

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

## 1. Overall impression

The year spent in Hong Kong for the completion of my LLM has been one of the best experiences of my life. I found the LLM program in Arb&DR interesting, as it was an opportunity for me to learn about subjects that were not in focus at UZH.

## 2. Making preparations

(e.g. administrative matters, finding information)

It is very important to follow all the instruction given by the responsible person at UZH and at HKU concerning the VISA application and course enrolment before the beginning of the semester. I have not looked for an accommodation before arriving to Hong Kong. I would suggest to look for one once there, except for students interested in an accommodation on campus. I have not opened a Hong Kong bank account, but I heard other people having done differently.

## 3. Contacts/Responsibilities

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

You will get in touch with different contact people at HKU. They are extremely helpful and kind.

## 4. Housing / Finding accomodation

For what concerns housing, I opted for travelling to Hong Kong a few days before the first day of teaching in order to find a flat.

There are plenty of agencies around the city, so it should not be a problem to get in touch with competent people.

Be aware that Hong Kong flats are extremely small and expensive.

## 5. Arrival

From the airport, travel to the city by train (airport express) and then reach your hotel by taxi. It could be a good option to travel to Hong Kong a few days or even a week before classes start, as there are several welcoming events.

Make sure to organise an Octopus card as soon as you arrive, which is the card that permits you to use public transports and even do payments at shops.

## 6. Telephone

(e.g. costs, carriers)

Prepaid SIM cards are the best option, as phone contracts are meant to last 2 years. You can purchase a prepaid SIM at any 7-eleven shop in town.

## 7. Bank account

I have not opened a local bank account and had no problems with this choice.

## 8. Transport (e.g. from Switzerland, to the University)

Direct flights from Zurich available.

On the blue MTR-line there is a stop called HKU. From there campus is easily accessible. Overall, HKU campus is located on the island, and readily accessible from downtown.

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

Partner Faculty has extremely competent and friendly staff, teachers are very nice and ready to help you at any time. There are not as many international students at the LLM program as you might expect, so be ready for that. Many students are enrolled in the part-time program, as they have a job as well. However, I met many friends and had a very fun and social year.

## 10. Teaching and studying at the Partner Faculty

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

You choose 4 subjects for each semester. The available courses are limited depending on the program you choose. Classes are usually either taught at night (6.30pm-9.30pm) or in form of an intensive course (with classes usually during weekends. Even though this teaching schedule might appear unusual for UZH students, it allows you to have a lot of free time during the day to explore the city, travel and study sometimes. Usually, each subject assesses you with both a midterm test and a final paper or exam. The only two in-hall written exams I had were open book.

## 11. City

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

Hong Kong is simply amazing. Definitely one of the most alive and vibrant cities I have been to. You will definitely never be bored there, as there are so many must-see spots. Not only there is a huge city to explore, but Hong Kong offers so much outdoor activities as hiking in the nature, amazing beaches, and day trips to the nearby islands. Moreover, HK is perfectly located in Asia, as many interesting destinations are only a few hours flight away.

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