



# Faculty of Law, The University of Hong Kong (People's Republic of China)

## Study Guide

### 1 Overall impression

A very unusual experience, since my stay was disturbed by the protests and the coronavirus. It was very intense, but still very enriching.

### 2 Making preparations

(e.g. administrative matters, finding information)

The procedure for obtaining a visa requires that you make arrangements well in advance to avoid any unforeseen circumstances. All information is very well explained and is available on the university and administration websites

### 3 Contacts/Responsibilities

(e.g. important contact persons at the Partner University and Faculty)

As the site of the university is very well done and in particular the entity specially dedicated to foreign students CEDARS provides all the necessary information, I did not need to approach the contact person.

### 4 Housing

I submitted my application in the spring before the start of the school year for student housing through the university's website. I was fortunate enough to be selected for Saint John's College, which was my first choice. That college only selects students for whom it was their first choice. The residence is a 10-minute walk behind the law school campus on the heights of Kennedy Town, a very nice residential area on Hong Kong Island where many expats live. As the college is on the heights, the metro station is a 10/15 min walk away and many buses serve the college. Across the street is one of the university's sports facilities with a swimming pool, tennis courts and a fitness room. The college has a library, cafeteria and beautiful common rooms. You can choose between a large and a small room. I recommend taking the large one, which is already not that big...The room is fully equipped, has a balcony, private bathroom, air conditioning and every day a maid cleans the room. The drawbacks are the mattress which is very thin and hard and the fact that you can't invite anybody in your room. The monthly rent is HKD 7000 (approx. CHF 820), which is very low for HK. If you are not selected for student accommodation, I advise you to come 10 days in advance, stay in a hostel and find a flat share. Many offers are available on airbnb, prices vary between 7500 and 10000 HKD.

## **5 Arrival**

Once I arrived at the airport, I personally took a taxi because I was very busy. About 350 HKD to HK island. Otherwise, there is the airport express, a very efficient train that brings directly to the center of Hong Kong in less than 20 min.

## **6 Telephone**

(e.g. costs, carriers)

I subscribed to a student subscription from the operator Birdie via a mobile application. Very easy and without any engagement. 140 HKD / month for 15 GB of 4G.

## **7 Bank account**

I advise you to open a bank account with HSBC as soon as you arrive. This will save you from having to resort to high exchange rates and taxes for withdrawals abroad, and in order to find accommodation, it is often necessary to have a local account

## **8 Transport**

As a student, you are entitled to a reduced fare card for using public transport. The metro is really cheap and very efficient. There is also a good bus system that serves the whole city. Don't hesitate to also use taxis which are among the cheapest in the world. An average journey of 20' will cost you less than 10 CHF.

## **9 General information about the Partner Faculty and student life**

The Hong Kong University (HKU) campus is located in the heart of the city, with many facilities, cafeterias, sports halls, swimming pools, libraries.

## **10 Teaching and studying at the Partner Faculty**

(e.g. program structure, methodology, exams, etc.)

The courses are to be chosen on the portal of the university, whose site is very well done and instinctive. The law faculty offers a wide range of courses. The only problem is that all courses are held between 6:30 and 9:30 pm, which may not always be suitable if you have activities in the evenings. In addition, attendance at these classes is mandatory and there is often a note for participation in the course. Most of the exams will consist of a research paper on a topic related to the course of approx. 7000 words or several small written assignments. However, there are few in hall exams in the master's programme.

## **11 City**

(e.g. cultural activities, sports, discounts, nightlife, must-sees, short trips, etc.)

The city of Hong Kong will appeal to you if you enjoy nature walks, water sports, as Hong Kong is full of beautiful islands, natural reserves and trails. For the nightlife, it's all happening in the SoHo district on Hong Kong Island, which is full of great restaurants and cool bars. Endless to mention when life is

not disturbed by pandemic viruses of large social unrests. On campus, sports activities and facilities are as diversified as in the ASVZ, yet more crowded. Hong Kong offers food from all over Asia, as well as Western classics for affordable prices. If you're a foodie, there is no better place to be. Stunning hikes are famous activities on and around the Island. Nightlife is also a big thing, especially the 'Wednesday's Pub Crawls' at the Jockey Club following by Wan Chai's Bars Devil's Advocate and Carnegies, as well as the Thursday nights' parties at Lan Kwan Fong. Essentials in Hong Kong are further the Victoria Peak, the Star Ferry, the 10'000 Buddha's Monastery, Lamma Island, Mong Kok's Quartier, as well as the street food scene on Stanley Street. Download 'Openrice' and 'Meetup', the latter for entering groups doing activities such as hikes or table tennis, the former for restaurants and bars. I would also take the opportunity to visit nearby metropolises such as Macao, Shenzhen or, a bit more remote, Taipei. Hong Kong being well-located, trips to China, Japan, Korea, Thailand or Indonesia are some hours away.

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