

Hong Kong 2009-10

The usefulness of this handbook depends on student input.
If you find erroneous information, please contact *overseas@indiana.edu*.



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PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

During your stay in Hong Kong, you will have the assistance of the staff of the Student Affairs Office, which provides orientation and support services for all international students at CityU.

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY IN HONG KONG

In 1996 Indiana University inaugurated an exchange program with the City University of Hong Kong that permitted a small number of qualified and motivated students from the Kelley School of Business to enroll with Chinese students in regularly-offered courses at CityU. The program was expanded to both semesters in the fall of 2003. All classes are conducted in English, the official language of instruction.

The Kelley School student who attends the program at City University of Hong Kong should be able to fulfill both academic and personal objectives. On the academic side, you will be able to take business and non-business courses taught by highly qualified instructors with critical professional experience in China and Hong Kong. Your courses will be infused with the problems and issues of business, trade, culture and politics of Asia and the Pacific Rim. Your goal should be to use the resources of City University to become an expert on the current events, and the life and times of China and Hong Kong.

You should also be able to fulfill personal objectives and goals. You will meet people whose backgrounds, values, and beliefs are quite

different from your own. By talking to these people and getting to understand them better, you will have a firmer grasp on why you are the way you are, and what possibilities and options are available for the future. You will also become aware of an entirely different set of opportunities for careers and professional activities. The corporations and entrepreneurs of Hong Kong and China may seem distant and unreachable now, but by living and studying in Hong Kong you may be able to connect with them. Many Indiana University alumni live and work in the area, and you can have the opportunity to meet with them and discuss career prospects.

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is a supplement to the *Getting Started* handbook. While it contains specific program information, *Getting Started* contains information relevant to all students on Indiana University Overseas Study programs. Both booklets should be used now as you prepare to leave and later while you are abroad. Since most student questions are addressed in these handbooks, please consult them before calling the Office of Overseas Study.

This handbook is also available on the web: www.indiana.edu/~overseas/programs/handbooks/hongkong.pdf

The Program in Hong Kong

FALL 2009 CALENDAR

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Aug. 24 | Arrival day |
| Aug. 24-28 | Orientation program |
| Aug. 31 | Classes begin |
| Oct. 1 | National Day |
| Oct. 3 | Mid-Autumn Festival |
| Oct. 26 | Cheung Yeung Festival |
| Nov. 28..... | Last day of Teaching |
| Nov. 30- Dec. 5 | Student revision period |
| Dec. 7-19 | Final exam period |

SPRING 2010 CALENDAR

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Jan. 4 | Arrival day |
| Jan. 4-8..... | Orientation program |
| Jan. 11 | Classes begin |
| Feb. 13-19..... | Lunar New Year Break |
| April 2-8..... | Easter Break |
| April 5 | Ching Ming Festival |
| April 24 | Last day of Teaching |
| April 26-May 1 | Student revision period |
| May 3-15..... | Final exam period |

ARRIVAL IN HONG KONG

You will need to take a taxi from the airport to City University, which will cost \$50 (U.S.) approximately. A cheaper option is to take the metro directly from the airport, which stops right at campus. This may not be feasible if you have a lot of luggage.

HONG KONG

Hong Kong Island became a British colony when it was ceded from China in 1842 under the Treaty of Nanking (now called Nanjing). In the 17th century, the island was a sparsely populated fishing community. The British used the ports on Hong Kong to export tea, silk, and porcelain to England. The Chinese Emperor did not like the British. He called them *guailo*, which means foreign devil, and attempted to keep the British separate from the Chinese.

During this period, China accepted only silver bullion as payment for goods. At the start of the 19th century, the British realized that they could purchase silks and teas in exchange for opium. China outlawed the drug, but many people were already addicted, which caused the economy of China to suffer. The Opium Wars began when China publicly destroyed a British ship that carried chests of opium. In January 1841, the British navy claimed Hong Kong Island. The Opium Wars finally ended in 1898, when Britain executed a 99-year lease of the New Territories. That lease expired in 1997 and Hong Kong reverted to Chinese rule. China has guaranteed to permit the existing capitalist economy and lifestyle to exist for 50 years. Hong Kong retains a high degree of autonomy except for defense and foreign affairs.

CITY UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

The City University of Hong Kong, founded in 1984, currently enrolls nearly 20,000 students. Its modern campus and curriculum incorporate the latest in educational technology. CityU is strategically located at the center of Hong Kong, near the intersection of two major mass transit lines, making it readily accessible from all parts of the territory. Most teaching and learning activities take place in the Academic Building, a large complex that houses staff offices, lecture halls, classrooms, laboratories, the Library, and the Computer Center. The plaza-like mall, which is the main thoroughfare of the University on the fourth floor of the linked Academic Buildings, contains a bank branch, a computer shop, and a bookstore. The Amenities Building is the home of a modern Sports Complex, an Olympic-size swimming pool, a 1,500-seat student canteen, various restaurants, tennis courts, and the Wei Hing Theater. The diamond-shaped Administration

Buildings line the northeastern part of campus, looking over a lovely Chinese garden adorned with ponds and pavilions.

IU ACADEMIC POLICIES

In Hong Kong you will enroll in five regularly-offered City University courses with Chinese students and earn 15 IU credit hours. If your enrollment falls below 15 credits, Overseas Study will award a grade of F for the missing hours. Courses may not be taken on a **pass/fail** basis, nor does Indiana University permit **withdrawals** or **incompletes** for Hong Kong course work. You will receive IU letter grades and the grades will be included in your IU GPA. Although your status as an Exchange Student permits you to change your tentative course selections after you arrive in Hong Kong, obtain the approval of Tammy Orahood (*torahood@indiana.edu*) **before** making any adjustments to the schedule you discussed with her prior to departure.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The educational systems of Hong Kong and the United States differ in many ways. Although the educational system in Hong Kong was created by the British during their rule over the territory, it has many characteristics of Chinese education. In many classes there is a great deal of distance between the level of the students and the teachers. Teachers are revered in China, and informal relationships between students and teachers usually do not exist. Your instructors may seem distant and formal. Instructors may prefer to lecture to the class most of the time. Students in the class, especially of Chinese background, will be very respectful and not question the professors in class. However, don't be surprised to see CityU students eating in class or otherwise behaving very informally. They do not want the teachers to lose face or be embarrassed. The accumulation of knowledge and information may be the number one priority of the teacher. Testing has always been an important part of Chinese education, so expect to be tested

Student Advice

“It is normal not to receive any grades throughout the semester. The entire assessment process is very vague and can be frustrating and stressful.”

and that the tests will count heavily in your final grade.

But not all teachers employ the traditional Chinese style and values in class. Many of the instructors who are ethnically Chinese were educated in the West, and specifically the United States. Some of these people may run class just the same way it would be conducted at Indiana, or Berkeley, or Stanford. So it is most important for you to be flexible and adapt to the style and values of the instructor so you can get the most out of the class and achieve your fullest potential.

Overall, the Hong Kong educational system gives the student greater responsibility and initiative in a much less structured environment than in the U.S. Most CityU classes meet once a week for three hours. Instead of a required textbook and a syllabus that details specific course requirements and reading assignments, you are likely to receive a list of suggested readings from which you may select texts to supplement what you hear in lectures. Instruction relies heavily on lecture notes, case studies, group work, and photocopied handouts. (The handouts are not provided in class by the professor; instead, students photocopy the materials themselves in the reserve section of the library or purchase them from class representative.)

Student Advice

“In many classes there is only one test for the semester that is worth between 50 to 70 percent of your final grade.”

Many Chinese students spend 10 hours a day on campus due to their academic load, the time and cost of commuting, and cramped housing conditions. It is common for them to have a part-time job.

Grades

Many classes have no quizzes, homework assignments, or midterm exams. Instead, the final exam counts for most of the course grade. Not knowing how you are doing in the class until the final exam is stressful and frustrating for grade-conscious Americans, but the CityU practice of basing the course grade almost exclusively on the final exam is routine academic practice in most of the world. Class attendance is important; many courses require that you attend 70 percent of the lectures in order to be permitted to take the final exam.

LIBRARY

CityU has a large, modern library with many resources and a fully computerized catalog. In addition to its main collection, reference collection, and reserve collection, the library has an Internet lab and non-print materials section which houses an extensive collection of popular movies on laser disc with viewing facilities.

E-MAIL AND COMPUTERS

Once you register and obtain a student ID, you will receive a CityU e-mail account with access your IU account via Telnet. You can check your e-mail at Express terminals throughout campus.

The CityU ID card will give you access to the large Computing Services Center (CSC), which has classrooms, printing areas, scanners, and several hundred IBM-compatible PC's with Windows and Microsoft Office. You will be expected to purchase your own paper and to pay a fee for most printing. At the Hard Copy Center in the CSC you can purchase the laser-printing card that is required for using the laser printer. The Hard Copy Center is very busy at the end of the semester, so plan ahead for your printing needs. The CSC is always crowded, but less so after 9 p.m.

Bring a laptop computer if you have one. All the rooms in your dormitory are equipped with modem jacks. The Student Union is equipped with wireless technology so that you can use your laptop in many convenient locations.

Before You Go

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Visa

A visa is a stamp placed in your passport by the host country's consulate or embassy giving permission for you to remain in the country for a designated purpose and period of time. Based on paperwork you must complete and submit to Tammy Orahood in the semester preceding your departure, City U. will apply for your visa and send it to your permanent address. However, if processing is delayed--for whatever reason--you may need to enter Hong Kong as a tourist, without a visa, but you will be required to obtain a student visa after you arrive in Hong Kong.

Medical form and Inoculations

Check with the Student Health Service immediately to see which inoculations are recommended for residence and travel in Asia. Allow plenty of time to complete them as some shots must be given at intervals of several weeks.

Complete the Medical Form from Overseas Study and return it to Franklin Hall 303 along with your response form and prepayment.

PACKING

Pack light. Rely on a small wardrobe that demands little care. White socks, flip flops, sweatshirts, cut-off or ripped clothing, and baseball hats will mark you instantly as an American. For a lower profile, choose casual but conservative clothing in neutral tones. Bring lightweight clothing, with a sweater or jacket for heavily air-conditioned rooms. Toiletries are readily available in Hong Kong, so don't pack a semester's supply unless a special brand is important to you. Save room for the souvenirs you will acquire.

Packing suggestions:

- Sturdy, comfortable shoes
- Raincoat and umbrella
- MP3 player with headphones, batteries

- Washcloth, towel
- Shower shoes
- Camera
- Travel alarm clock
- Small calculator
- Journal
- Addresses and photos of family and friends
- Photocopy of passport, credit cards, etc.
- Prescription medications and a typewritten copy of your prescriptions in generic (not brand name) terms.
- Basic first-aid kit, including bandages, cold medications, antiseptic, antibiotic creams, athlete's food medication, burn remedy, pain reliever.
- Your favorite antiperspirant
- Birth control pills to last for the whole program, condoms
- Insect repellent
- Waterless hand sanitizer
- Tampons, particularly super absorbency (OB tampons without applicators and sanitary pads are widely available)
- Clothesline
- Adapter plugs to fit Hong Kong's wall sockets
- Current converter for any electrical gadgets, since power voltage in Hong Kong is 220/240, not 110 as in the U.S.
- Academic Advising Sheet (based on conference with Tammy Orahoad).

Please note that many airlines are charging to check multiple bags and/or charging monetary penalties for bags over the strict weight limit.

PREDEPARTURE READING

Don't leave home without a good guide book. Recommended student travel guides are the *Let's Go* series written by Harvard students, the *On the Loose* series by Berkeley students, the *Lonely Planet* series (which includes *Southeast Asia on a Shoestring*, *Lonely Planet Hong Kong*, and *Lonely Planet China*) and *Culture Shock! Hong Kong*. Purchase at least one and read at least the introductory pages for basic information about weather, electric current, train travel, etc.

Life in Hong Kong

HOUSING

Chinese students do not live on campus, but international students are conveniently lodged in singles at the Jockey Club House (JCH), or doubles in the Cornwell Street dorm.

Each student has a room with bed, desk, sink, two chairs, desk lamp, bookcase, wardrobe (closet), and rolling set of drawers. The wardrobe is equipped with a locking drawer for valuables. Bed linens, including two fitted sheets, two pillow cases, a blanket, comforter and spread are provided. You must provide your own towels and hangers. All rooms are equipped with modem jacks, telephone, and electrical outlets. The Common Room and bathrooms are cleaned daily, and windows and floors in individual rooms are scrubbed monthly. Laundry facilities include three washers and three dryers, which are operated with HK\$1 coins. The dryers are not very effective, so most students hang their clothes out to dry. Irons and ironing boards are available at the main desk in the lobby. You may wish to purchase closet dehumidifiers (small plastic container with pellets in the top half) to help prevent mildew on your clothing. Smoking is not permitted in any building on campus.

In the Commons Room on each floor you will find a drinking fountain with sterilized water that is safe to drink, pop machine, and TV with five channels with at least partial programming in English (although not the latest shows). No cups, glasses, bowls, plates, pots, or other utensils are provided in the Common Room, and the rules state that cooking is not allowed there. A common kitchen, however, is available in the dorm for light cooking.

Security guards are on duty at the main desk in the lobby and several cameras monitor the buildings and surrounding area. A security guard accompanies repairmen or cleaning staff in student rooms. All guests to the dorms must sign a register and leave the building by 11 p.m. No overnight guests are permitted. Guests may rent rooms in Alice Cheng Hall next door to the JCH.

Take care with your room keys. They are plastic, break easily, and cost HK\$50 to replace.

You will be required to pay the whole semester's rent (about \$1,200) in a lump sum at the beginning of the semester at the Hang Seng Bank branch in the Academic Exchange Building. There is a separate charge for air conditioning, for which you will purchase a card to insert in the meter in your room. Budget about \$350 for air conditioning for four months.

The dorms have floor representatives who plan social events such as cookouts, badminton or basketball tournaments, and outings around Hong Kong.

MEALS

There are a number of restaurants and other eateries on campus. Canteen, the largest facility, serves inexpensive Chinese food in a cafeteria setting, and take-out is available for a small fee. The City Cafe serves fixed lunch and dinner menus of western food at reasonable prices. City Delights serves sandwiches and other lunch items, while City Top is expensive and more formal. The Staff Chinese Restaurant is usually reserved for CityU staff, but students may go there during peak hours and for special occasions and dinners. There is never a service charge or tipping at any of the restaurants on campus. At other public restaurants you do not need to tip if a service charge (usually 10-15 percent) has already been added to your bill, unless you received particularly good service.

Off campus, you will find many popular western restaurant chains, including McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Dominos, KFC, to satisfy a craving for familiar foods.

Try to learn how to use chopsticks before you arrive in Hong Kong. It will be appreciated if you make the attempt to use them, although some restaurants will offer a fork automatically when they see that you are a Westerner.

CAMPUS ACTIVITIES

Sports

The five-story Sports Complex in the Amenities Building houses fitness rooms, multi-purpose sports rooms, and facilities for squash, badminton, basketball. All facilities must be pre-reserved for a fee. If

you participate in a four-session physical fitness class or demonstrate previous training on fitness equipment to a Sports Complex member, you receive a Fitness Room Users card that gives access to weights and fitness equipment. The Sports Complex offers classes in many sports and activities. Space in the classes is limited, but there are many options, including swimming, martial arts, and basketball. Shortly after the semester you should receive a sheet detailing the class offerings and explaining how to register for them on-line. Access to CityU's Olympic-size outdoor swimming pool is by semester pass or fee per visit. You can also sign up to play Intramural sports.

The Joint Sports Center, located at Baptist University, is free for all CityU students. Shared by three universities, the Center has an athletic track, soccer field, tennis courts, and basketball courts.

Making Friends

There are a number of effective ways to meet Chinese students. CityU has many clubs and groups for a variety of interests. Most of the membership recruiting occurs before you arrive, but if you express an interest, someone will help you get involved. Most clubs are open to exchange students. The English Language Center on the second floor of the Academic Building serves Chinese students who want help with their English skills. They welcome native English speakers who can help with the Conversation Club. Another option is the Cantonese Corner for non-local students, a student-run club that allows you to meet new friends and learn basic Cantonese. Get to know the Chinese students in your classes. You are likely to have several groups for projects and class work. They can help connect you with activities in and out of CityU and show you their perspective on being a student at CityU.

SHOPPING

Festival Walk, the largest mall in Hong Kong, is right across the street from CityU. It has hundreds of shops, restaurants with international cuisine, and an ice-skating rink. Other well-known malls and shopping areas include Ladies market, Night market, Times Square, Stanley Market, and Tsim Sha Tsui. Many groups at CityU sponsor "mega sales" throughout the semester, especially in December, in the multipurpose rooms on the fourth floor of the Amenities Building. Alternately, you can do your shopping at street markets, where it is

expected that you will bargain with the vendors for a better price than the one first quoted. The two largest grocery stores, ParkNShop and Welcome, both take VISA and MasterCard. Since the Chinese do not eat much cheese or other dairy products, you will find these items expensive by U.S. standards.

BANKING



It is not necessary to open a checking account in Hong Kong. You can supplement the funds you bring from the U.S. by withdrawing Hong Kong dollars directly from your U.S. checking account using a debit card at an ATM. There are hundreds of ATMs in Hong Kong, including one in the Hang Seng Bank's branch in the Academic Building for use during business hours, and another outside the bank office that is accessible until the building closes at 11 p.m.

If you wish to open a savings account, the Hang Seng Bank is located on campus. In addition, CityU has an arrangement with Hang Seng Bank that permits you to use your ID card as a debit card at many of the facilities on campus, including the Canteen and Sports Complex.

TELEPHONES

You may use the telephone in your room for local calls and international calls with a calling card. Many students purchase a cell phone. Cell phones are readily available and affordable. You can purchase phone cards that you use as you go, rather than entering into a contract.

TIME

Hong Kong is 13 hours ahead of Eastern Standard Time. When it is 10 a.m. in Bloomington, it is 11 p.m. in Hong Kong.

MEDICAL CARE

The Health Center on campus, which provides a comprehensive range of medical and dental services, is open during school hours for non-emergency care. There is a charge for each visit. Do not drink tap water and be wary of food sold by street vendors.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



CityU is conveniently located at the interchange station of Hong Kong's two popular and crowded railways, the Mass Transit Railway and the Kowloon-Canton Railway. The MTR will be your most common mode of transport. With a student ID card from CityU (apply early in the semester) you can qualify for the MTR student Octopus card, which automatically deducts your fare from the stored value on the card. Using the card is much more convenient than purchasing tickets for each journey. The Octopus card costs HK\$100, which includes a HK\$50 deposit and HK\$50 in value. The deposit is returned when you return the card at the end of your stay in Hong Kong.

The Octopus card also allows you to take the ferry from Kowloon to Hong Kong Island. The ferry ride provides a great view of the harbor.

Hong Kong has thousands of taxis. Some are specifically for Hong Kong Island and others go to Kowloon. If the driver refuses to take you to your destination, you have probably hailed the wrong cab. Taxi meters start at HK\$15 for the first 1.5 kilometers. If you are out after the MTR closes at 12:30 or 1 a.m., you must take a taxi back to CityU for HK\$80-130. The fare includes the toll for crossing the harbor (tunnel) and the driver's return toll. Most taxi drivers speak English, but you should have someone write the name and address of CityU in Cantonese for you as a precaution. Keep this address in your wallet to show taxi drivers in case you are unable to explain where you want to go.