

## PART A

*Your program of study (courses, assignments, course format). Add the exact number of class hours per course.*

I am in my fourth year taking a Bachelor of Commerce at Telfer with a specialization in Entrepreneurship. While in Hong Kong I took four courses, and as an overall observation I would say that the course load is less heavy here than it is at home, but of course it does depend on which courses you wind up taking! I really recommend you take at least one or two courses that deal with Hong Kong or the Chinese business environment, as you will get a lot of insights that we don't necessarily get in Canada.

### 1. INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT (STRA3702)

- Course material is delivered in scheduled, weekly three-hour lecture. The professor was very interesting to listen to and had very clear slides that were available online to follow during the class. Overall, the course is a very interesting look at international business, as it takes a look at world trade relations from a more economics-based perspective.
- Evaluation for this course is comprised of class participation marks (10%); assignments (20%); a group project (30%); and a final exam (40%). The assignments are a bit challenging (especially the multiple choice), but they help prepare you for the final. The group project is quite straightforward as expectations are made very clear, and the topics that you can choose from are all very interesting. The project consists of a ten-page double-spaced memo due at the end of the final exam period, and a 15-minute group presentation given during the last week of class. The final exam is supposed to have multiple choice and essay questions.

### 2. INTERNET MARKETING (MKTG3524)

- Course material is delivered in scheduled, weekly three-hour lecture. The professor for this course was excellent, and the information was quite interesting. Internet marketing is still an evolving topic, so the content of the course was rather analytical in nature, rather than focused on application. This does mean that basic statistics are involved, but there is very little actual math that you have to do. Overall, and excellent course from a very good lecturer.
- Evaluation was composed of participation marks (5%); homework assignments (15%); a midterm (20%); and a final project (60%). The homework assignments were all very simple, some could often be completed in class, and they were all relevant and practical. The midterm was a good review over course content, very fairly marked. The final project consists of a group presentation (30%) and a group written report (30%).

### 3. VALUES-DRIVEN INNOVATION (IIMT3626)

- Course material delivered in a scheduled weekly three-hour lecture. The professor was very particular about students arriving on time in the morning so there was a sign-in sheet that got taken down at the beginning of class; however, often the class

did run late which was a challenge for anyone in the class who had a lecture right afterwards. The content of the course was pretty interesting as there were many guest speakers, as well as a trip to a hotel that the class was working on the term project with.

- We were evaluated based on class attendance and punctuality (10%); preparation and participation in class (18%); two individual written assignments (36%); and a group project (36%). The written assignments were 1,500 and 2,000 words respectively with fairly simple topics and very vague descriptions. The group project is a large undertaking, with each group consisting of five to six people, and the project mandate to complete a consultation project on one of two problems, with the company the professor found for us. Unfortunately the company has been very hard for all of the groups to get a hold of, but ultimately the project might not be such a challenge if the subject were more cooperative.

#### 4. PRINCIPLES OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP (MGMT3415)

- Course material delivered in a scheduled weekly three-hour lecture. In the second half of the term class often ended upwards of thirty minutes early in case students wanted clarification on assignments etc. Content was interesting and had a Hong Kong-based perspective on entrepreneurship with a real focus on local start ups and start ups in other areas in Asia.
- Evaluation is based on one assignment and an end-of-term quiz. The assignment is worth 30% of the final grade and requires you to interview a local entrepreneur and then write a short paper (4-5 pages) on how some of the things the entrepreneur said relate to the course content. Expectations for the assignment are very clear (a full example is even given), and the professor is very willing to provide feedback. The end-of-term quiz is worth the remaining 70% of the final grade and mostly consists of multiple-choice questions drawn from lectures and class discussions. There is also an optional extra credit assignment, however even the professor does not recommend attempting it unless you have an actual project that you would like to try and get off the ground.

### PART B

*The timetable (academic calendar, registration dates, orientation, beginning and end of classes, exams, holidays, number of semesters, etc.) Please submit the precise dates so students will know when to book their flights next year.)*

#### **Application Dates - Winter Semester (their spring semester)**

- **Application Start Date:** September 1st, 2018 – this is when you have to submit your application (I recommend submitted everything as soon as possible).
- **Application Deadline:** September 30th, 2018
- **Application Result Release:** November - December 2018 – this is when you get notified about the result of your application. Make sure to keep checking your email before this

point too in case you forgot anything in your application, and they need something to be resubmitted.

- **Accommodation Application Start Date:** October 1<sup>st</sup> @10am, 2018 – definitely apply for this one as soon as you can, there are limited spaces, especially in the halls.
- **Accommodation Result Announcement:** November - December, 2018

### Key Study Dates

- **Portal Account Release Date:** January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 – this is when you are able to set up your online campus access (essentially their version of uozone). Do this as soon as possible as well, and then make sure you also follow the instructions for changing your username – much easier to use a simple one than a bunch of numbers! You will get emailed all of the info on how to get it set up a week or two before the release date, so keep checking your email.
- **Accommodation Move-In Date:** January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – I was actually able to move in a day ahead of schedule – when you get notification about which residence you were placed in you will also receive contact info for the people in your residence, so if you have any questions you can ask them. They are very helpful!
- **Registration:** January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – this is when course registration starts. After the first hour it does close for a little while, so make sure you are ready to try and register for the courses you want as soon as registration opens, otherwise you may not get the courses you want.
- **Orientation Day:** January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – they also have various other orientation activities, and I really recommend you attend them!
- **Semester Start:** January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- **Course Registration (Add/Drop Period):** January 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019
- **Lunar New Year:** you get the Lunar New Year off as well. I recommend you just check the dates online as they change year to year. This year we got the second week of February off.
- **Reading Week:** March 4<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- **Last Day of Teaching:** April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- **Farewell Event:** Late April/Early May, 2019
- **Revision Period:** April 29<sup>th</sup> - May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 – you have a week off before the exam period.
- **Assessment Period:** May 6<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- **Semester Ends:** May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- **Accommodation Move-Out Date:** May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- **Result Release Date:** Late June, 2019
- **Portal Account Closing Date:** July, 2019
- **Transcript Release Date:** July - August, 2019

## PART C

*Procedures to follow upon arrival. List and description of services offered by the International Exchange Office of the host institution. Registration and course selection. Social activities.*

- Pick up a pre-paid sim at the airport just to cover your data for your first couple days so that you can navigate yourself around. Once you have had a moment to breathe, then you can look into where to pick up a more permanent sim – personally I went with csl as they had simple terms and a good value.
- Make sure you have pre-arranged with your residence to pick up your key so you can get settled in your room when you arrive. Your next stop will probably be Ikea (CWB) or a JHC (Japanese Home Center - which are a bit more common), as you will need bedding as well as possibly a couple pots/pans/etc.
- Go visit CEDARS to pick up a couple forms including for your student MTR card (see Part H). You will need to bring a few things with you including your passport, the form for your student card (filled out, including with a photograph of yourself). It is also a good opportunity to fill out the form for the housing bursary if you are living off-campus (NOTE: you have to get a parent/guardian to sign it for you regardless of your age).
  - CEDARS can help you with anything related to your VISA, your housing arrangements, and any official documents. They are also a great resource if you just need advice. CEDARS also has many events that you can sign up for during the first couple weeks of the new year, and I recommend you take full advantage, but just sign up online – it is much easier. You can technically only sign up for a limited number of events, but if there are a bunch that you really want to go to, just show up on the day anyways because they normally will still have space.
- Go to the Global Lounge – you will need your passport and documents again, and you can also sign up for more great events here. It is located on the ground floor of Swire Hall.

## PART D

*Budget outlining the cost of studying abroad (i.e. airplane tickets, housing, vacation and daily travel costs, textbooks, meals, etc.).*

	<b>Monthly Cost</b>	<b>Total</b>
Flight to & from Hong Kong		(7,600)
Housing Total	(3,500)/month	(17,500)
Food	(2,500)/month	(12,500)
Misc.	(1,000)/month	(5,000)
Activities	(1,000)/month	(5,000)
Transportation	(250)/month	(1,250)
Travel		(7,000)
Mobility Scholarship		<u>6,000</u>
Total		(49,850) or about \$8,500 CAD

I did not include costs for textbooks in this as they were not necessary to purchase for my courses, so I did not get them. I have a higher housing fees than past Telfer students who came to HKU largely because I was placed in off-campus housing rather than a university hall. We did get a bursary to cover some of the amount, but it still winds up being significantly more expensive.

## PART E

*Application procedures before your arrival (visa deadlines, documents required for visa, course registration, housing deposit, etc.).*

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

#### **Invitation to online application**

After being nominated by your home institution, CEDARS will send you the application link with your login name and password. Please note the following:

- An invitation email will be sent to you on or after the application start date through the email address given by the exchange office of your home institution. If you don't get the invitation email in the first week of the application period, contact the uOttawa exchange office.
- Make sure the passport number you provide is valid until the end of your proposed exchange period plus 6 months extra. Otherwise, you may not be granted a student visa.

#### **Supporting documents submission**

Exchange Application Documents – (are NOT physically mailed – you submit online)

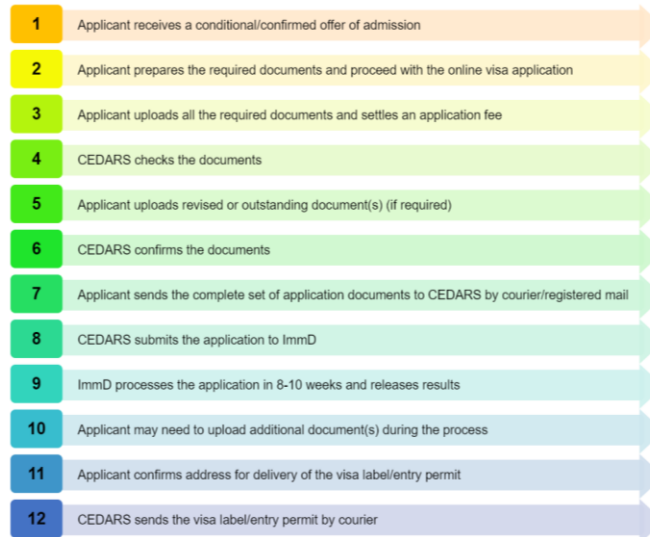
Telfer exchange office will upload:

- Official Transcript (online /unofficial academic results will not be accepted)
- Proof of English Language Proficiency

You will need to upload:

- Copy of the Personal Information Page of your passport (one page only)

Visa Application documents & process – (must be physically mailed to CEDARS in addition to soft copy submission. If you prepare the documents far enough in advance the Telfer exchange office will send them for you by courier). KEEP IN MIND: Even after your documents are sent, it can take 8-10 weeks to process them, so you should submit them as soon as possible after you accept your admission offer. Overall, the visa application process is pretty straightforward, just make sure you check in advance what you will need to submit so that you can complete all of the necessary forms and collect the necessary documents on time.



1. Visit <http://www.cedars.hku.hk/sections/campuslife/VisaMatters/FormsNotes.php> – this is the website that will give you all the info you need, as well as useful links. It looks like it has even been updated a lot since I went through the process.
2. Email a copy of all requested documents to CEDARS (they will ensure all of the papers are in order before they get mailed).
3. Mail a hard copy of the completed and checked set of application documents to:
  - Centre of Development and Resources for Students
  - 3/F, Meng Wah Complex
  - The University of Hong Kong
  - Pokfulam, Hong Kong
  - RE: Visa Application – Exchange
4. Once you are admitted to the exchange programme, you can email the signed admission letter to CEDARS. Your visa application will be forwarded to the Hong Kong Immigration Department for processing, which normally takes 6-8 weeks.
5. Once your visa application is approved, CEDARS or CAO will send a visa label to you by courier.
6. Please stick the visa label onto your passport and present it to the Immigration Officer upon arrival at Hong Kong International Airport.

### **Accommodation application submission**

You'll use a 10-digit application number to apply for housing on the CEDARS website starting in October. You can apply even if you haven't gotten your offer of admission yet, so definitely do it right away as there are such a limited number of spaces. Then, as soon as you do get your offer, sign it right away and email it in. You will find out via email if you have been placed in a hall or off campus housing, and you have to email them back to let you know if you are going to accept the place that they have offered you.

I did not have to pay my housing fees upfront, we were billed monthly throughout the semester – just make sure to check your hku email.

### **Exchange offer acceptance**

Your proposed faculty will review your application after the application deadline AND receipt of your application with the required supporting documents. Exchange offers will be released according to the following timeframe by email.

Application Result Release: November - December, 2018

- Please print and sign your admission letter and follow the instructions in the email to confirm your acceptance through the system. You have to then forward your signed admission letter to the faculty, accommodation office and visa office for their further processing. They will not accept electronic signatures, so you do have to print it and then scan the document again to send the soft copy. There is no need to send a hard copy though.

### **Course Selection**

The course selection period lasts about two weeks, but you are expected to attend classes during those two weeks. As exchanges students we can request the classes that we want prior to the beginning of the semester by filling out the online application, and you may be able to get pre-registered this way. I was only able to be pre-registered in one class, but it wasn't the section that I was looking for, so first thing in this case is to go and speak directly with the faculty as they may be able to make the switch on your behalf right away even before the add/drop period. For any other courses you want to enroll in you have to keep trying throughout the period to try and get into the course – if there is an empty space in the class you can submit a request through the online portal and within a couple days it will let you know if you have been accepted or rejected in the course. You can try multiple times, but make sure you have back ups to take in case, as it can be very difficult to get all the classes that you want. I also really recommend that you take the time to check out each of the classes you are interested in as soon as you can, because it is really the best way to judge whether or not it will be a course that you will enjoy.

## PART F

Address and description of housing. Cost of housing.

- On Hing Building, 326-332 Des Voeux Rd W, Sai Wan, Hong Kong Island.
- On Hing Building is about a 7-minute walk from the main campus. It is off campus, which is nice in some ways as it means that there are a lot more options for food that are very close by. The building is also largely occupied by exchange students so meeting new people is very easy. The building has 8 floors, and most flats are for HKU students though some locals do live in the building. However, it is not quite to par with what you might expect if you are used to Canadian student housing. On each floor there are seven flats, and each flat has its own little kitchen (cupboards, sink, hotplate with a nearby outlet), a fridge, a microwave, two bathrooms (each with a toilet, sink, and shower), a small table and a couple chairs, and three double rooms. Each bedroom has its own door which can be locked, and two bunkbeds that have a desk and wardrobe on the bottom level). Each flat is configured a bit differently, and they are different sizes. The flat I was in was the smallest type, but some of the other flats had a small living space in addition to the

hallways and kitchen. Each flat has its own wi-fi, and you do not have to pay extra for AC (very nice in the summer). Also, THERE IS NO ELEVATOR. Prepare your legs accordingly if you get put on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor and consider bringing a small army to help you bring your suitcases upstairs if you are a heavy packer. When I was first admitted, I was put on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, however due to some unfortunate circumstances I was moved to the seventh floor after a week. Specifically, my particular room in the flat had a pretty serious mold problem (it gets very humid in Hong Kong, so it's not uncommon). If there is a problem with your room, you should go and speak with CEDARS as they are responsible for dealing with matters relating to housing. It can be a slow process, so I recommend that you visit them a couple times if changes don't seem to be happening.

- It is a bit more expensive than the regular university halls, but you can submit a form to receive a bursary that will cover part of your housing expense. Before the bursary, the monthly fee is about \$5,000HKD. The bursary is around \$1,500HKD/month, so in total housing fees per month are about \$3,500HKD.
- As you've heard, accommodation was not glamorous, but honestly it grew on me. A lot of what made it a fun place to live was the fact that it was a little bit off campus so there was just a lot more to see close by, and that pretty much everyone who lived there was also on exchange.

## PART G

*Work term (if applicable).*

- You aren't allowed to work in Hong Kong if you have a student visa.

## PART H

*Other comments or recommendations.*

- Get an Octopus card – they are pretty much vital in Hong Kong since they make using the MTR so easy. You can get the regular card in a lot of places, including in any MTR station at the info booth. As soon as you can, you should also approach your faculty about getting your student MTR card, as you will get 50% off your fares. You will need a passport-style photo of yourself and there is a form to fill out and get approved by the faculty. Once you have what you need you just go to the MTR station to submit the form and you will get a temporary student card and a receipt. About a month later you can use your receipt to pick up your personalized card (don't lose the receipt!).
- You will need a couple passport-style photos of yourself when you arrive for things like your personalized Octopus, so bring a couple with you. If you do need to get more though, the easiest place to go is the HKU MTR station – there is one right across from the seven eleven in the unpaid area.
- You can't drink tap water in Hong Kong – buy a kettle or get ready to buy a whole lot of water bottles throughout your stay.
- Take advantage of all of the activities you can that are hosted by CEDARS in the first couple weeks of the semester. They are a great way to meet other exchange students and they are also a really great way to get out and see some of the great sights in Hong Kong in a way that is very stress-



free (since they organize everything for you, including transportation). These events also tend to be super great value because you wind up paying very little for some really great meals!

- Try to get involved in some more local activities – I made some amazing friends doing martial arts classes while I was here, and they were all absolutely lovely! And the martial arts were super fun!
- Really consider getting a bank account for your exchange – it makes things a lot easier especially if you get and HSBC account (you can pay your housing fees at your regular ATM). A lot of what you pay for day-to-day you can just use an Octopus card for, but for most malls etc. you won't be able to use the Octopus, plus you will inevitably need cash for some things. By opening the bank account, you will be able to have a much easier time accessing your money without a lot of fees.
  - TIPS: (1) find out what documents you will need to open the account before you leave – different banks will need different info, for example some will need your social insurance number, etc. (2) to transfer money into your new bank account I recommend using TransferWise – they are easy, reliable, and if you are going to be transferring a lot at one time it is a significantly cheaper way to convert your Canadian dollars to HKD. (3) when you get to the bank, as always, ask questions – some might try to charge you an extra fee to close the account if you are in Hong Kong for less than a month, or they may charge you if you don't have a minimum amount in the bank account.
- Talk to as many new people that you can! You never know where your where your new best friend may come from – literally! One of the incredible things about being on exchange is that you will get to meet people from all over the world who you actually have so much in common with you.
- If you like the outdoors (even only a little bit!) go hiking! The views are beautiful here, especially along the Hong Kong Trail since you are already on the Island. The whole Trail is 50km long, so if you are brave (and foolhardy like us) you can try it all in a day, but the whole thing is also divided into easily accessible sections. If you only do sections I really recommend sections 5 & 6 for some great city views, and section 8 (commonly called Dragon's Back) for a fantastic view of the mountains and the ocean (plus the added bonus of a beautiful beach at the end – Big Wave Bay).
  - If you do want to try all 50km make sure you finish section 7 before it gets too dark - unless you really like spiders.

## PART I

*Add a description of about five to seven sentences summarizing your experience.*

Hong Kong was an incredible experience – I would not change anything about this trip. Meeting new people from all over the world, all while experiencing a new culture and new ideas has been incredible. I highly recommend that you get involved in as much as possible – CEDARS events, going out to lunch with the people you meet, listening to new insights in your lectures, trying new (and sometimes crazy) foods, going on hikes, going on boat rides, meeting some locals, seeing the night markets, and traveling Asia; but don't forget to breathe! There is so much to do, but be kind to yourself and remember that you are here for a whole semester. Hong Kong is an amazing city, and truth be told I am already planning on coming back!