



# WUR Goes Abroad

## 1. Student Information

Field of study in Wageningen	Consumer Studies
Study period exchange (dd/mm/yyyy)	03/02/2023 until 29/05/2023
Country (exchange)	Hong Kong SAR
City (exchange)	Hong Kong
University (exchange)	Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Faculty (exchange)	School of Humanities and Social Science

## 2. Motivation for exchange

### Why did you choose to go on study exchange?

I wanted to broaden my knowledge about culture and lifestyles, to be able to understand consumer behaviour in a more complete sense. Living in another country would be an excellent opportunity to both observe and experience differences in consumption and related attitudes.

### What is the reason you chose for this country/university?

Since China is a fast growing consumer market, I thought it would be useful to gain some understanding about Chinese lifestyle.

## 3. Accessibility to reach destination

### Do you have any tips to reach your exchange destination? (E.g. bus, train, etc.)

Obviously, flying is the best option. Hong Kong's own Cathay Pacific Airways is a perfect option to get a direct flight to and from Hong Kong. It was a very pleasant experience to travel with this airline.

## 4. University and studying

Could you provide some general information about the followed courses?

	Course	ECTS	Short description of the contents	Appreciation of course: 1(low) – 5(high)	Remarks
1	Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area	6	About the developments around the GBA and China's plan to make it their own Silicon Valley.	4	Takes some extra effort to keep up with the content, but very interesting nonetheless.
2	Contemporary Hong Kong Society	6	About the Hong Kong society and culture, and the recent political developments	5	Interesting and fun video's
3	Education and Society	6	About the ways education shapes our society, especially in Asia.	5	Interesting and interactive classes
4	Understanding Globalization	6	An introduction course on globalization.	2	A few interesting classes about the rise of Chinese owned factories in the US, and the cultural conflict it brings.

#### **How is the study formalized? (E.g. study forms, academic level, examination, workload, lesson material)**

The workload is can be a little heavy sometimes, with a lot of reading material. The assessment is mostly based on examination, in some cases multiple exams, and also participation in class. The exams were doable, but be ready to make 4 exams in one week.

#### **What is the culture of the university? (E.g. How approachable are the lecturers, engagement with local students? What are the differences with the WUR?)**

Local students are hardworking and take the opportunity to get a degree and doing extra educational activities very seriously. For partying you might want to look for other exchange students to go with. Local students can have negative opinions about their stressful student culture and many are dreaming of studying outside of Asia. Lecturers are quite approachable, although a lot of communications gets handled by the Teacher's Assistant.

#### **What does the university offer the student additionally? (E.g. Catering, sports facilities, laundry facilities?)**

There is quite a nice range of foods to get on campus. There is a Starbucks, a McDonald's, a place for really affordable local food, a kebab place, an American diner, a Korean place, a dim sum restaurant, etc. There are also good sports facilities which are free for students. The laundry facilities are good too, but you need to pick the right time to avoid queuing.

## **5.Housing-travelling-living**

#### **What are the possibilities for housing? (E.g. Availability to sign up for a room on campus, private rooms, rent rates?)**

Before the exchange you are required to pay a one-time fee for everything, including housing. This means you will be placed in a dorm, a shared bedroom in a student hall. Other options are not available due to the expensive housing market in Hong Kong. Beware that the student hall does not have any cooking equipment, so you will probably have to blend in with the local culture of eating out every day.

**What is the culture of the country like? (E.g. Differences with home, local cuisine, habits, manners?)**

The local cuisine offers a delicious variety of noodles, dumplings, sea food and some British influenced dishes. There are countless small and affordable restaurants to choose from, with some of them even serving cheap Michelin starred food. Don't expect too friendly service though, because efficiency and directness is important in such a fast-paced city. It's also not uncommon to be placed at a table with other guests, to allow for efficient use of space.

**Could you give a general price indication of the place of residence compared to living in Wageningen?**

About the same price.

**Could you give some information about public transport infrastructure? (E.g. Cost public transport card, taxi prices, how to travel to the university?)**

The MTR subway will get you almost anywhere and is quite cheap. The subway system is so easy and fast, that after a few trials you can just head down to any subway and get into the right train in a minute. Taxi's are more expensive, they only accept cash and not every driver speaks English. Unfortunately, the campus is not reachable by MTR so you will need to get a bus from the nearest station to the campus.

For any public transport except for taxi's they use the Octopus card, which is a prepaid card used for almost anything in HK. You can get the card as soon as you arrive at the airport, and later you can apply for a new one with student discount on travelling.

## 6. Free time

**What are must-sees in the area? (E.g. nearby destinations, how do you prefer to travel, when to plan?)**

A must-see is the Chungking Mansions, a unique cultural melting pot with lots of good Indian curries. Also, everybody should visit either Victoria Peak or Sky100 to get a beautiful view of the city. And besides the big city centre, there are a lot of country parks, beautiful islands and fishing villages to discover.

**What does not appear in the travel guide, but is worth a visit?**

The Don Don Donki stores are really popular among local youth. They sell an amazing variety of Japanese snacks and products. During my stay, I loved losing myself there and discovering unique Japanese snacks.

**Do you have general tips and tricks about leisure time (E.g. recommendations for restaurants, going out?)**

In Lan Kwai Fong, there are a lot of bars and clubs for youth to party. There are other area's with bars but they are mostly crowded by older expats. Another common way of partying is renting a party room together, which contains a karaoke set and some games. But besides partying, there is a lot else to do and see in the city. For local youth, meeting with friends usually means trying out new restaurants or going shopping in one of the many shopping malls. I would definitely recommend to find some local style restaurants in and around Jordan.

## 7.Challenges & best moment abroad

**What was a challenge you have experienced?**

Living in a dorm, together with another student, took me some time to get used to. But it was a fun experience after all.

**What was your best memory abroad?**

A lot of students go travelling during the mid-term break, so don't wait too long to start making plans for it. Many go to the Philippines, Thailand or Japan. I went to Bangkok and Pattaya, which were such fun experiences to add to my already amazing adventure.

## 8. Contact details (optional)

Is the reader allowed to contact the writer?	yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	no <input type="checkbox"/>
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