

Global Exchange Interim Report

The whole process of the application to the Chinese University of Hong Kong was very straightforward and easy to follow.

I did not have any difficulties applying to my courses, to my College hostel (before my stay) and getting the visa was not a problem either.

Everything was well explained and always repeated multiple times by the staff taking care of international students here at CUHK.

The staff is really nice and always responds quickly if we have any issues.

When one starts a semester, classes are always properly explained by the professors as they usually go through the syllabus on the first day. So they are never any surprises, one knows what to expect from the course.

There is also a two weeks period at the beginning where we can 'shop' for classes. I really enjoyed that. I could try a class out for a week or two and then decide or not if I actually wanted to enroll.

Enrollment is done on the University's online platform for students which is very easy to understand and to use.

CUHK offers a lot of activities, I would say there are at least twice of them every week, so we always have the opportunity to try different things out and maybe to meet other students as well. My own College, Wu Yee Sun, offers 200HK dollars reimbursement when we have dinner or lunch with another local student. This has afforded me and my roommate many dinners and I definitely tried food and dishes that I had never tasted before, something which I am greatly thankful for.

All in all, I must say that I am quite impressed with this University. It is well organized and it offers a wide variety of different courses with interesting and enthusiastic teachers. One can definitely learn a lot here, both on a cultural level and on an academic one.

The campus itself is absolutely amazing. It is beyond huge, spread out on top of a mountain, incoming students should beware that it can take a while to get around but the views are always worth the walking. (Of course there are buses too which can get a bit crowded during peak hours but it's never that much of a hassle).

There are many canteens everywhere around the campus, with many different dishes and prices ranging from as cheap as it gets to a bit expensive. In my opinion, in the average it is quite decent.

The only last note of warning I would conclude this report with is that any incoming exchange students to CUHK or maybe to Hong Kong in general should keep in mind that local students are not so easy to talk to and to strike up friendships with. Even though they almost always all speak very good English, they can seem to be a bit shy about it and there is somewhat of a language and cultural barrier. My own experience leads me to believe that that is the case for the majority of the students here but there are definitely still some that will be very interested in the exchange students and will want to talk to them. Unfortunately, either you get lucky with the students you meet or you might have to work at it a bit more than normally expected to exchange with the locals.