Hong Kong: A Dream Destination for University Study

THE CITY OF DREAMS AND SMILES HAS ITS ARMS OPEN TO BRITAIN’S BEST STUDENTS– TAKE YOUR STEP FORWARD

A FIRST CLASS CITY FOR WORK AND PLAY
WORLD RENOWNED UNIVERSITIES FOCUSED ON EXCELLENCE
OPEN UP DOORS FOR EMPLOYMENT IN ASIA’S WORLD CITY
Editor’s Note

The British Council found in a recent survey that 40% of employers believed graduates were generally lacking in wide cultural and linguistic knowledge. There is certainly no better time than now to study and live in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong.

Hong Kong is a vibrant and ambitious world capital, which blends the infectious energy of a modern city with the history and culture of a place steeped in tradition.

Hong Kong is the city where East meets West. A former British colony until the handover to China in 1997, Hong Kong also mixes cultural values from all over the world. It would be no surprise to find a store selling traditional Hong Kong delicacies next to Western brands like Starbucks! With English as one of its official languages, students from Britain have absolutely no communication barrier to worry about.

In today’s interlinked global community, it is increasingly vital to truly understand the nuances of foreign cultures and how to operate effectively in this different setting. This idea is especially applicable to the languages and culture of China—Frost & Sullivan predict that China will rise as the largest economy in the world by 2025. As we enter a new epoch of the Orient, more and more student should be looking wide and far for new opportunities to work and study in this fast-developing region.

Whether you want to strike the best latest business deal, design the skyscrapers for the new megacities in China, or work as an interpreter to open up Chinese minds to the world, university study in Hong Kong is truly an unrivalled platform to help seize these opportunities.

I hope you enjoy discovering the myriad opportunities that await you in the pursuit of higher education in Hong Kong.

Alexander Johnstone
It goes without saying that your choice of university is one of the biggest decisions you’ll ever have to make. Here are some top reasons to choose to study in Hong Kong for the next four years of your life.

**Academic excellence**

With three Hong Kong universities in the QS World University Ranking’s top 50, study in Hong Kong is truly world-class.

With eight government-funded, internationally-recognized universities offering dozens of major areas of study, there is something for everyone.

After enhancements in 2012, the new four-year course for undergraduates puts the education system of Hong Kong universities in line with the best institutes in the world—including top Russell Group universities in the UK.

However, what sets Hong Kong universities is their focus on you as a person. Through aspects such as community service and classes in leadership skills, Hong Kong concentrates on making you a well-rounded individual ready to face the exciting challenges of life beyond the lecture hall.

**Accessibility and Convenience**

Last year, Hong Kong welcomed 21,000 international students to their universities—you will never feel alien at a university in Hong Kong. The city prides itself on its cosmopolitan spirit, (recognized as the most culturally integrated economy by Globalisation Index in 2010) meaning you will never be far from your home comforts. All Hong Kong universities guarantee residential hall accommodation in your first year, giving you an intimate experience with people from all over the world—and soon to be your friends for a lifetime.

There is also no language barrier to worry about. English is officially recognized as one of the city’s two official languages, and is generally used as a lingua franca for speakers from all different backgrounds. The majority of people in Hong Kong speak at least basic English, with particularly high standards amongst students and professors. With many courses being run fully in English (and the University of Hong Kong teaching exclusively in English) there is nothing holding you back from immersing yourself into the Hong Kong Experience.

"The best aspects of my course? The excellent and inspiring teaching I get, and the warm and friendly people who I call my classmates"  
Mikaela Belcher, 1st year Law and Literary Studies student at the University of Hong Kong
Affordability

After the sharp rise in UK tuition fees, the cost of study in Hong Kong now works out roughly the same to what you would expect at home. What’s more, Hong Kong universities offer substantial scholarships and bursaries for the brightest and most talented students—the universities keen to attract the best students from all over the world, and so will go out of their way to ensure that money is never an issue. *(For more information on scholarships available, see studyinhongkong.edu.hk)*

The cost of living in Hong Kong is also not something to worry about. The price of student accommodation is fully affordable, and a filing and cheap meal in Hong Kong is easy to come by—the price of eating out is often more than half that in the UK!

Hong Kong also has a world-beating transport system, which makes getting around this megacity a pleasure rather than a chore. The Mass Transport System (MTR) is affordable and used regularly by 90% by locals, taking you to all districts right up to the Mainland China border. A unique feature of the transport system is the Octopus Card: a travel card which gives money off fares, and can also be used to pay in all major conveniences stores—even Mcdonald’s!

A gateway to a dream future

With the rampant economic rise of China in the midst of the ‘Asian century’, study in Hong Kong is a direct route into the fresh careers cropping up in this area of the world. With new visa restrictions in place, non-local Hong Kong students now have a whole year to take up job openings in the city. Top international banks and multinational companies in Hong Kong offer great internship routes into employment, which gives students a wealth of opportunities once they have graduated.

As the 5th largest stock exchange worldwide, Hong Kong guarantees stable career opportunities—indispensable in the volatile global economy of today. Many worldwide businesses are attracted by Hong Kong’s free economy system, meaning employment with these companies could be the launch pad for an international career. That dream top-floor apartment suite is within your grasps if you choose to pursue the exciting path of study in Hong Kong.

“The Octopus Card is one of Hong Kong’s special quirks—very useful when you want to get yourself a quick drink from one of Hong Kong’s numerous 7/11 stores!”

Simon Chang, long-term resident of Hong Kong and hoping to study at City University of Hong Kong
With eight world-class universities in Hong Kong, the big question to ask is— which one? Here’s a snapshot of what Hong Kong has to offer, to help you find your university match.

**University of Hong Kong**
For those who want...
*a world-renowned university focused on academic excellence*

Placed 26th in the most recent QS World University Rankings, there is no doubt that HKU is world class. HKU is known globally as a pioneer of cutting-edge research— it was a team at the university which managed to pin down the SARS epidemic. With links to over 300 institutions worldwide, and a cosmopolitan student body, HKU lets you meet the world whilst studying in its idyllic campus on Hong Kong Island, the vibrant heart of the city.

**Lingnan University**
For those who want...
a close-knit community brimming with fresh ideas

Established in 1999, Lingnan University’s young age is reflectiveness of its initiative and originality. As Hong Kong’s only liberal arts college, Lingnan guarantees a truly unique experience— a small student body, high teacher to student ratio and a focus on holistic education. Above all, Lingnan prides itself on its community feel— of all Hong Kong universities, Lingnan has the highest total of students living within the university, meaning you are never too far from a friendly face on campus.

**Hong Kong Polytechnic University**
For those who want...
a university with a vocational focus

PolyU’s motto effectively sets out its ethos: ‘To learn and to apply, for the benefit of mankind’. The university has a strong focus on professional education, maintaining strong partnerships with leaders in Hong Kong’s business and industrial sectors. The university is also well known for its links both at home and abroad, helping you find employment beyond Chinese borders.
Still not found your perfect fit? Have a look at these next two universities….

**Hong Kong Baptist University**  
**For those who want…**  
Academic rigor in a religious setting

Hong Kong Baptist University is committed to academic excellence upon the heritage of Christian higher education. The university focuses on both study and research, and has established over 35 research centres to foster academic excellence. This means that you will always be in reach of a world-leading expert in your field during your time of study.

**Hong Kong University of Science and Technology**  
**For those who want…**  
a dynamic institution focused on cutting-edge research

HKUST leads the way in scientific and technological advancement, helping it top QT’s Asian University Rankings from 2011 to 2013. Its scenic seaside campus is the perfect setting to achieve your best in this highly specialize institution.

Other options at Hong Kong’s Universities:

Already firmed your university place, or not ready to commit to a whole degree in Hong Kong?  

Don’t worry, here are other options available:

**Summer Schools:**
Universities such as the University of Hong Kong, the City University of Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology offer a range of short-term summer courses, ranging from intensive language courses in Mandarin Chinese, to social and natural science programs. There truly is something for everything! Many universities offer merit-based bursaries to help fund this unforgettable experience. Moreover, a summer of study in Hong Kong would be a great insight into what it would be like to study here full-time.

**Study Abroad:**
Many universities in the UK maintain relationships with top universities in Hong Kong, allowing you to spend a term or even a whole year studying in Hong Kong. With agreement from your home university, you use the credit from the modules you take in Hong Kong to count towards your degree. This opportunity gives you the chance to mature as a person and gain international experience, giving you and your CV an extra edge which will set you apart from other students studying in the UK.
There is so much to life than study at a university in Hong Kong. The world is truly your oyster in this global capital.

Located on China’s beautiful south coast, Hong Kong is known for its awe-inspiring skyline and deep natural harbour. After a 13 hour flight from London, Hong Kong will transport you to another world, a world teeming with vivacious energy and an endless list of things to-do. Even if this gets too much for you, over 70% of Hong Kong is natural park, so you will always be to take a step back from the fast-paced city life.

**HONG KONG**

POPULATION: 1,784,000

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES: ENGLISH AND CHINESE

CURRENCY: HONG KONG DOLLAR

TIME ZONE: GMT+8

**Let’s learn some Cantonese!**

A little goes a long way! Here are some useful Cantonese phrases to help you break the ice with the Hong Kong locals.

你好 (néih hóu)- Hello
你好嗎? (néih hóu ma)- How are you?
我幾好, 你呢? (ngóh géi hóu, néih nē)- I’m ... How about you?
我叫做 ... (ngóh giujouh ...)- My name is ...
呢個幾多錢呀? (Nī go géidō chín a?)- How much is this?
你識唔識講英文呀? (neih sǐkmhsīk góng yìngmán a?)- Do you speak English?

Hong Kong embraces the old............and the new

**DID YOU KNOW?**

With 6439 skyscrapers in total, Hong Kong has more skyscrapers per capita than anywhere else in the world!
Explore

You will never run out of sights to see and places to visit whilst in Hong Kong. Ride up by tram to the highest point on Hong Kong Island, The Peak, and take in the iconic view of the city's sparkling skyscrapers. Similarly, climb up the International Commerce Centre to the observation desk and enjoy HK's urban side from the city's tallest building. Further down, the Avenue of Stars pays tribute to HK's illustrious history in cinema, with a life-size statue of Bruce Lee being a sight not to miss! If you're interested in the city's past, why not discover the Lung Yeuk Tau Heritage Trail or the Hong Kong Museum of Art which will give you an insight into HK's rich cultural backdrop. To cap it all off, take a late-night cruise along Victoria Harbour and admire the mesmerising colours of the Sympathy of Lights which sets the harbour ablaze every night.

Eat

Hong Kong cooks up a gastronomical treat for any food aficionado, with the city embracing traditional Chinese dishes whilst adding its own special flavour to the mix. HK's savory Cantonese cuisine will have you coming back for more, with famous dishes such as snake soup and egg waffles being meals you will never be able to forget! Another unique part of Hong Kong's food scene is the cha chan teng, which serves up an interesting mix of Eastern and Western dishes. Hong Kong's own milk tea is a refreshing accompaniment to any meal, and is a very popular option amongst locals, with over 900 million glasses of the drink being consumed each year!

Day in the Life:

7AM: Before class, I go on an energising morning run, setting me up for the day ahead and reminding me of the beautiful city I get to study and live in.

9AM-12PM: Class time! Today started with a lecture on the current wave of countryside workers moving into China's cities. After this, I gave a presentation about Hong Kong's political system, and then went to a beginner's Cantonese lesson.

12PM-2PM: I go for a spot of lunch with friends. Forget the lofty skyscrapers that everyone associates with HK- the backstreets of the city really are its best kept secret! We have a yummy bowl of noodles at an independent joint, and then stumble upon a smoky Daoist temple which we can't help but exploring!

2PM-6PM: Time to knuckle down to work. Alongside my university's many great libraries, I like going to one of Hong Kong's public libraries, which are open 7 days a week and other study rooms specifically for students.

7PM-9PM: I go with some more friends to watch a concert at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. Absolutely spectacular!

10pm-Late: After the show, my friends and I go for a bit of late-night shopping. What's great about Hong Kong is that all shops are open until late- very much unlike my hometown back in Britain. After a long and busy night, I get the MTR back to my residential hall, and go to bed excited for what the next day will bring!

Lucy Marshall- 19 Years Old-from Reading, UK
Course of Study- Contemporary Chinese Studies at the University of Hong Kong
Why did you choose to study in HK? For its blend of the old and the new, and the East and West- Hong Kong truly is 'Asia's World City'
Favourite thing about Hong Kong? The sheer variety of things to do! There is never a dull moment.
Enjoy

People in Hong Kong work hard, but they also play even harder. Hong Kong is known around Asia as a shopper’s paradise, and with highlights such as the Tsim Sha Tsui Promenade, Ladies' Market and Temple Street Night Market, there truly is something to suit everyone’s taste. Hong Kong is also abuzz with the world's cultural trends, with places such as Yau Ma Tei Theatre welcoming the latest in dance, music and entertainment all year round. Hong Kong also puts on the best show for events like Chinese New Year and the Dragon Boat Carnival which have people flooding in from all around Asia to watch! Hong Kong's own Disneyland is a fun way to embrace your inner child whilst enjoying its exhilarating rides and attractions.

Escape

With other 260 islands to explore, the discovery is endless even for the most intrepid explorers. Why not rent out a junk boat and wile the day away admiring the area's natural beauty? Lantau Island offers beautiful open countryside, traditional fishing villages and secluded beaches far away from the hustle and bustle of the main city. Hong Kong also has many award-winning hiking trails such as Dragon's Back and Peak Circle Walk which allow you to take in the sights whilst also keeping fit! If you're looking further afield, Macao is only an hour away by ferry, and Mainland China only takes a 40 minute ride on the MTR. Taiwan, Vietnam, South Korea and Japan are also definitely within reach by plane from Hong Kong's world-class international airport.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Chinese name for Hong Kong literally means 'fragrant harbour'. Although there is no official consensus, this may refer to the incense from factories which used to line the coast to the north of Kowloon

Find out more about Hong Kong:

A History Of Hong Kong: A comprehensive and lucid tour de force of the fascinating development of the city, from the events of the Opium Wars to today's 'One Country, Two Systems' policy
Chungking Express: Wong Kar-Wai’s visually striking film which vividly captures the sights and smells of Hong Kong
Cities- The Real Hong Kong: A BBC documentary where local residents of Hong Kong give their take on what the city means to them
你好! My name is Alexander Johnstone and I am currently an Upper Sixth student at Reading School. I have been fascinated by the languages and society of China ever since I can remember, with the country's thousand-year old civilization presenting a treasure trove of cultural delight, which I am eager to explore! My dream is to master my Mandarin Chinese skills through studying it at university, which will open doors for me for a career based in this dynamic and inspiring country. The path of higher education in Hong Kong is now, without a doubt, something I am considering with great excitement and possibility. Thank you for reading!

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