the Chinese Mainland, has country parks and pockets of wetlands which are home to many species of plants, animals and birds. Hiking trails wind through highland regions, passing near forgotten villages kept alive by traditional farming and fishing communities.

The Outer Islands, though easily accessible by ferry from Central, are a world away from the city’s bustle and hustle and a favorite with locals for great and inexpensive seafood dining.

"Hong Kong has an incredible combination of the ocean, mountains, city-life, beautiful weather, and an assortment of people from around the world—I love it. There are so many things to learn beyond the classroom, and the city is full of history with an interesting culture that combines Chinese customs with those from all over the globe."

Rindy Schlatter
Taylor University
U.S.A.
Hong Kong Baptist University is one of Asia's leading universities with a Christian heritage. Founded in 1956, it is the second oldest institution of higher learning in Hong Kong. As an exchange student, you will have the opportunity to join classes from more than 40 degree programs. You'll also have a unique opportunity to learn from experiences shared among staff and students from many different cultures and parts of the world.

**why study at HKBU?**

- HKBU has a body of more than 5,000 undergraduate and 2,000 postgraduate and research students taking classes from 28 departments across three faculties (Arts, Science and Social Sciences) and three schools (Business, Chinese Medicine, Communication). We strive for excellence in teaching and have a highly qualified faculty. Nearly 90% of faculty members have at least one degree from overseas. The staff-student ratio is 1:13.5 and the average class size is 35.

- We place equal emphasis on research and have established over 30 research centers and consultancy units. Our faculty members provide professional and consultancy services to government and business in order to make practical use of their research findings and benefit society.
We pursue an educational ideal of a "whole-person education" that encompasses all aspects of students' spiritual, intellectual, cultural, physical, community and professional development through various curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

We are committed to internationalization in all aspects of our work and have partnerships with more than 180 colleges and universities around the world, including more than 70 in the United States and Canada, almost 30 in Europe, 26 in China, and a significant number in Australia, New Zealand, and the Asia Pacific Region. Hence, in any given year, we have a sizable exchange student population on campus from all over the world including Mainland China.

As part of our effort to "bring the world to the campus", we established in 2004 the Consul-General-in-Residence Program. Taking advantage of the large consular community in Hong Kong, the Program aims to enhance the knowledge of and interest in world affairs among our students, faculty and staff. Apart from giving public lectures, consuls-general-in-residence also assist us to develop exchanges with universities in their home countries.

Reaching out to the world, we hold membership in 13 international academic organizations and play host to three international consortia: The Association of Christian Universities and Colleges in Asia, the David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies, and the Wing Lung Bank International Institute for Business Development.

We are building a new campus in Zhuhai, in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong, in a joint venture with Beijing Normal University. In addition to providing a platform for the University to maintain robust growth in its academic programs, it also furthers the University's strategic goal of internationalization, providing a bridgehead to extend its education services to the Mainland.

To add to the university's many achievements, HKBU is also a world center for research and development of Chinese Medicine, training practitioners and promoting this form of medical care. As well as introducing Hong Kong's first undergraduate degree in Chinese Medicine, the School actively promotes the commercial acceptance of Chinese Medicine and its application overseas.

We were selected by United Nations Environmental Program Chemicals to share information from UNEP Chemicals among international organizations in the South China region. UNEP Chemicals supported the Institute for Natural Resources and Waste Management to establish the Documentation Center and Data Base on Environment Quality. The Institute also established the first ever collaboration between a key research institute under the Chinese Academy of Sciences and a university outside Mainland China by creating a "Joint Open Laboratory on Soil and Environment" with the Nanjing Institute of Soil Science of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.
1. **Are classes conducted in English?**

Don't worry. A wide range of subjects from across the university curriculum is taught in English, so you won't have a problem fitting in. What's more, our international faculty members pride themselves in devoting time one-on-one with students giving them a quality education and warm welcome.

2. **Will HKBU classes count towards my degree back home?**

At HKBU a credit-unit system is adopted whereby students are required to fulfill the unit and grade point average requirements for graduation in addition to subject requirements and university attendance requirements. The class credits can easily count toward degrees in the USA, Europe and other parts of the world. Of course, the exact alignment for credit transfer is ultimately decided by your home institution. It is therefore important that you confer with your academic advisor at your home university when selecting your subjects.

3. **Does being at Baptist university mean that religion plays a large part in the curriculum and student life?**

Being a publicly funded university, we don't enforce any religion-related requirements for enrollment at HKBU. There is no discrimination on the basis of race, religion, or sex. The university seeks to foster and to achieve excellence, intellectual freedom, and the highest of ethical standards evolving from its heritage of Christian higher education within a Chinese cultural setting. Our Chaplain's Office is funded by private donations that provides Christian student ministry programs and activities in which students can participate on a voluntary basis.

4. **So how soon into my college career can I spend a semester at HKBU?**

We suggest that students be in their third or fourth year of university study; students certainly should have completed at least one full year of university study before applying. Any student wishing to join our program should have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5 on a scale of 4.0, or the equivalent. As a rule of thumb, you won't have a problem fitting in.

5. **How many courses are open to me?**

We offer about 40 undergraduate degree programs leading to the award of Honors Bachelors degrees in the Arts, Business Administration, Chinese Medicine, Communication, Science, Social Sciences and Social Work. Yet exchange students here for a single semester have the flexibility of not having to follow their major or follow Hong Kong student schedules.

6. **Are there any classes I wouldn't be allowed to take?**

Obviously, every student will need the right background to take more advanced classes. We can address any issues of class eligibility directly with you. Also, there are some subjects that exchange students are advised not to take primarily on the basis of the medium/language of instruction.

7. **Would I be required to take any particular class?**

No. But at the same time we do offer some specially designed classes that overseas students might enjoy, including Understanding Chinese Society and Introductory Putonghua for Non-Chinese Speakers. We also offer Survival Cantonese on a non-credit basis so that you can have even more fun exploring Hong Kong! HKBU has recently launched exciting new study options in addition to our normal semester programming. A Special Semester Certificate Study Option offers studies both in Cross-Cultural Communication and Management (Semester 1) and in China Studies (Semester 2), and an exciting new Hong Kong-Beijing Study Program in the spring semester includes 12 weeks of academic study in Hong Kong and 3 weeks in Beijing.

8. **How big are classes and the size of the university's student body overall?**

We have about 5,000 undergraduate students and almost 2,000 more following Masters, MPhil and PhD programs. The number of students in each class varies, but our average class size is 35. One of our aims is for faculty to provide as much individual teaching and tuition as possible. Our staff-to-student ratio is 1:13.5.

9. **Where would I live?**

As much as possible, exchange students are...
offered accommodation at our Student Residence Halls. To enhance immersion in the local culture—a big part of the HKBU experience—all international students buddy up with a full-time Hong Kong or Mainland Chinese student or with another international student if requested. Our Student Residence Halls are co-ed but room assignments are not.

10 What about meals? We have seven dining facilities on campus offering both Western and Chinese style menus. We don't offer a meal plan, but the food on offer is relatively inexpensive—between US$2 and US$15, depending on what you choose at which meal time. Besides, you'll probably want to explore some of the local restaurants off campus. Hong Kong is famous for its food, and dining here is often a group affair with friends.

11 What is the cost of living likely to be? To a large extent it all depends on you and how much you like to shop, travel, dine and go out with friends. Hong Kong can be a comparatively cheap—or very expensive—city in which to live, in addition to tuition costs and accommodation you might expect to require between US$500 and US$1,000 a month for meals, entertainment, transportation in Hong Kong, air conditioning, etc.

12 Do I need to bring travelers' cheques or bags of cash? Hong Kong is a world financial and banking center. Foreign currencies can be exchanged and travelers' cheques cashed easily at banks (service charges do apply). Credit cards are used freely, and these days many overseas ATM cards work in Hong Kong machines, giving you access to cash from your bank at home.

13 Does the university provide healthcare coverage? All exchange students are covered by our group personal accident insurance policy, should they get injured during academic or university-run extra-curricular activities. You may wish to consider buying insurance that covers medical evacuation back home in the unlikely event that is necessary. We have medical and dental services available on campus at the Health Services Center, from where referrals for specialist treatment can be made. Hong Kong also has first-rate doctors and hospitals, and any exchange student holding a valid Hong Kong student visa is entitled to public hospital service irrespective of duration of stay. You will be charged the same rate as local Hong Kong citizens in all public hospitals.

14 Am I also covered when traveling overseas? You will be covered for HKBU-related trips, but you must arrange your own coverage for personal travel. Through our university program, we can help you buy personal coverage at affordable rates. It's always useful to get the best coverage available, and you should certainly look into plans on offer at home. This would make even more sense if you plan to travel a lot. All exchange students should have adequate insurance with international coverage.

15 Do I need a student visa? All overseas students require a visa to study in Hong Kong. It's quicker and safer to apply for your student visa through HKBU as we can help to process your application. Simply download the visa application form from our website, fill out the application and send it along with the required passport-sized photos to the International Office at the address on page 21. For most countries, Hong Kong student visas give you multiple entries, so you can travel abroad and return without any difficulty.

16 Will my Hong Kong student visa get me into Mainland China? Sorry, no. Even though Hong Kong is designated as a Special Administrative Region sovereign under China, you will need a separate tourist visa to enter the Mainland. These can easily be obtained once you arrive here. Many local travel agents offer China visa services for a small fee.

17 Would I be allowed to work or take a part-time job in Hong Kong? No. The terms of your visa will clearly state that you are only allowed to study at the university. You cannot take on a job—paid or unpaid—or an internship (unless the internship is required and integrated into your academic studies at HKBU).
Study abroad at HKBU

"HKBU is centrally located yet does not have the crazy-frenetic activity of other universities in Hong Kong. HKBU also offers a great support system for international students, plus the university itself struck me as very community-based."

Mary Giang
University of Western Sydney
Australia

the campus

We have three closely knit and attractive campuses located in the heart of Kowloon. Together they provide a great student focused environment in the heart of the city. Each is minutes from the MTR, Hong Kong's subway system.

The Ho Sin Hang Campus on Waterloo Road includes a number of key centers and buildings: the Sing Tao Communication Center, the Au Shue Hung Center for Film and Television, the Cha Chi-ming Science Tower, the Oen Hall, which houses a number of academic units including the Arts Faculty, the Christian Education Center with its 400-seat chapel, and the 1,346-seat Academic Community Hall. Within walking distance is an indoor gymnasium with pool facilities.

The Shaw Campus on Renfrew Road forms the focal point for the university's social life. It is home for the School of Business, a number of social sciences units and research centers and the library. There are open plazas and an outdoor sports stadium with a football pitch, running track, tennis courts and a 1,000-seat grandstand.

The Baptist University Road Campus, located immediately south of the Shaw Campus, is the site of our newly built Student Residence Halls for 1,629 students, our School of Continuing Education and our School of Chinese Medicine. Seven low-rise buildings house some of the social science departments, and a 12-storey international house provides accommodation to international visitors.
There are wide ranges of out-of-class activities open to students on and off campus. The university itself organizes special lectures, exhibits, and performances of music and drama. We field men's and women's teams in athletics, badminton, basketball, cross country, football, handball, swimming, tennis, table tennis, and volleyball which compete with other colleges and universities both in and outside of Hong Kong.

Arts and music activities include four university choirs, which often perform in the city and on local radio and television. There are other clubs and activities open to those with an interest in fine art, music and folk dance. You can even try your hand at Chinese calligraphy.

"I wanted to see and to experience Hong Kong's cultural fusion firsthand. HKBU really makes an effort to help students see how this mix can affect them personally through their East-West Encounters Project. The pairing of local students with other international students has been really effective in promoting cross-cultural understanding."

Emily Scott
Kalamazoo College
U.S.A.

Student organizations cover the whole gamut of interests and activities. Over 30 academic clubs give students an opportunity to develop professional skills related to their studies. Non-academic diversions include the Athletics Club, Chinese Affairs Association, Chinese Music Club, Debating Team, Dramatics Club, Softball Club as well as opportunities to learn Judo, Karate and Taekwon-do.

The International Student Club (ISC) brings local and international students from different disciplines together in a relaxed social setting to share experiences and practice language skills. Club events include talks, films and outings around Hong Kong. Every other Thursday during term time a Global Café welcomes both local and non-local students for a fun evening of coffee, snacks and games. The International Office, with the participation of the International Student Club, runs a semester-long orientation program. An East-West Encounters project of the Program put international students together with local HKBU student "ambassadors" to help them find their feet in Hong Kong and understand more about Chinese culture and traditions.
“It’s been my best decision!”

So how has Hong Kong struck you?

"It’s one of the most fascinating cities I have ever experienced. There is no shortage of things to see and do."  
Linsay Cunningham  
University of Strathclyde  
Scotland

"Hong Kong is full of energy and embraces both Chinese and Western culture. Sometimes the people here keep Chinese traditions better than we do in the Mainland!"  
Li Jiao Vanessa  
Wuhan University  
China

"Hong Kong has everything but snow and cold weather: city life, mountains, beaches, shopping and good parties. I am enjoying every second!"  
Per Karlsson  
Lund University  
Sweden

"The longer I stay here, the more I believe that coming to Hong Kong on my year abroad was one of the best decisions I’ve made."
Nicole Tsang  
City University  
London, England

"It’s always on the go. There is literally something here for everyone – it may just take a few weeks to find it!"  
Jennifer Duckworth  
Samford University  
U.S.A.
What do you like best about the city?

"The New Territories and country parks offer hiking, beaches, food. I've been on a new adventure every weekend since I've been here. Plus I've been on trips to Thailand and Singapore."
Brent Eaton
Hardin Simmons University
U.S.A.

"I love Hong Kong for both its 'big city' feel and natural beauty. The harbor couldn't be more picturesque and the Outlying Islands provide lush, green solace when you need a little peace and quiet."
Allison Requejo
Pepperdine University
U.S.A.

"The city has an international flavor, yet it definitely takes pride in its Chinese ethnicity."
Emily Scott
Kalamazoo College
U.S.A.

"The people are up-beat and hip. They are fast-paced but know what is most important in life. I may return for another semester - to travel while gaining an education from HKBU."
Jason Gardner
Hardin Simmons University
U.S.A.

"You can shop till you drop, go clubbing till 6am, eat out for next to nothing and you can do it for a whole year! You don't have to worry about squeezing everything into a few days as you would if you were only visiting on holiday."
Linsay Cunningham
University of Strathclyde
Scotland

Exchange students share their views on some of the surprising and satisfying things they found during their HKBU semester.
"Classes are challenging and the professors are experienced. Students are full of passion. I learned from their hard working attitude."

Wu Xuling  
Guangdong University of Foreign Studies  
China

"The courses are academically rigorous, yet the professors help and answer your questions. People are willing to reach out to international students."

Emily Scott  
Kalamazoo College  
U.S.A.

"HKBU has an excellent range of courses and the teachers have a very professional attitude."

Angeli Ko  
Ateneo de Manila University  
Philippines

"Living so far away from my 'normal life' was made easier by the friendliness of other exchange students, the local students, and the HKBU staff... Being an exchange student has been so far one of the most amazing experiences of my life."

Lindsay Banks  
Manchester Metropolitan University  
England
How is the academic experience at HKBU different from your home university?

"The range of academic programs allowed me to explore my interests. Professors are approachable and willing to accommodate the needs of international students."

Mary Giang
University of Western Sydney
Australia

"This has been a very important experience for me. I was used to looking at things from European viewpoint, but now I've discovered how others can see the same events in a completely different way."

Viola Erdmannsdorfer
University of Erfurt
Germany

"Students and teachers invite us to their homes for barbeques, which never happens in my home university!"

Nicole Tsang
City University
London, England

"The whole experience calls you to question why you think the way you do, because you are frequently asked to explain!"

Jennifer Duckworth
Samford University
U.S.A.
subject areas

As a university of arts and sciences, Hong Kong Baptist University offers a wide range of degree programs. Exchange students find no difficulty in selecting subjects from across the university curriculum to meet their individual academic needs. Business studies, political science, and studies in communication have proved to be popular areas of academic interaction for many exchange students on the HKBU campus.

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The Library is fully automated with an integrated library system. The Library Catalogue provides sophisticated features through which users can ascertain library holdings, set up their own preferred searches and email alert, check their own borrowing records, reserve a title, renew loaned items, and make suggestions to the Library.

The current collection includes more than 847,000 bound volumes, over 108,000 audiovisual and microform items, some 4,100 active serials subscriptions and more than 140 databases providing access to full-text electronic journals, electronic books and other electronic materials. A major renovation project has just been completed to accommodate the library's growing collection and to enhance the overall user service environment.

The Information Technology Services Center (ITSC) provides and supports the following IT facilities for staff and students:
- An integrated high-speed ATM/Gigabit Ethernet network backbone across three campuses;
- Wireless LAN access for the Library, lecture theatres and designated classrooms and public areas;
- Public phones for common areas, Student Residence Halls, classrooms and student/staff common rooms;
- Computer account for every user to access Internet services and facilities;
- VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol) telephone system on three campuses;
- Data ports for the Student Residence Hall;
- VoD (Video on Demand), video conference and TV re-broadcasting;
- Modem-pool for remote dial-in;
- Standard TV studio and audio studio for multimedia productions;
- Three computing centers comprised of 278 networked PC's and laser printers as well as individual faculty/school computer labs;
- AO-sized plotter, OMR (Optical Mark Reader) and color laser printing services.

The Language Center offers classes in English, written Chinese, Putonghua and European languages. The emphasis in all classes is on using language rather than learning linguistic systems. A variety of specially designed learning materials and packages in the form of course manuals, videos, audio tapes, CD-ROMS and other multimedia interactive software are used.

In addition to its main credit-bearing language program, the Center also offers a language enhancement program consisting of writing enhancement service, supplementary language subjects, self-access language training and a computerized interactive Putonghua program.
pre-arrival information

After the International Office has received your completed application materials, your visa application will be forwarded to Hong Kong Immigration Department for issuance of your student visa. The student visa will be forwarded to you once issued along with an Arrival and General Information booklet that will give information regarding the placement of visa in your passport, Hong Kong International Airport procedures, and other general information about what to bring and what not to bring with you for your stay in Hong Kong. Similar information is available in the Frequently Asked Questions placed on line for your convenience:

arrival in hong kong

Student and staff representatives from HKBU are eager to greet and welcome newly arrived exchange students at the Hong Kong International Airport upon arrival. During the expected arrival period, exchange students are assisted with transfer from the airport to the HKBU campus for check-in at the Student Residence Halls. It is important that exchange students forward confirmed arrival information to the International Office if assistance with transfer is required. If assistance is not required, information for transfer to the campus from the airport is included in the Arrival and General Information booklet.

orientation for exchange students

To help start your stay and study at HKBU on a positive note, the International Office organizes a 3-day welcome orientation for all exchange students at the beginning of each semester. The orientation begins with tours of the three HKBU campuses led by local HKBU student ambassadors and includes briefings by library, computing center, and International Office personnel. During the orientation, Academic Registry advises exchange students on subject registration, examinations, issuance of HKBU ID card, and other important matters. A Welcome Luncheon is organized where exchange students have the opportunity to meet senior administrators and other faculty and staff members of the University.

The formal orientation period is followed by a day-tour of Hong Kong Island introducing visiting students to some of the exciting places and attractions in Hong Kong, such as Stanley Market, the sunny beaches of Stanley and Repulse Bay, the exotic Chinese floating restaurants in Aberdeen fishing village, the tram ride up to Victoria Peak for the dazzling night spectacle of Hong Kong harbor. Exchange students will not want to miss the orientation activities!